

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 28, 2019
Langston-Brown CC, Room 106
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Steve Severn
John Bacon
David Tornquist
Sherry Kohan

Kristi Sawert
Jessica Paska
Dave Maher
John Bacon
Drew Murray
George Thompson

Commission Members Absent:

Corey Simples
Justin Wilt
Matthew Gallon

County/APS Staff:

Megan Carney, DPR
Aaron Wohler, DPR
Cathy O'Malley, CMO

Deb DeFranco, APS (absent)

Guests

Steve Finn, PRC

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

New Business

[7:00 – 8:00 PM]

- **Gunston Park Project Update, Aaron Wholer, DPR Landscape Architect**
 - DPR anticipates a mid to late May completion for the Gunston Synthetic Field
 - Contractor has run into permit issues for the lighting and building
 - DPR has documented issues and any unworked day is receiving liquidated damages
 - Project has a new superintendent who just completed the Fairlington Playground Project
 - Other updates:
 - Demolishing is still in progress
 - Contractor has a new surveyor
 - New fence posts are going in

- Contractor has electrical permit, but no work has been completed to date
 - DPR recommends staying with current contractor despite the issues in order to get the best and fastest project completion
 - Gunston field will go immediately into play when complete
 - Gunston field is probably the last one to use non LED lights (we have a 25 yr warranty on the lights being installed)
 - Other projects:
 - Gunston Bubble turf with no infill is working well, but staff believe the no infill may not be good enough yet for outdoor fields
 - DPR is currently redoing Long Bridge 1 & 4
- **Commission Orientation – Cathy O’Malley, Aide to County Board Member, Matt de Ferranti**
 - Presentation on commission work
 - Break-Out sessions:

What are SC's strength?

- Com. can set own agenda
- Cover all sports
- Members are bright individuals who bring professional skills to Com.

What are weaknesses/would like to see?

- More diversified work agenda
- Define expectations of what the board is looking for from the sports commission for a particular project before commission starts working on it to ensure it isn't too broad (e.g.; are we involved in every stage, what type of back and forth) At what point is the SC's inputs helpful
- Reach out to sport user groups that might not have representation on the committee
- Document list of sports the Sports Commission covers or could cover

What would you like to do in the future or improve?

- What feedback can the SC provide the board on an issue and when should the SC provide that feedback
- More awareness of what's on the radar for sports
- More clarity on the distinction between Park and Rec commission and SC
- Clarity on how we are best to provide community feedback with focus on sports needs
- Potential for public conversations to get more feedback - establish outlet for sports community to go through SC and then to the board
- Should we have designated chair for diamond or rectangular field (sub committees do not need appointed)
- Become the go to for sports in the county (e.g.; pickleball) and be representative of all sports
- Consider public event to invite sports community to learn about issues (i.e.; maybe similar to Aquatics Forum or go to Fair)

- **POPS Update and Post Adoption Plan**

The Board will advertise the draft plan in April and language in the plan did change per Sports Commission letter regarding multi-use athletic facilities. The Sports Commission discussed whether to send another letter. There was also discussion about having some sort of annual review of POPS to determine how work is matching up against the plan (e.g.; locating a site for the MAC). There was some discussion on whether the Commission needs to vote on letters. The Commission did agree that they could send a general letter of support for POPS by rehashing some of the original letter

Commission Updates

[8:0-8:45 PM]

- **DPR Budget Work Session**

The Commission discussed the possibility of future work on fees and that the Board may want to get a user group together to review County fees. There was some feedback on the idea of the aquatics splash fees. It was also discussed for how and which fields get maintenance funds.

Commission Member Reports

- **Aquatics Committee**

- Annual meeting last week
- Supportive of splash study and finding new way to charge admission to pools
- Long Bridge update
- Two new members

- **26th & Old Dominion**

- Attended task force meeting in March; five options on the table
- MU wanted NCAA regulation size soccer field on top of parking deck and multi-use area for mulch; task force dismissed it because of putting leaf mulch underground is combustible due to ventilation
- Two Options: Underground and above ground operation; underground had limited salt/brine storage with parking with mulch on a different site; area above could be park/open space with a small rectangular (10u) field

- **Jennie Dean – Options further defined**

- 3 schematic options: a) not much field deviation, but concepts for benches, parking, flow-through, playground options (e.g.; should playground be fenced in, should it be sports themed), signage options for history
- Drop-Off parking for diamond fields has multiple options, two of which have drive-through, but take up more park space and one just has four parking spaces to pull in, park, and leave
- Two public feedback sessions as well as community outreach soon
- Concern over how lighting was showing on diagrams
- Civic associations has assigned people to work on arts space who are new to the process

- Encouraging softball community to attend meetings; concern for non-fenced areas might become dog park
- **Greenbrier Batting Cage**
 - Bid back on batting cage from PDD is about \$30k and they came back with \$65k and Barcroft over \$100k
 - Continuing to work with them on cage procurement

Annual Report & Annual Work-Plan - Handout

[8:45-9:15 PM]

The annual workplan was presented by Shirley to the Commission. The plan included discussion around the following:

- Fields – Consider devoting an entire meeting to field scheduling with representatives from league schedulers and DPR
- Work on Maintenance Piece in POPS plan with DPR to create a possible ranking system
- Develop a better understanding of indoor space; relationship between APS and DPR (e.g.; two different scheduling systems)
- Subsequent Conversations: Problems with a chronic shortage of officials
- Non-traditional & Underserved Groups & Committees; presentation from TR and OSAP and Senior Olympics
- Commission Network; E2C2 looks at synthetic fields positively and Urban Forestry with lights and trees
- On-Going Work: Field fund, what is the future hold for rectangular field funds or creating fund could change; should money just go into maintenance?

The SC would like to look toward projecting forward agenda items to set up meetings well in advance and execute agenda - April/May should be a scheduling meeting with rectangular and diamond fields. DPR will need to reserve a large enough space for the meeting.

Adjourn

[9:15PM]

Public Comment

None

Matt de Ferranti, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Megan Carney

Megan Carney, Staff Liaison

DRAFT