

# Commission Member Reports- June 2018

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## POPS Advisory Committee

### Name

Justin Wilt

### Member Report Subject

POPS Advisory Committee

### Summary

Final Draft of the POPS report is due this month or next. That will be followed by a commissions roadshow and further public engagement.

The draft will feature specific action points plus new report organization, all intended to highlight things accomplished and things still to be done. The biggest thing to look for in the draft will be items deemed "Priority Actions," a Top 10 Most Important points.

The topic of casual use space continues to be discussed, and the draft should have a somewhat more coherent definition of this space (though within the advisory group there are still varying viewpoints).

When the draft report is issued it will be important for various sports groups to review it (especially for issues pertaining to fields, lighting, etc.) and weigh in one last time.

# Sports Group Position Paper

**Name**

Justin Wilt

**Member Report Subject**

Sports Group Position Paper

**Summary**

Have gone through a few iterations of a first draft, and expect to have a version available soon that will be shared with sports groups. The goal is to get their inputs and eventual sign offs, such that they all will appear as signatories of this paper.

This draft has sought to avoid suggesting overly prescriptive solutions in favor of a slightly broader approach that should be agreeable for all (or at least most) the various sports groups.

## Aquatics Committee

The Aquatics Committee has updated their Charter to bring it in line with current practices. Sports Commission should review and vote on new charter.

### **Joint Aquatics Committee Charter Adopted month, day, 2018**

**Introduction:** The Aquatics Committee (the Committee) is a joint committee of the Arlington County Sports Commission and the Arlington Public Schools. The Committee reports to –

- a) the Arlington County Board, through the Sports Commission; and
- b) the Arlington School Board, as a Non-Instructional Advisory Committee.

**Mission:** The Committee shall serve as a conduit for information about aquatic programs between and among community organizations, including Arlington’s several aquatic recreational and competitive associations, and Arlington County Government and Arlington Public Schools as they relate to the operations and use of the Arlington indoor swimming pools located within the high schools (hereafter known as the “Pools”). The Committee shall report promptly on any subject referred to them by the County Board and/or School Board via the Committee’s reporting structure.

**Functions and Scope:** The Committee may conduct public meetings, forums and educational programs, investigate and mediate complaints regarding aquatic operations and programs of the Pools, publicize existing or proposed aquatic programs of the Pools, and make recommendations to the County Board, through the Sports Commission, and to the School Board on –

1. The adequacy and efficiency of existing and planned aquatic-related programs and facilities including but not limited to activities offered, policies governing participation, fees charged, and relationships among various activities of the Pools.
2. The adequacy of agreements and other sources of policy that govern relationships between Arlington County and Arlington Public Schools regarding the joint use, and funding of aquatic facilities, programs and operations of the Pools.
3. The need for additional aquatic programs and/or aquatic facilities.
4. The involvement of Arlington businesses and private community institutions or organizations in aquatic programs and facilities of the Pools, including but not limited to affinity access relationships, rentals and competitive events.
5. Arlington’s participation in the development of aquatic facilities or programs on a regional or broader basis, and the use of such facilities and participation in such programs by Arlington residents and by non-residents.

**Membership:** The Committee shall be composed of ten (10) members. Members of the Committee shall be appointed for two-year terms.

1. The County Board shall appoint five (5) persons to serve on the Aquatics Committee from applications submitted under policies governing citizen advisory committees. Recommendations of the Sports Commission will be given deference. The County Board will select one of the five (5) persons to be the Committee representative on the Sports Commission. One or more of the persons selected for the Committee will be representatives of various interest groups who frequent the Pools, including, but not limited to leisure/recreation, persons with disabilities, competitive aquatics, instructional, aquatic fitness, senior adults and lap swimmers.
2. The Arlington School Board shall appoint five (5) persons to serve on the Aquatics Committee from applications submitted to the School Board under policies governing citizen committees. One or more of the persons selected for the Committee will be representatives of various interest groups who frequent the Pools, including, but not limited to leisure/recreation, persons with disabilities, competitive aquatics, instructional, aquatic fitness, senior adults and lap swimmers.
3. Members may be replaced following three unexcused absences from regularly scheduled meetings in a year.

**Leadership:** The Committee members shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair. The Chair will lead the efforts of the Committee, and the Vice Chair will lead when the Chair is unavailable. The Chair and the Vice Chair will serve for two-year terms. The Chair and Vice Chair positions will rotate each term with one being a Committee member who is School Board appointee and the other a Committee member who is County Board appointee. The Committee shall forward the names to the School Board and the County Board for ratification.

**Meetings:** The committee will meet at least four times a calendar year to fulfill its role and responsibilities outlined in this charter.

1. Business may be conducted when a quorum is present.
2. A majority of members constitutes a quorum.

All meetings will comply with Virginia Open Meeting requirements and the Freedom of Information Act. Agendas and meeting minutes will be made available to the public in a timely manner.

The Advisory Group Handbook provides additional information on the conduct of meetings as well as communication protocols that should guide all members in their advisory group work.

**Staff Liaisons:**

1. The Director of Aquatics Management will be assigned as the School Staff Liaison to the committee.

2. The County will assign one DPR staff liaison to the committee.

**Update of this Charter:** From time to time, the Joint Aquatics Committee shall review this charter to assure that it meets current needs. Any requests for changes must be processed through the Staff Liaisons.



ARLINGTON COUNTY  
SPORTS COMMISSION  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 414  
Arlington, Virginia 22201



May 18, 2018

The Honorable Katie Cristol, Chair  
Arlington County Planning Commission  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: FY 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan

Dear Ms. Cristol,

The Arlington County Sports Commission would like to provide input on FY 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). We recognize that lower-than-expected revenues means difficult funding choices have to be made. We write in support of the County Manager's approach in this CIP for completing planned projects, continuing to plan for the future, and adhering to the maintenance and replacement schedules for key assets.

Completing Planned Projects

The CIP provides funding to complete important projects, including Lubber Run Community Center, Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Facility, Jennie Dean Park, Powhatan Skate Park, Rosslyn Highlands Park, and the Gunston Park softball field. Each of these projects adds much-needed sports and recreational capacity to their respective neighborhoods and the overall Arlington community. Although some of these, like the Long Bridge facility and Jennie Dean Park, are "big ticket" items, the County Manager correctly notes that years of planning and community engagement have led to the practical designs that are responsive to community needs. **The Sports Commission fully supports completing these and other projects as planned.**

Continuing to Plan for the Future

Arlington has a physically-active population, and Arlington County has a strong track record for investing in recreational facilities that are important to County residents. The CIP Overview notes that in the last 10 years, the County has added or replaced 33 athletic courts, 21 playgrounds, 14 synthetic fields, 13 natural grass athletic fields, lighting systems for 7 athletic fields, 6 picnic shelters, and 5 new parks.

Despite current funding challenges, it is essential to continue planning for future investments in our community's recreational fabric. The CIP provides funding for planning key sports and

recreational projects, including Gateway Park (planning scheduled for 2022), Quincy Park and Central Library (planning scheduled for 2023-2024), Drew Park (planning scheduled for 2025), an Arlington Boathouse (planning scheduled for 2026), and Mosaic Park (planning scheduled for 2027). **The Sports Commission supports funding for these planning initiatives.**

Adhering to Maintenance and Replacement Schedules

The County's recreational amenities are subjected to heavy use and need to be maintained in good repair and replaced at the end of their expected life cycle. Starting in 2002, Arlington County has made a substantial investment in synthetic turf fields, which better withstand the heavy demand that sustained growth in youth sports places on our community's fields. While significant, the roughly \$30 million allocated in this CIP over 10 years to synthetic turf replacement and field conversion is an appropriate and essential allocation of resources to provide safe and usable playing spaces for our community's youth residents. **The Sports Commission fully supports the CIP funding for the synthetic turf program.**

Our one area of concern in this CIP is the lack of funding for land acquisition beyond the \$3.5 million already in reserves. A key component of the Public Spaces Master Plan is a steady and deliberate approach for land acquisition, in part to address increased demand for casual use space. In an effort to accommodate such demands, the Department of Parks and Recreation has recently adopted an approach by which athletic fields that were previously used primarily or exclusively by sports groups are to serve a dual purpose as athletic fields and casual use spaces. Moreover, some neighborhood groups seek to entirely repurpose current athletic fields to casual use space. Our Commission supports the expansion of casual use space, but not at the expense of existing athletic fields. We hope the County Manager will restore land acquisition funding if and when the revenue outlook improves.

We appreciate the efforts of the County Manager and his staff to develop the FY 2019-2028 CIP and endorse its adoption.

Sincerely,



Shirley Brothwell, Chair  
Sports Commission

Cc: County Board Members  
Mark Schwartz, County Manager  
William Ross, Chair, Park and Recreation Commission  
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation



ARLINGTON COUNTY  
SPORTS COMMISSION  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 414  
Arlington, Virginia 22201



Date, 2018

The Honorable Katie Cristol, Chair  
Arlington County Planning Commission  
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Planning for Career Center Redesign/New High School

Dear Ms. Cristol,

On behalf of the Sports Commission, I am writing to express our vigorous support for the inclusion of a full and robust array of athletic fields and sports facilities within the footprint of a proposed neighborhood high school on the Career Center site.

The Commission understands the delicate balancing act the county and school system face each and every day between the costs and benefits of programs and facilities. We also understand how precious land is in the county, and the importance of extracting the maximum benefits from that land.

That said, we feel that construction of a high school lacking in the amenities provided to other county schools would be an injustice to the students and the community. This school would be located in perhaps the most economically diverse and challenged community of all our high schools. To require students at this school to take buses to sports facilities or otherwise be compelled to accept lesser opportunities than those available at the other comprehensive Arlington high schools could be interpreted as a determination that these students and this community are not deserving of fair and equal treatment.

This school would be starting its sports program from scratch. The sports programs at the other schools provide a rich culture of hard work, determination and pride. We should endeavor to provide these opportunities and benefits to the students and community of our next high school.

In keeping with this position, the Sports Commission fully supports the Aquatics Committee's call for construction of a pool at the high school site. The reasons they offer in their letter (attached) for providing a pool at this site are arguments that apply equally to diamond and rectangular fields and gymnasium facilities.

Our commission hopes that you will agree that such facilities would be a crucial part of a neighborhood school at the Career Center site.

Sincerely,



Shirley Brothwell, Chair  
Sports Commission

Cc: County Board Members  
Mark Schwartz, County Manager  
William Ross, Chair, Park and Recreation Commission  
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Kathleen McSweeney, Chair, Career Center Working Group

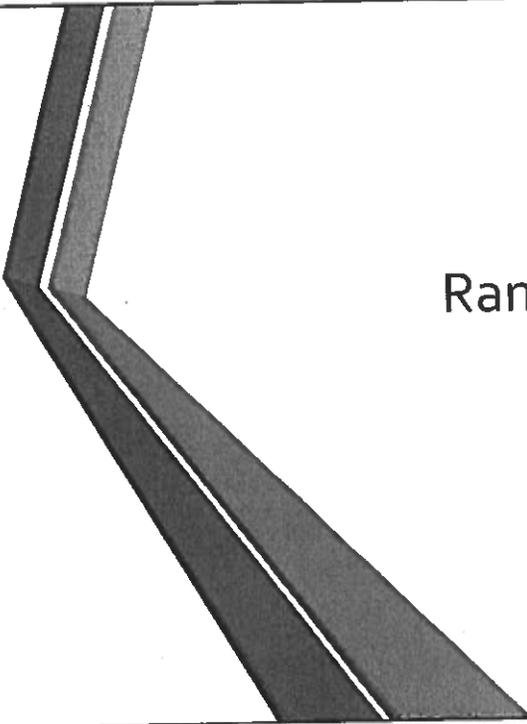
**Arlington Sports Commission  
2018 Annual Plan**

**(I) Theme: Recreational Facilities, Facility Capacity and Related Issues**

Objective	Activity	Time Frame	Assigned to
<p>1. Take steps to help improve rectangular and diamond field condition, availability, and efficient use</p>	<p>a. Continue to pursue the viability of putting synthetic turf on the futsal court at W-L</p>		Justin/David
	<p>b. Advocate for improvements at the Gunston community field</p>		Justin
	<p>c. Seek info from DPR of fields that are scheduled for upgrades over the next 5 years and how DPR goes about making these decisions. Schedule regular meetings for information exchange.</p>		
	<p>d. Learn more about non-infill artificial turf options and encourage DPR to preview these product options.</p>		Steve
	<p>e. Review the results of the field allocation study and the 2017 SC survey of user groups &amp; national governing bodies to identify any themes or areas where further efficiencies could be gained</p>		Justin,
	<p>f. Learn more about DPR field scheduling practices (how are fields designated for certain uses, how are fields assigned, what is the role of league volunteers in doing the actual allocation, how does DPR ensure that fields are used as scheduled)</p>		
	<p>g. Survey/interview sports groups, especially volunteers who allocate fields for DPR, to learn more about their experiences, level of satisfaction with current practices, ideas for improvement</p>		
	<p>h. Identify other fields in the county that could be either good for a Sports Foundation project (i.e., moderate improvements) or are just generally overlooked/forgotten</p>		
	<p>i. Organize Sports Commission field trips to certain fields or parks to improve our collective understanding of field locations and conditions</p>		
	<p>k. Research how other communities structure multi-use fields.</p>		
<p>2. Develop a better SC understanding/awareness of current and unmet demand for indoor facilities.</p>	<p>a. Request briefing from DPR on current use, number of facilities, amenities available at each, how facility is used now (by whom for what), nature of unmet demand, nature of any ongoing considerations to reallocate how facilities are currently used, any plans on the books for adding or expanding indoor capacity.</p>		
	<p>b. Ask DPR to provide information on the perceived need for a MAC/fieldhouse in Arlington and what was envisioned for Long Bridge Park.</p>		
	<p>c. Ask DPR to explain options for "co-located" facilities (what kinds of functions can be located together, how can budget concerns ever be overcome?).</p>		
<p><b>(II) Theme: Underserved Groups and Communities</b></p>			
<p>1. Take steps to develop a strategy for addressing the underserved youth population</p>	<p>a. Identify and collect information from coaches who have organized outreach programs to identify the challenges and options for best addressing/serving this population</p>		
	<p>b. Identify other groups in town who might care about this issue and be willing to work on it</p>		

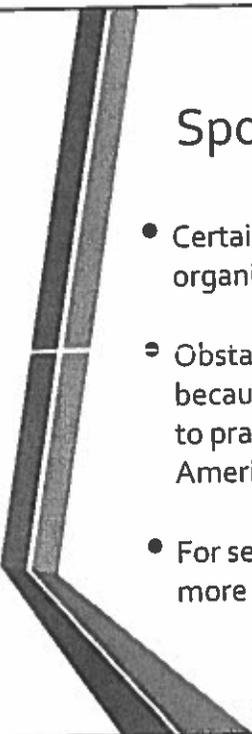
Objective	Activity	Time Frame	Assigned to
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. Collect information from DPR and sports leagues to identify underserved schools</li> <li>d. Work with APS and other commissions to develop a possible approach or a pilot program for sustainable outreach</li> <li>e. Prepare a report, make recommendations to the county for steps they can take and steps others can take</li> <li>a. Establish connections with APS teachers and administrators who work with differently-abled children.</li> <li>b. Establish connections with sports leagues or programs that currently serve differently-abled athletes.</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish connections with APS teachers and administrators who work with differently-abled children.</li> <li>b. Establish connections with sports leagues or programs that currently serve differently-abled athletes.</li> </ul>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Parks and Rec Commission</li> <li>b. Energy and Environment Conservation Commission</li> <li>c. Bicycle Advisory Committee</li> <li>d. Economic Development Committee</li> <li>e. Urban Forestry Commission</li> <li>f. Planning Commission</li> <li>g. APS Strategic Plan Working Group</li> </ul>		Shirley
	<b>(III) Improve the Commission's Network</b>		
	1. Identify other Commissions and/or interest groups with whom the SC should build a relationship		
	<b>(IV) Ongoing / Continued Commission Work</b>		
	Objective	Time Frame	Assigned to
1. Continue to participate in the 4MRV project and advocate for increased sports & rec amenities in this area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Sent joint letter with PRC to the working group asking for more analysis of the plan for an arts district and submission of an alternative for the two-block area that adheres to the group charge</li> <li>b. Meet with individual Board members to inform them about the direction the WG is taking, seek their support for adherence to the group charge</li> <li>a. Connect with JFAC leadership</li> </ul>	<p>Done</p> <p>January 2018</p> <p>January-February 2018</p> <p>January-February 2018</p> <p>February - March 2018</p>	<p>Shirley</p> <p>Shirley/Justin</p> <p>Jessica/Shirley</p> <p>Jessica</p> <p>Justin</p>
2. Continue to participate in the JFAC process and monitor developments related to the Buck/Carlin Springs properties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Write letter to JFAC to advocate for including additional field siting options as part of their feasibility study</li> </ul>		
3. Continue to participate in the POPS process and monitor key developments related to fields, field uses, field capacity, lighting of fields, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct outreach to the Board on the SC perspective about POPS</li> </ul>		
4. Monitor other development projects where fields and indoor spaces are affected/included/possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Madison Manor</li> <li>b. Reed School</li> <li>c. Career Center/new high school</li> <li>d. Work with Member Dorsey, Park and Rec Commission and DPR to ensure that the SC is made aware of other projects where SC representation would be valuable</li> </ul>	<p>ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p> <p>Request pending</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p>Sherry</p> <p>Shirley or ?</p>

Objective	Activity	Time Frame	Assigned to
5. Aid the creation and potential management of diamond and rectangular field advocacy groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Support the creation of such groups by connecting relevant parties.</li> <li>b. Monitor progress toward group formation and offer support and advice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October - December 2017</li> <li>January - July 2018</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justin/Shirley</li> <li>Justin for rectangular;</li> <li>Steve for diamond</li> </ul>
6. Pursue opportunities to put the Sports Commission in front of the County Board, individual County Board members, the School Board, County officials, other Commission chairs, civic associations, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase outreach to individual County Board members</li> <li>b. Increase frequency of SC written statements (letters and position statements) on any issue that relates to sports or our objectives</li> <li>c. Ensure that the SC makes oral statements to the Board on issues that relate to sports or our objectives</li> <li>d. Meet at least 1-2 times per year with DPR senior leaders</li> <li>e. Seek meetings with other County officials that could be relevant to our agenda</li> <li>f. Consider ways to outreach to civic associations, promote our Commission, invite their input, seek new members</li> </ul>	Ongoing throughout 2018	The Chair and Co-Chair will take the lead on outreach to Board member and meetings with DPR senior leaders. All SC members should participate in identifying opportunities for SC statements and outreach, and all members are welcome to meet with County Board members.



# Futsal Program Pilot Randolph Elementary School

Arlington Sports Commission Presentation  
to the Recessed Board Meeting  
June 19<sup>th</sup> 3:00pm



## Sports Opportunities for Underserved Youth

- Certain Arlington school populations have chronic under-participation in organized sports. (*Registration data from affiliated sports leagues*)
- Obstacles to participation include language barriers; inability to sign up because of complex forms or lack of internet access; lack of transportation to practices and games; financial limitations; and cultural unfamiliarity with American organized sports. (*Presentation to SC by Jennifer Endo, AHC*)
- For several years, the Sports Commission has been discussing ways to bring more sports opportunities to Arlington's underserved communities.

## How Can We Improve Participation?

- Financial barriers – offer discounted or free participation
- Registration difficulties – offer alternatives to computer-based registration; offer registration information in Spanish; work with the schools and community centers to promote sports opportunities
- Transportation difficulties – bring sports TO the students

## Paving the Way

- Discuss coordinating with APS Extended Day to bring a free sports pilot to the after-school program
- Extended Day identified schools with underserved youth – Title 1 elementary schools and some middle schools – and available gym or field space
- Extended Day coordinated with the school and PTA to recruit and register students
- Randolph Elementary was selected, as it is a “walking school.” Many parents do not own a car and could benefit from an on site sports option.

## Futsal to the Rescue!

- Fire Sports (Futsal focused company) offered to provide a free weekly clinic to Randolph Extended Day students on April 3, 10, 17, 24 from 4 – 5:30pm.
- Futsal was an ideal option because a gym was available on site and many of the students were soccer enthusiasts.
- On each date, Fire Sports offered two 45 min clinics broken up by age group.

Fire Sports also benefited because they want to introduce futsal to Arlington residents and hope to create a futsal league.

## Futsal Program was a Success

- Each week about 30 students participated in the pilot.
- The students learned the basics of Futsal in an engaging program.
- The Randolph Extended Day staff were very enthusiastic.

## Lessons Learned

- More sports opportunities in the Title 1 elementary schools are needed.
- Partnering with Extended Day helps overcome obstacles.
- To be sustainable, the process needs to be easy for both the vendors and the schools.
- Each elementary school is different in terms of facilities, number of students and needs, and it can be challenging to find a match between a sport and the school.
- The pilot was free, but normally vendors need to be paid.
- Ideally there could be a **Title 1 sports coordinator** within Extended Day to streamline the process, develop the contacts, create a data base of school statistics and needs and facilitates, match schools with programs.