

# **Sports Commission Meeting Agenda**

Monday, November 25, 2019

Langston Brown Community Center, Seniors Room

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

## ***Approval of Minutes***

- October 24, 2019

## ***New Business***

- New Commissioner Introductions
- Arlington Travel Baseball Discussion- Greg Anselene
- User Fees/Field Fund/DPR Presentation - Greg Anselene and Peter Lusk
- Fields Calendar
- Jennie Dean Update

## ***Old Business***

- Charter
- Annual Operations/Agendas
- Review of Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities

## ***Commission Member Reports***

- Career Center Sports fields letter
- PSMP Post Implementation update

## ***Public Comment***

## ***Upcoming Meetings:***

- Advisory Commission Recognition- 6:30pm Monday, December 9 at Arlington County Board Room
- December Sports Commission Meeting- 7:00pm Thursday, December 19, at Langston Brown CC

# Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 24, 2019  
Langston Brown Community Center  
Time: 7:00pm-9:00 PM

## Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair  
Justin Wilt, Vice-Chair  
Steve Severn  
George Thompson  
Kristi Sawert  
Nancy Sharkey

Dave Maher  
Drew Murray  
John Mingus  
Sherry Kohan  
John Bacon

## Commission Members Absent:

Megan Sheckles  
Jessica Paska  
David Tornquist

## County/APS Staff:

Greg Anselene,

## Guests

Steve Finn - Parks and Recreation Commission

## ***Approval of Past Meeting Minutes***

[7:00pm-7:10pm]

Motion to approve July 2019, meeting minutes as amended, seconded, and approved. Sherry Kohan abstained

Motion to approve September 2019 meeting minutes as amended, seconded, and approved. Nancy Sharkey abstained.

New Business

[7pm-8:45pm]

- **Charter Update**

- Draft changes of the charter was provided to commission for review and discussion
- Agreement that an introduction should be included in the charter
- Discussion on if casual use space/open space be included in the charter
- Discussion on how the Aquatics Committee fits into the Sports Commission and what does the future relationship look like and how to proceed in the meantime.

- Discussion on the Field Fund committee not currently being addressed in the draft
- Question on whether leadership of committees or subgroups should be commission members.
- **Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities**
  - Discussion on developing specific roles and responsibilities
  - Discussion on developing loose rules of engagement, what are the roles of the commissioners
  - Edited the groups of constituents. Added Flag Football, skate board and adjusted the groupings.
- **Annual Operations**
  - Development of an annual agenda schedule.
    - Discussion on more involvement in agenda creation from commissioners
    - Commissioners each provided 3 agenda ideas

#### Commission Member Reports

- **Commission Workshop Report- John Bacon and Megan Sheckle**
  - Workshop was geared towards chairs and main question was How do Commission Chairs get their commission involved?
  - Discussion on diversity and inclusion focus
  - Collaboration- Participate with other likeminded commissions
  - Community Focus
  - Felt like it was a benefit to be able to attend and see the larger picture
- **New Commission Orientation Report**

#### *Public Comment*

- None

#### *Adjourn*

(9:00pm)

Matt de Ferranti County Board Liaison

Attest:

*Greg Anselene*

Greg Anselene, Staff Liaison

**Sports Commission Charter**  
**Adopted xxxxxx**

**Introduction:** Arlington County is home to a physically active and healthy community. In 2019, the American Fitness Index, published annually by the American College of Sports Medicine and the Anthem Foundation, ranked Arlington as the most fit among 100 major urban areas in the United States. According to the 2019 Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP), 87 percent of County residents participate in physical leisure-time activity, and demand for sports programming and sports facilities is ever-increasing. Sports programming is provided in Arlington County by multiple sources, including the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), non-profit leagues recognized as affiliate partners by DPR, and for-profit leagues renting space from DPR. In addition, physical fitness and competitive sports opportunities are offered to students in Arlington Public Schools (APS). DPR and APS both play a role in scheduling and managing the County's sports facilities, including fields, pools, courts, trails, gymnasiums, and community centers. The Sports Commission advises the Arlington County Board on issues related to the efficient, effective, and equitable provision of sports programming and management of sports facilities in Arlington.

**Mission:** The Sports Commission shall advise the County Board and facilitate the sharing of information about sports and physical fitness programs, activities, and facilities among the Board, agencies of the County government, community organizations, and other County Board advisory commissions. It may conduct public meetings and hold hearings, prepare studies and reports, make recommendations, participate in planning processes, and appear before public bodies in furtherance of the above objectives. Jointly with Arlington Public Schools, the Commission oversees the Aquatics Committee. The Commission shall also carry out such additional projects and activities as directed from time to time by the County Board.

**Governing Documents:** Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP); park master plans and area, sector, and other plans as they relate to sports programming and facilities; the Equity Resolution.

**Functions and Scope:**

The Commission's primary responsibility is to provide the Board with advice and recommendations on the following topics :

1. The adequacy, equity, and efficiency of the County's existing sports and physical fitness programs, including, but not limited to, activities offered, policies governing participation, constituents served, fees charged, and relationships among various activities.
2. The adequacy, accessibility, and equitable and efficient utilization of sports and physical fitness facilities, owned by Arlington County and/or Arlington Public Schools, including, but not limited to, fields, gymnasiums, swimming pools, tennis courts, and paths and trails used by runners and bicyclists, and any other facility or space used for athletics.
3. The rules and policies governing participation in and the conduct of County sponsored or supported athletic activities; allocation of facilities; and the efficiency, fairness, and transparency with which these rules and policies are administered.

4. Implementation of, and periodic updates to, the Public Spaces Master Plan, the overarching visioning and planning document for use of Arlington's public spaces.
5. The extent to which area and sector plans impact or offer opportunities for the furtherance of Arlington's sports and physical fitness programming and facilities, including but not limited to options for maximizing sports programming opportunities with the County's limited physical footprint.
6. The extent to which the annual DPR operating budget and the Capital Improvement Plan adequately fund and support the County's sports programming and facilities needs and objectives.

~~Involvement and investment by the Arlington business community and other local and regional partners, including but not limited to sports leagues and George Washington and Marymount universities, in supporting, using, and developing Arlington's sports and physical fitness programs and facilities. To carry out its advisory responsibilities, incident to the above, the Commission may:~~

1. ~~Provide outreach to, and solicit feedback from community organizations, local businesses, youth and adult sports leagues, George Washington and Marymount universities, and other local and regional partners~~
2. ~~Solicit information from DPR~~
3. ~~Hold hearings regarding ongoing or proposed DPR projects, proposed actions by the Board or County Manager,~~

**Membership:** The Sports Commission shall be comprised of up to 15 members representing a diverse mix of sports and physical fitness interests and demographics. Sports Commission members are expected to serve as liaisons to the full range of Arlington sports and physical fitness interests, such that all relevant constituencies are fairly represented in group deliberations and the formulation of advice and recommendations to the Board.

Members will be appointed for two-year terms, and with reappointment, shall be permitted to serve no more than six (6) consecutive years, unless the Board deems otherwise. All members serve at the pleasure of the Board.

A member of the Sports Commission who fails to attend three (3) Sports Commission meetings in a single year without providing advance notice to the Chair, or staff, may be asked to resign his or her remaining term on the Commission. The Commission Chair, after consultation with the County Board liaison, shall notify the member if such an action is warranted.

**Chair, Vice Chair:** The County Board shall annually designate a Chair, and may annually designate a Vice Chair, to lead the Sports Commission. The Commission may forward nominations for Chair and Vice Chair from the Commission's current membership to the Board for its consideration.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri, Font color: Black

Formatted: Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3 ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.78" + Indent at: 1.03"

**Commented [DM1]:** Trying to broaden this slightly beyond just "advise the County Board on X" so that the Commission Chair doesn't get crushed for doing some outreach/advocacy regarding hotly-contested issues. I am sure that we could come up with a few more items and refine these. If we wanted the option of giving an award (like PRC has the Bill Thomas Award), then that would similarly be outside of the "numbering structure" for our advisory topics.

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri, Font color: Black

Formatted: Font: (Default) Calibri, Font color: Black

**Commented [DM2]:** I assume that we will hardly ever be at full-strength 15 given the turnover, so if it's "shall be 15" then we'll essentially always

**Commented [DM3]:** Might at some times make sense just to have a Chair, using "may" doesn't take any power away from the Board, but doesn't force the SC to a Vice Chair, either

**Committees:** The Sports Commission acts as a conduit between the Aquatics Committee and the County Board. The Commission may also create committees and working groups, as necessary, to accomplish specific Sports Commission missions and objectives, and the Chairman shall appoint committee leadership. Committee membership may include persons who are not on the Sports Commission.

**Staff Liaison:** The County Manager and the Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools shall each designate a person to serve as staff liaison to the Sports Commission.

**Meetings:** The Sports Commission will ~~meet as needed, but at least monthly on a monthly basis, or as needed,~~ to adequately fulfill its role and responsibilities outlined in this charter. Meeting dates will be determined by the Commission and advertised publicly on its website. 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.

**Reporting to the Board:** The Sports Commission will provide recommendations to the County Board about policy, planning, programming, and budgetary matters related to sports and physical fitness programs, access, and facilities. The Sports Commission will ~~at a minimum~~ submit an annual report to the County Board after consultation with the Board Liaison. Sports Commission may, from time to time, be asked to provide comments at a regular Board meeting or Board work session.

**Update of this Charter:** From time to time, the Sports Commission shall review this charter to assure that it meets current needs. Any requests for changes must be processed through the Board Liaison.



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



Date DRAFT, 2019

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

Re: Arlington Career Center Athletic Field and Sports Facilities

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

The Sports Commission vigorously supports the inclusion of a full and robust array of athletic fields and sports facilities at Arlington's public high schools. For this reason, the Commission feels compelled to express our surprise and concern with the recommendation set forth in the Arlington Facilities and Student Accommodation Plan (AFSAP)<sup>1</sup> to divert funds dedicated to building a sports field at the Arlington Career Center (ACC) campus to other purposes.

According to the AFSAP and other Arlington Public School (APS) documents, the ACC redevelopment plan will bring almost 2200 high-school seats to the ACC campus.<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, on the page 5 of the Executive Summary, the AFSAP recommends that the School Board "[c]onsider shifting funds, currently planned for the Career Center field and parking garage, to address middle or elementary school capacity needs" in the 2021–30 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).

The Commission understands the delicate balancing act the County and School Board face each and every day between the costs and benefits of programs and facilities. But we feel that the construction of a public high school housing hundreds of full-time students lacking even a single sports field—not to mention the other sports and recreational facilities enjoyed at the other

---

<sup>1</sup> Available at <https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/AFSAP-2019-v12-September-23-2019.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> According to APS, the redevelopment of ACC will bring 250 new full-time seats for the Arlington Tech program (bringing the total number of full-time students to 600) and 800 new full-time seats for an option program yet determined. Together with other full-time programs at the Career Center (Academic Academy, HILT Institute, PEP, and Teen Parenting) and Career-Technical Education (CTE) seats, APS expects to host approximately 2200 high-school students on the ACC campus every day. See, e.g., Arlington Career Center Expansion Project, BLPC Charge (available at [https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/BFJQQB6A633D/\\$file/F-1%20Career%20Center%20BLPC\\_Charge.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/BFJQQB6A633D/$file/F-1%20Career%20Center%20BLPC_Charge.pdf)); Career Center Educational Specifications, slide 3 (available at [https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/BHPKZ4543B2D/\\$file/F-1%20Ar%20Career%20Center%20Ed%20Spec-%20Presentation%20-%20REV%2011-7-19.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/vsba/arlington/Board.nsf/files/BHPKZ4543B2D/$file/F-1%20Ar%20Career%20Center%20Ed%20Spec-%20Presentation%20-%20REV%2011-7-19.pdf)).

public high schools—would be an injustice to the students and the community.

The AFSAP's recommendation for no athletic field at the ACC campus is particularly troubling given that this school would be located in an economically diverse and health-challenged community. For example, Arlington's own Report of the Destination 2027 Steering Committee shows that almost all the neighborhoods located within walking distance of the ACC campus have populations likely to experience poorer health outcomes or disparities than other neighborhoods in Arlington.<sup>3</sup> 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 Arlington public high schools could be interpreted as a determination that these students and this community are not deserving of fair and equal treatment.

Moreover, 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 ACC campus, regardless of the educational focus of the high school. 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 an athletic field is a crucial (and required) part of the ACC campus.

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  
Ted Black, Chair, Career Center BLPC  
Jim Lantelme, Chair, Career Center PFRC

---

<sup>3</sup> See Life Expectancy: Who you are and where you live can make a decade of difference, page 2 (available at <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2019/04/A-Decade-of-Difference-D2027-Report.pdf>).