

# Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 26, 2018

Langston-Brown CC, MPR

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

## Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair  
David Tornquist  
Jessica Paska  
Sherry Kohan

Justin Wilt  
John Bacon  
Patricia Trapanese

## Commission Members Absent:

Steve Severn  
Janet Eichers

Corey Simples

## County/APS Staff:

Josh Colman, SC Liaison  
Pete Lusk, DPR

Deb DeFranco, APS Liaison

Please note: Agenda items may not be in chronological order.

## *Approval of Past Meeting Minutes*

[7:07-7:08pm]

Review and motion to approve March meeting minutes, seconded, approved.

## *Commission Member Reports*

[7:08-7:17pm]

### **Career Center**

- Discussion on status of Sports Commission providing input/feedback on Career Center project.

### **Underserved Populations**

- Shirley briefed Katie Cristol on the pilot program- consideration of press release. Patricia will provide Katie Cristol some information on this, possibly invite to a future date.

### **Aquatics Commission Letter**

- Discussion on Aquatics Committee letter- should there be more discussion on how it's paid for? How should the Sports Commission handle this?

### *Old Business*

### **4MRV Update**

[7:18-7:50pm]

Shirley gave an update and overview of 4MRV, including past votes and upcoming public hearing dates.

- Working group voted 14-9 in favor of concept 1. Discussion on similar concerns that have come up before- specific community in favor of one thing versus other groups in favor of another (balance of community planning vs. Countywide planning).
- With upcoming public hearing dates, there are opportunities for public to comment.

Discussion on letter/talking points could potentially focus on.

- How to refer to growing field vs. open space tensions? Focus on the additional ways to get open space in 4MRV (rather than just a single option).
- Fencing discussion and how to handle- reference VA Highlands.
- Arts District
- Review of concept plans
- Funding
- Discussion on parking- if we don't know the answer for parking, remove from statements.

Motion to recommend Concept 1, seconded, approved unanimously. Letter will be sent with the approved talking points.

### **Reed School**

[7:50-7:51pm]

Board came up with more money to do the integrated design (Sports Commission's preferred design).

## Career Center

[8:20- 8:23pm]

Discussion on Career Center project and working group.

- Mock design previewed at last meeting. Consensus amongst group that the elementary school would have to go if there are going to be full high school amenities.
- School Board has asked for options. Challenge now is to come up with a long-term solution for more seats. A lot of people favor a large school with full amenities- focus/discussion on neighborhood school.
- There are no design concepts yet. Discussion of potential for six story building.
- From a sports standpoint, discussion on basketball and tennis courts on rooftops. Track is an issue- needs a large space.
  - School Board chair seems open to looking at other non-traditional sports (example of pickleball).
- Seems clear that the elementary school will need to be moved.
- Sports Commission still believes they need a seat at the table for this working group- to discuss pool, fields, etc.

## Stratford Park Update

[7:57-8:00pm]

Update of progress on Stratford Park project.

- Substantial completion date of May 1. Tennis/basketball courts should reopen soon after substantial completion date.
- Field will remain closed to allow sod to properly grow in, with a goal of reopening in the fall.
- Completed project includes tennis courts, basketball courts, combo field. Project added dugouts, batting cage, fencing around field, and pathway around park.
- New lighting and shade structure added.

## Long Bridge Fee Committee Update

[8:09-8:11pm]

Committee has started meeting. Sherry is Sports Commission representative on the group.

- Consultant for a survey will be coming in May- hoping to have survey out this summer.
- Will be a challenging process- several different perspectives on pricing models.

## VA Highlands Update

[8:11-8:17pm]

Update on how things are running at VA Highlands during spring season.

- Lights issue with a conduit being cut during fence transition, being fixed now.
- Dogs are still a problem on the field.
- DPR will be reaching out to the softball community after the spring season.
- DPR will continue to monitor the park- have staff out each night.
- Not many reports of safety issues sent into DPR- users need to report any issues.
- No field damage to date. Chairs were taken care of.

Discussion of Aurora Highlands community preferences.

- Community still wants one of the fields to be removed.
- Continued requests for a new master planning process

## *New Business*

### Rental League Background Information- Pete Lusk, DPR

[8:00-8:08pm]

Presentation from DPR covering private rental league information.

- Typically providing a service that DPR doesn't provide.
- Discussion on private leagues as it relates to allocation policy (private leagues are 4<sup>th</sup> on the list when it comes to receiving priority).
- Usage/Revenue Statistics provided for rental leagues. Private league rentals make up a very small number of hours, but a large portion of the revenue.
  - Important to consider if there were cuts/changes, how would that revenue be made up?
- 66% residency requirement (includes work in Arlington) for these leagues.

### Pickleball Briefing/Presentation

[8:17-8:52pm]

Brian Kuehn, Helen White, and Tim Dellinger attended the Sports Commission meeting to provide a briefing/presentation on Pickleball in Arlington County.

Discussion on growth of pickleball, inclusivity of sport (not just for older adults), and the lack of pickleball facilities in Arlington.

## Growth of Pickleball

- Explosion nationwide
- DMV region has had large growth
- Other regional facilities are working to accommodate or add pickleball facilities.
- Successful demo at expo- over 600 people introduced.

## Survey of Pickleball Community

- Most play 3-4 times per week.
- Strong interest in tournament and league play options.
- Biggest concern is wait time, lack of availability of courts.

## Facility Needs to Deal with Growth

- Group has a requested plan to convert Walter Reed Tennis Courts to 8 or 10 dedicated outdoor pickleball courts.
  - Past success in other communities doing similar things.
- Add pickleball in list of sports tracked for POPS plan.

## Discussion on Pickleball Presentation

- Questions on number of pickleball courts created by conversion.
- Discussion on number of tennis courts- pickleball asking for single facility.
- Questions on current utilization of Walter Reed- tough to capture since we don't have drop-in numbers.
- Cost to build pickleball courts. Conversion of existing tennis courts is a lot less expensive than a new facility- group is trying to seek the easiest path.
- Question on whether sport court surface would work for pickleball- no, the ball dies on that surface. Other surfaces (parking lots) can work.
- Discussion on demographics of the County.
- Underserved Youth
  - Youth are underserved in this sport- pickleball is in some schools, but there's no place for the kids to play. Pickleball is more inclusive than other sports.
  - Discussion on extended day pilot currently being run by Sports Commission- could be a great way to reach more kids.

## Commission Recruitment and Transparency

[8:53-8:54pm]

Topic deferred until the next meeting.

Meeting ends 9:15pm

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Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

*Josh Colman*

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Josh Colman, Staff Liaison

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