

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, January 23, 2020

Langston Brown Community Center, Seniors Room

Time: 7:00pm-9:00pm

Approval of Minutes

- December 19, 2019

Old Business

- Annual Report, Annual Workplan
- Charter

New Business

- Baseball Conversation Follow-up
- Commission recommendations on posting of ATB letter
- Commission Operations procedures
- DPR SafeSport Update
- Synthetic Turf Public Health letter
- Actions on Aquatics Committee Letter
- Commissioner Representation responsibilities

Commission Member Reports

- PSMP Post Implementation update
- Aquatics Committee Update

Public Comment

Upcoming Meetings:

- February Sports Commission Meeting-

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

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

Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Justin Wilt, Vice-Chair
Dave Maher
Drew Murray
Kristi Sawert

Ryan Schaefer
Steve Severn
Nancy Sharkey
Megan Sheckles (phone)
George Thompson

Commission Members Absent:

Jessica Paska
Sherry Kohan
John Mingus

John Bacon
David Tornquist

County/APS Staff:

Greg Anselene, DPR
Peter Lusk, DPR
Ryan Amato, DPR
Kurt Louis, DPR

Guests

Steve Finn - Parks and Recreation Commission
Mark Lincoln- Parks and Recreation Commission
Kevin Jones- Arlington Senior Babe Ruth
Mike Murray
Scott Gerber- Arlington Travel Baseball

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

[7:00pm-7:05pm]

Motion to approve November 25, meeting minutes as amended, seconded, and approved. No Abstentions.

New Business

[7:05pm-8:55pm]

- **Commissioner Recognition**
 - Steve Severn was nominated and recognized by the County Board for his commitment to the commission through leading the Diamond Field Fund Committee
 - John Mingus was awarded National Volunteer of the Year for US Youth Soccer (USYS). To win this prestigious award John also won Virginia and the East Region National Volunteer of the Year.

- At the request of the Sports Commission following an initial discussion at the November 25 meeting, DPR is re-introducing the discussion of baseball in Arlington.
- Provided an overview of the current diamond sports offerings supported by DPR
 - One girls' softball organization (Recreation and Travel)
 - Three youth baseball organizations under the age of 12, Arlington Babe Ruth (Recreation and Travel), Arlington Little League (Recreation), and Arlington Travel Baseball (Travel).
 - Two baseball organizations ages 13-18, Arlington Senior Babe Ruth (Recreation and Travel) and American Legion (Travel)
- Arlington Travel Baseball has requested to expand their operations to 13+ as a partner organization.
 - ATB receives field space as a partner organization for its 12U activities; participants pay the \$8 resident/\$20 non-resident per player field fee.
 - It rents field space from DPR as a non-partner organization for the 13+ activities at rates of \$35-130 per hour.
- DPR seeks guidance from the Sports Commission on this request.
- Discussion of existing organization - Arlington Senior Babe Ruth is a partner organization for the 13-18 age range. What need is there for an additional program? ASBR requires its travel players to also play in the recreation program; ATB does not. ASBR would like ATB to require the same so as to preserve the recreation program. The groups met previously to discuss working collaboratively but could not come to agreement. Some questions about whether it's appropriate to require families to patronize certain programs if they prefer not to do so.
- Discussion of whether granting ATB partnership status at 13+ will erode ASBR's recreational program.
- Discussion of number of teams and field capacity – ATB has one 13U and one 14U team; they currently rent the space.
- Discussion of participant demographics – ATB players are Arlington residents; ATB also uses space outside of Arlington.
- Discussion of expansion of travel teams – do programs with in-house travel teams have to seek DPR's permission to expand the number of teams; what impact does travel expansion have on field capacity?
- Public Comment was entertained. All speakers addressed this agenda item (see section below on Public Comment). Comments were limited to two minutes per speaker.
- Commission Votes
 - Motion to continue the conversation to January and direct ATB and ASBR to submit written explanation on whether DPR should or should not permit ATB to expand to partner status for the 13+ level.
 - Motion Seconded
 - Discussion – continuing to January will not bring out any new information.
 - Vote: 2 in favor, 3 against, 4 abstentions
 - Motion to recommend expanding Arlington Travel Baseball to 13+ on a one-year trial basis.
 - Motion Seconded



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



January xx, 2020

The Honorable Christian Dorsey
Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Dorsey,

I am pleased to provide 2019 annual report on the activities of the Sports Commission. The Sports Commission serves as a conduit for information about sports and physical fitness programs among community organizations, agencies of the County government, and the Board.

The Aquatics Committee serves as a conduit for information about aquatic programs between and among community organizations, including Arlington's several aquatic recreational and competitive associations, and the county government and Arlington Public Schools as they relate to the operations and use of county pools.

If you or the other Board members have any feedback or questions about the content of these reports, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Brothwell".

On behalf of the Sports Commission and Aquatics Committee
Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Sports Commission

Cc: County Board Members
Cynthia Hilton, Aquatics Committee Chair
Bill Ross, Park and Recreation Commission Chair

Participation in Work Groups, Committees, and Other Processes

In 2019, the Sports Commission was an official member of the following groups:

- Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV) Working Group
- Jennie Dean Park Committee (a sub-group of the 4MRV Working Group)
- POPS Advisory Committee
- Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Center Fee Working Group
- Greenbrier Operations Committee
- Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC)

The Commission also voluntarily monitored the following processes:

- Aquatics Committee Fee Proposal
- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC)/Building Level Planning Committee project on the New Elementary School at Reed
- Career Center Working Group
- Madison Manor Park Renovations
- Upper Bluemont Park Conceptual Design Project
- 26th St. & Old Dominion Site Master Planning Task Force

The Commission will continue to seek official involvement in any planning project that involves or could involve sports and recreational facilities and programming.

Issues Addressed in 2019

A. Completed Projects

- **Comments on the budget and CIP:** The Commission supported the County Manager's 2019 budget, suggesting potential areas for additional revenue or cost-cutting. We also provided comments on the 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan, where we support continued investment in Arlington's sports facilities by sticking to planned maintenance/replacement schedules and completing planned projects.² We also forwarded to the County Board and County Manager in February with comments, a letter from the Aquatics Committee that proposed a new approach for setting fees at public pools to better distribute operations and maintenance costs among user groups; the Commission appreciated the Aquatics Committee's goals but did not support the new approach.
- **PSMP:** The Commission's multi-year participation in the PSMP Advisory Committee culminated with March and April letters and testimony to the Planning Commission and County Board on the Request to Advertise and on the final vote to approve the plan. The Commission applauded the plan for significantly increasing our understanding of Arlington's public spaces and public space needs. In recognition that more data will be collected to facilitate implementation, the Commission called for data to be developed on the need for

² The Commission spoke to the County Board on the budget and the CIP and participated in budget conversations with the County Manager.

- **Commission Charter:** The Commission is working to update its charter, last updated in 2014. The new charter will better reflect the Commission's role; relationship with the County Board, DPR, sports leagues, and other stakeholders; and its areas of focus.
- **Development of Roles and Responsibilities for Commission Members:** In an effort to ensure full and fair coverage of all Arlington sports activities and groups, the Commission discussed and developed areas of responsibility for each Commissioner. Commissioners will be expected to conduct outreach on an annual basis to the groups they represent and bring these views back to the Commission. These designations will also help better distribute workload among Commissioners and facilitate project-based monitoring assignments.
- **Commissioner Input in Developing Agendas:** During a 2019 Commissioner orientation session, Commissioners expressed interested in being more involved in developing agendas for the year and planning in advance for what topics will be discussed, to the extent feasible. Commissioners also expressed a desire to discuss a wider range of topics, broadening the group's focus to include other issues besides fields and field usage. To that end, the group has developed a list of agenda topics for 2020 that will guide its operations.
- **Aquatics Committee:** The Commission continues to examine its relationship with the Aquatics Committee and seek ways to improve coordination and communication between the two groups.

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 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.¹ 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

¹ The Aquatics Committee is separately chartered to 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.

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 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 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.

Roberts Rules of Order – Simplified

Guiding Principle:

Everyone has the right to participate in discussion if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time.

Everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times.

Only urgent matters may interrupt a speaker.

Only one thing (motion) can be discussed at a time.

A **motion** is the topic under discussion (e.g., “I move that we add a coffee break to this meeting”). After being recognized by the president of the board, any member can introduce a motion when no other motion is on the table. A motion requires a second to be considered. Each motion must be disposed of (passed, defeated, tabled, referred to committee, or postponed indefinitely).

How to do things:

You want to bring up a new idea before the group.

After recognition by the president of the board, present your motion. A second is required for the motion to go to the floor for discussion, or consideration.

You want to change some of the wording in a motion under discussion.

After recognition by the president of the board, move to amend by

- adding words,
- striking words or
- striking and inserting words.

You like the idea of a motion being discussed, but you need to reword it beyond simple word changes.

Move to substitute your motion for the original motion. If it is seconded, discussion will continue on both motions and eventually the body will vote on which motion they prefer.

You want more study and/or investigation given to the idea being discussed.

Move to refer to a committee. Try to be specific as to the charge to the committee.

You want more time personally to study the proposal being discussed.

Move to postpone to a definite time or date.

You are tired of the current discussion.

Move to limit debate to a set period of time or to a set number of speakers. Requires a 2/3rds vote.

You have heard enough discussion.

Move to close the debate. Requires a 2/3rds vote. Or move to previous question. This cuts off discussion and brings the assembly to a vote on the pending question only. Requires a 2/3rds vote.

You want to postpone a motion until some later time.

Move to table the motion. The motion may be taken from the table after 1 item of business has been conducted. If the motion is not taken from the table by the end of the next meeting, it is dead. To kill a motion at the time it is tabled requires a 2/3rds vote. A majority is required to table a motion without killing it.

January 24, 2020

Dr. Reuben K. Varghese
Health Director and Division Chief
Public Health Division
Arlington County, Virginia

RE: Safety of materials used in synthetic turf fields and findings in recent studies focused on PFAS

Dear Dr. Varghese,

You have previously spoken about the perceived safety of artificial turf fields used by Arlington residents. Many of those previous conversations have focused on the materials used for infill, (crumb rubber and others) on those fields. There have not been as many discussions thus far focusing on the safety of the plastics used in the "grass" blades and the turf backing materials themselves.

The Sports Commission is interested in all safety aspects of artificial turf, and we would like your thoughts regarding studies mentioned in an article, "NEW STUDIES SHOW PFAS IN ARTIFICIAL GRASS BLADES AND BACKING", posted on the Environmental Working Group's website last Fall. The article cites recent findings from Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, or PEER, the Ecology Center, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), all of which touch on concerns regarding user safety related to the materials used in turf fields.

Many in Arlington are already worried about the potential ill effects of rubber infill, and the additional concerns about the safety of the plastics used in turf construction contribute to a greater sense of concern. Would you please provide the Sports Commission with your thoughts about the above-mentioned studies? What guidance have you provided to Arlington County's Department of Parks and Recreation regarding user safety and best practices going forward?

Regards,

XXXXX



AQUATICS COMMITTEE

Arlington, VA



December 20, 2019

Christian Dorsey, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board
2110 Washington Blvd., 2nd Floor
Arlington, VA 22204

RE: FY 2021 Proposed Budget & FY 2021-30 Capital Improvement Plan

Dear Chair Dorsey and Chair Talento,

I am writing on behalf of the Aquatics Committee¹ (AC) to request support for our recommendations for parity of tax support and user fees to access Arlington public swimming pools within the FY 2021 budget, and for addressing the worsening capacity shortfall at our pools within the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). We request that you share these recommendations with the County Manager and Arlington Public Schools (APS) Interim Superintendent before the release of their FY 2021 budget and CIP proposals. FY 2021 is a significant year for aquatics with the opening of the new aquatics facility at Long Bridge Park (LBP) and with the opportunity to include funding in the CIP for a pool at the Career Center to avert looming aquatic capacity issues facing students and nearby community swimmers.

- FY 2021 Budget – Tax Support & User Fee Parity

Among the responsibilities delegated to the AC in its Charter is a directive to make recommendations on fees charged for the use of the pools. Over the last two years, the AC has identified disparities in the way pool patrons are assessed user fees and, last year, proposed recommendations for fee parity that would have reduced the current level of tax support to operate and maintain (O&M) our pools. Although some adjustments were made in the FY 2020 budget, parity has yet to be achieved.

By way of background, community users constitute the largest user group of the pools – 72%.² There are two subgroups within this universe – “Drop-in” swimmers³ and DPR class/team participants. Drop-in swimmer fees cover 94% of O&M costs attributed to them, while DPR participant fees cover only 16%. This discrepancy is at odds with the County’s “Cost Recovery Pyramid”⁴ for recreational and sport activities which recommends that fees for “Drop-in” programs recover no more than 30% of costs, while

¹ The Aquatics Committee is a joint committee of the Arlington County Sports Commission and the Arlington Public Schools. The Committee is charged with ensuring community engagement in the operation and use of the Arlington indoor swimming pools located within the three high schools and with making recommendations on behalf of users to the County Board, through the Sports Commission, and to the School Board as needed.

² Other pool user groups include APS and renters.

³ Drop-in swimmers include single-entry patrons and those who purchase multi-swim memberships or passes.

⁴ Department of Parks & Recreation, 2017.

scheduling is so tight that, given growing student enrollment, there will not be enough slots to accommodate the Program for 3rd- and 4th-graders when Reed Elementary School opens.

At the elementary level, pool use is scheduled by school – once during the fall semester for 4th graders and once during the spring semester for 3rd graders. Each school is slotted for at least two 1-hour sessions for each day that they are scheduled. Depending on the number of enrolled students, some schools require multiple slots because safety considerations and pool space limitations cap class size to 40 students per session. Adding to scheduling pressures, “non-safe swimmers” require instruction in shallow water areas of the pools. For elementary students, this means the smaller-capacity instructional pools. Finally, at the elementary level, classes are generally scheduled between 9:30 am-12:00 pm, due to transportation limitations, early-release days, and competing uses of the pool by high school students and the community.

At the high school level, classes (up to 35 students/class) are held occurs throughout the school day (8:00 am – 3:10 pm), including overlaps with morning elementary groups. In terms of capacity, the number of students participating in these two curriculum programs is raising commensurate with the growth in total enrollment. This growth, from the time our new high school-based pools opened in FY 2014 through the end of the current CIP, will more than double and is a high-level way to illustrate that we may no longer have the capacity to provide the existing Program to our students.

In short, based on the information provided the Aquatics Committee, we think that our existing pools are reaching a tipping point in programming capacity, and that, at the current growth rate in student enrollment, a fourth APS school pool will be warranted as early as School Year 2022-2023. We believe that, otherwise, APS’s ability to provide water safety instruction to elementary and high school students at the current level of instruction is in jeopardy. To address the looming pool capacity, the AC adopted the following position, which we urge you to support,

Arlington Aquatics Committee supports an aquatic facility within any High School with 1,200 or more students that can provide an equivalent aquatics curriculum as is currently administered by Arlington Public Schools.

Building a public pool is a generational decision. In this regard, special attention should be given to re-enforce the need for a 4th pool at the Career Center site from an equity perspective. The Career Center site is located in one of the “access gap hotspots” identified in the *Public Spaces Master Plan* (PSMP) where the population in that area has limited access to recreation and sport facilities.¹⁰ Aquatics centers have been included within the footprint of all Arlington neighborhood high schools. While the Career Center is slated to be an “choice” school, it is being planned with the option to convert to a neighborhood school in the future. Meanwhile, APS plans to eventually serve 2,800 students at this site¹¹, comparable to the number to be enrolled at Washington-Liberty High School when the new “Ed Center” annex is complete. Even though students at choice schools are offered the option to return to their neighborhood schools to participate in APS sports that are not offered onsite, the pools at home schools are not being expanded. Thus, making room for choice-school students at home schools

unit of 8 to 10 hours in the pool. Additional PE swim units (the number may vary per school) are available for students who choose extra aquatic instruction.

¹⁰ PSMP, 25 APR 2019, page 195.

¹¹ Career Center BLPC/PFRC Presentation, 3 DEC 2019, slide 15, cites a student enrollment capacity of 2,857.

Arlington Sports Commission

2020 Allocation of Constituent Representation

Constituent (Sports)	Commissioner Representing
Soccer, lacrosse	John Mingus
Flag and tackle football, ultimate frisbee	Justin Wilt
Baseball	George Thompson, Nancy Sharkey
Softball, field hockey	Steve Severn
Swim/dive	Kristi Sawert
Gymnastics	Shirley Brothwell
Skateboarding, fencing, riflery	Ryan Schaefer
Track, x-country, trail activities (walk, bike)	John Bacon
Court sports (tennis, pickleball)	Justin Wilt
Indoor sports (basketball, volleyball, ball and ice hockey)	Dave Maher
Constituent (Groups)	
Park and Recreation Commission Liaison	Drew Murray
Aquatics Committee Liaison	Kristi Sawert
E2C2 and Urban Forestry Commission Liaison	John Mingus
Underserved youth; differently-abled; Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families; Out-of-School Time Commission	Jessica Paska (Lead), Megan Sheckles
Community Drop-In and Social Leagues (softball, kickball, bocce)	Megan Sheckles
College programs (GWU, Marymount)	Megan Sheckles, Steve Severn
Adult and senior sports	Dave Tornquist
County Processes	
Public Spaces Working Group representative	Nancy Sharkey

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John Mingus

John Bacon
David Tornquist

County/APS Staff:

Greg Anselene, DPR
Peter Lusk, DPR
Ryan Amato, DPR
Kurt Louis, DPR

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 - John Mingus was awarded National Volunteer of the Year for US Youth Soccer (USYS). To win this prestigious award John also won Virginia and the East Region National Volunteer of the Year.

- **Athletic Field Maintenance – Kurt Louis, Parks and Natural Resources Division Chief, DPR**
 - Provided an overview of Athletic Field Maintenance which is located in the Parks and Natural Resources Division (PNR) of the Department of Parks and Recreation
 - Current responsibilities include:
 - Field maintenance including grooming and dragging diamond fields
 - Lining foul lines for DPR partner leagues and APS games
 - Cleaning dugouts and bleachers
 - Temporary fence installation and removal
 - Aeration, over-seeding, weeding, and edging.
 - Athletic Field Maintenance has a total budget of \$1,441,781
 - \$895,103 is allocated to personnel
 - 10 full time employees (1) Athletic Field Maintenance Manager, (1) Team Leader, (8) Crew Members and (2) temporary employees in the spring, summer, and fall.
 - \$547,785 is allocated to non-personnel to include nutrient management, field maintenance (aeration and top-dressing of fields) irrigation maintenance, fencing, and general maintenance and supplies
 - FY20 \$139,000 was added to the AFM budget, these funds were able to add two weeks of mowing to the spring season and increased ability to provide field maintenance.
 - Discussion of loss of funding in 2010, which affected staffing, and recovery of funding since that time. Current funding levels enable DPR to maintain its staff, but rising costs affect ability to provide maintenance.
 - Discussion of what AFM would prioritize if funding were increased. Kurt Louis discussed the addition of a synthetic field maintenance team, which would allow AFM to keep up with recommended synthetic field maintenance procedures.
 - Discussion about GMAX. The county is required to measure the GMAX and maintain records for each field. Historically the county has never had an issue with maintaining well above the national standards for GMAX which the standard test is set forth by American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM) to certify that synthetic turf field is suitable and safe for play. Specifically, it is measuring the hardness and shock absorption properties of a turf field.
- **Field Fund Discussion- Peter Lusk, Athletic and Facility Services Division Chief, DPR**
 - Follow up to the field fund presentation and discussion at the November 25 Sports Commission Meeting.
 - As indicated in the Sports Commission Charter, the Chair has the power to create workgroups and sub-committees. SC is working on a charter for a Field Fund working group that will study the fees and make budget recommendations in 2021 for budget year 2022.
 - The working group will have broad representation from a number of Commissions. Sports Commission Chair will be asking for someone to represent the Sports Commission.
- **Baseball in Arlington Discussion- Ryan Amato, Greg Anselene, DPR**

- At the request of the Sports Commission following an initial discussion at the November 25 meeting, DPR is re-introducing the discussion of baseball in Arlington.
- Provided an overview of the current diamond sports offerings supported by DPR
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 - It rents field space from DPR as a non-partner organization for the 13+ activities at rates of \$35-130 per hour.
- DPR seeks guidance from the Sports Commission on this request.
- Discussion of existing organization - Arlington Senior Babe Ruth is a partner organization for the 13-18 age range. What need is there for an additional program? ASBR requires its travel players to also play in the recreation program; ATB does not. ASBR would like ATB to require the same so as to preserve the recreation program. The groups met previously to discuss working collaboratively but could not come to agreement. Some questions about whether it's appropriate to require families to patronize certain programs if they prefer not to do so.
- Discussion of whether granting ATB partnership status at 13+ will erode ASBR's recreational program.
- Discussion of number of teams and field capacity – ATB has one 13U and one 14U team; they currently rent the space.
- Discussion of participant demographics – ATB players are Arlington residents; ATB also uses space outside of Arlington.
- Discussion of expansion of travel teams – do programs with in-house travel teams have to seek DPR's permission to expand the number of teams; what impact does travel expansion have on field capacity?
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- Commission Votes
 - Motion to continue the conversation to January and direct ATB and ASBR to submit written explanation on whether DPR should or should not permit ATB to expand to partner status for the 13+ level.
 - Motion Seconded
 - Discussion – continuing to January will not bring out any new information.
 - Vote: 2 in favor, 3 against, 4 abstentions
 - Motion to recommend expanding Arlington Travel Baseball to 13+ on a one-year trial basis.
 - Motion Seconded

- Discussion – concern about implications of granting this permission without any conditions or ability to reverse course.
- Vote: 3 in favor, 4 against, 2 abstentions
- Motion to recommend expanding Arlington Travel Baseball to 13+ on a one-year trial basis on the condition that ATB and ASBR meet again to try and resolve their differences and see if they can find a way to work together.
 - Motion Seconded
 - Discussion – none.
 - Vote: 6 in favor, 1 against, 2 abstentions.

Public Comment

- Mike Murray
- Kevin Jones
- Scott Gerber

Commission Member Reports

(9:15pm-9:20pm)

- Career Center Update
 - Update on career center plan to add parking to the Northeast corner of property
 - Motion to approve the basis of the letter as amended, seconded and approved.
- PSMP Post Implementation Update

Adjorn

(9:20pm)

Matt de Ferranti, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Greg Anselene

Greg Anselene, Staff Liaison



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



January xx, 2020

The Honorable Christian Dorsey
Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

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If you or the other Board members have any feedback or questions about the content of these reports, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Brothwell".

On behalf of the Sports Commission and Aquatics Committee
Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Sports Commission

Cc: County Board Members
Cynthia Hilton, Aquatics Committee Chair
Bill Ross, Park and Recreation Commission Chair

Arlington Sports Commission 2019 Annual Report

Summary

During 2019, the Sports Commission continued with the four areas of focus it identified in 2018:

1. **Recreational Facilities, Facility Capacity, and Related Issues** - work to improve rectangular and diamond field condition, availability and efficient use and develop a better understanding of current and unmet demand for indoor facilities;
2. **Underserved Groups and Communities** – enhance Commission’s understanding of sports issues for underserved youth, differently-abled athletes, and seniors, including current opportunities and unmet needs and how access to sports and an active and healthy lifestyle can affect the health of vulnerable populations;
3. **Improving Commission Networks** - increase engagement with other advisory Commissions and key stakeholders in Arlington; and
4. **Ongoing Projects** - continue and complete existing work.

The Commission made good progress on many of its planned activities. Some of these activities will be rolled over into the 2020 Annual Plan.

Structure and Membership

Membership has remained a priority for the Commission in 2019. To better represent the Arlington sports community, Commission membership was raised from 13 to 15. Commission members during 2019 included: John Bacon, Shirley Brothwell, Janet Eichers (left February 2019), Matt Galan (left in October 2019), Sherry Kohan, Drew Murray, Jessica Deegan-Paska, Dave Maher , Steve Severn, Corey Simples (left April 2019), George Thompson, David Tornquist, Kristi Sawert (Joined March 2019) John Mingus (joined in May 2019), Megan Sheckles (joined in May 2019), Nancy Sharkey (Joined in June 2019), Ryan Schaefer (joined November 2019), and Justin Wilt. Shirley Brothwell served as the Commission Chair in 2019. Justin Wilt was the Vice Chair.

The Commission has three subsidiary bodies: the Aquatics Committee, the Arlington Youth Baseball Authority (AYBA), and the Diamond Field Fund Committee.¹ Of these, the Aquatics Committee and Diamond Field Fund Committee remain active; the AYBA was not active during 2019. In 2020, the Commission intends to examine the continued need for the two subsidiary bodies over which it has sole authority: the Diamond Field Fund Committee and the AYBA.

¹ The Aquatics Committee reports independently to the School Board and through the Sports Commission to the County Board on issues related to the adequacy and efficiency of aquatic-related programs and facilities. The Arlington Youth Baseball Authority is charged with improving the baseball experience for ballplayers ages 12 & under, focusing specifically on making progress toward the consolidation of two league-run youth baseball programs. The Diamond Field Fund Committee consults with diamond field users to identify projects that should be funded using diamond field user fees.

Participation in Work Groups, Committees, and Other Processes

In 2019, the Sports Commission was an official member of the following groups:

- Four Mile Run Valley (4MRV) Working Group
- Jennie Dean Park Committee (a sub-group of the 4MRV Working Group)
- POPS Advisory Committee
- Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Center Fee Working Group
- Greenbrier Operations Committee
- Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC)

The Commission also voluntarily monitored the following processes:

- Aquatics Committee Fee Proposal
- Public Facilities Review Committee (PFRC)/Building Level Planning Committee project on the New Elementary School at Reed
- Career Center Working Group
- Madison Manor Park Renovations
- Upper Bluemont Park Conceptual Design Project
- 26th St. & Old Dominion Site Master Planning Task Force

The Commission will continue to seek official involvement in any planning project that involves or could involve sports and recreational facilities and programming.

Issues Addressed in 2019

A. Completed Projects

- **Comments on the budget and CIP:** The Commission supported the County Manager's 2019 budget, suggesting potential areas for additional revenue or cost-cutting. We also provided comments on the 2019-2028 Capital Improvement Plan, where we support continued investment in Arlington's sports facilities by sticking to planned maintenance/replacement schedules and completing planned projects.² We also forwarded to the County Board and County Manager in February with comments, a letter from the Aquatics Committee that proposed a new approach for setting fees at public pools to better distribute operations and maintenance costs among user groups; the Commission appreciated the Aquatics Committee's goals but did not support the new approach.
- **PSMP:** The Commission's multi-year participation in the PSMP Advisory Committee culminated with March and April letters and testimony to the Planning Commission and County Board on the Request to Advertise and on the final vote to approve the plan. The Commission applauded the plan for significantly increasing our understanding of Arlington's public spaces and public space needs. In recognition that more data will be collected to facilitate implementation, the Commission called for data to be developed on the need for

² The Commission spoke to the County Board on the budget and the CIP and participated in budget conversations with the County Manager.

and availability of open/casual use space (as is done for athletic fields), and to involve field users as data on field utilization is developed. In light of practical constraints on meeting all Level of Service objectives contained in the PSMP, the Commission noted its strong support for using synthetic turf and lights to maximize the usable hours of the current field inventory.

- **Diamond Field Fund:** Following redevelopment and conversion to synthetic turf, a project that was supported with \$190,000 from the Diamond Field Fund, the adult softball field at Gunston Middle School was opened in June.
- **League Field Scheduling Forum:** As part of its role in facilitating communication and studying the use of and adequacy of existing facilities, the Commission hosted an open forum in July 2019 where DOR and several youth leagues discussed their field scheduling processes, challenges, and ideas to help improve field use. The results of this forum are summarized as Appendix A of this report.

B. Ongoing Projects and Topics of Interest

The Commission structured its agendas and requested presentations that supported its four focus areas. We also scheduled discussions on emerging issues, covered below under “Other Topics.”

- **Recreational Facilities, Facility Capacity, and Related Issues:** Update from the Long Bridge Aquatics and Fitness Center Fee Advisory Working Group; DPR presentation on scheduling and maintenance of indoor space; DPR presentation on forthcoming MOA with Marymount University (see Commission letter); discussion of the history, purpose, and future of field user fees and the rectangular and diamond field funds; DPR presentation on trends in field maintenance budget, staffing, and activities; and various project updates (Long Bridge Park Aquatics and Fitness Center. Barcroft batting cage enhancements, Gunston softball field, Upper Bluemont Park design process – see Commission letter, TJ upper synthetic field installation).
- **Underserved Groups and Communities:** Presentation from DPR’s Office of Therapeutic Recreation; presentation from DPR’s Office of Senior Programs; presentation from Senior Olympics; presentation by Destination 2027 about looking at policies and practices through an equity lens.
- **Improving Commission Networks:** Through its invitations to DPR offices and Destination 2027, the Commission took steps to build its networks in new areas.
- **Ongoing Projects:** PSMP IAC updates; Career Center PFRC/BLPC updates (see Commission letter).
- **Other Topics:** DPR presentation on Safe Sport Act requirements and implementation; discussion of DPR’s practices for ensuring its staff are properly vetted and trained to keep young athletes safe at all times; presentation on challenges faced in sports officiating (finding and keeping enough referees and umpires); providing DPR advice on how to respond to a request from Arlington Travel Baseball to be charged affiliate versus rental rates for its use of fields at the 13U and 14U levels.

C. Commission Structure and Operations

- **Commission Charter:** The Commission is working to update its charter, last updated in 2014. The new charter will better reflect the Commission's role; relationship with the County Board, DPR, sports leagues, and other stakeholders; and its areas of focus.
- **Development of Roles and Responsibilities for Commission Members:** In an effort to ensure full and fair coverage of all Arlington sports activities and groups, the Commission discussed and developed areas of responsibility for each Commissioner. Commissioners will be expected to conduct outreach on an annual basis to the groups they represent and bring these views back to the Commission. These designations will also help better distribute workload among Commissioners and facilitate project-based monitoring assignments.
- **Commissioner Input in Developing Agendas:** During a 2019 Commissioner orientation session, Commissioners expressed interested in being more involved in developing agendas for the year and planning in advance for what topics will be discussed, to the extent feasible. Commissioners also expressed a desire to discuss a wider range of topics, broadening the group's focus to include other issues besides fields and field usage. To that end, the group has developed a list of agenda topics for 2020 that will guide its operations.
- **Aquatics Committee:** The Commission continues to examine its relationship with the Aquatics Committee and seek ways to improve coordination and communication between the two groups.

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 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.¹ 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

¹ The Aquatics Committee is separately chartered to 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.

bicyclists, and any other facility or space used for athletics.²

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.

To carry out its advisory responsibilities, incident to the above, the Commission may:

- 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.
- Solicit information from and interact with DPR.
- 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.

² Advice and recommendations offered to the Board concerning Arlington Public Schools swimming pools shall be developed collaboratively with the Aquatics Committee.

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 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 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.

Roberts Rules of Order – Simplified

Guiding Principle:

Everyone has the right to participate in discussion if they wish, before anyone may speak a second time.

Everyone has the right to know what is going on at all times.

Only urgent matters may interrupt a speaker.

Only one thing (motion) can be discussed at a time.

A **motion** is the topic under discussion (e.g., "I move that we add a coffee break to this meeting"). After being recognized by the president of the board, any member can introduce a motion when no other motion is on the table. A motion requires a second to be considered. Each motion must be disposed of (passed, defeated, tabled, referred to committee, or postponed indefinitely).

How to do things:

You want to bring up a new idea before the group.

After recognition by the president of the board, present your motion. A second is required for the motion to go to the floor for discussion, or consideration.

You want to change some of the wording in a motion under discussion.

After recognition by the president of the board, move to amend by

- adding words,
- striking words or
- striking and inserting words.

You like the idea of a motion being discussed, but you need to reword it beyond simple word changes.

Move to substitute your motion for the original motion. If it is seconded, discussion will continue on both motions and eventually the body will vote on which motion they prefer.

You want more study and/or investigation given to the idea being discussed.

Move to refer to a committee. Try to be specific as to the charge to the committee.

You want more time personally to study the proposal being discussed.

Move to postpone to a definite time or date.

You are tired of the current discussion.

Move to limit debate to a set period of time or to a set number of speakers. Requires a 2/3^{rds} vote.

You have heard enough discussion.

Move to close the debate. Requires a 2/3^{rds} vote. Or move to previous question. This cuts off discussion and brings the assembly to a vote on the pending question only. Requires a 2/3^{rds} vote.

You want to postpone a motion until some later time.

Move to table the motion. The motion may be taken from the table after 1 item of business has been conducted. If the motion is not taken from the table by the end of the next meeting, it is dead. To kill a motion at the time it is tabled requires a 2/3^{rds} vote. A majority is required to table a motion without killing it.

You believe the discussion has drifted away from the agenda and want to bring it back.
Call for orders of the day.

You want to take a short break.
Move to recess for a set period of time.

You want to end the meeting.
Move to adjourn.

You are unsure that the president of the board has announced the results of a vote correctly.
Without being recognized, call for a "division of the house." At this point a roll call vote will be taken.

You are confused about a procedure being used and want clarification.
Without recognition, call for "Point of Information" or "Point of Parliamentary Inquiry." The president of the board will ask you to state your question and will attempt to clarify the situation.

You have changed your mind about something that was voted on earlier in the meeting for which you were on the winning side.
Move to reconsider. If the majority agrees, the motion comes back on the floor as though the vote had not occurred.

You want to change an action voted on at an earlier meeting.
Move to rescind. If previous written notice is given, a simple majority is required. If no notice is given, a 2/3rds vote is required.

You may INTERRUPT a speaker for these reasons only:
to get information about business – point of information
to get information about rules – parliamentary inquiry
if you can't hear, safety reasons, comfort, etc. – question of privilege
if you see a breach of the rules – point of order
if you disagree with the president of the board's ruling – appeal

Quick Reference					
	Must Be Seconded	Open for Discussion	Can be Amended	Vote Count Required to Pass	May Be Reconsidered or Rescinded
Main Motion	√	√	√	Majority	√
Amend Motion	√	√		Majority	√
Kill a Motion	√			Majority	√
Limit Debate	√		√	2/3 rd s	√
Close Discussion	√			2/3 rd s	√
Recess	√		√	Majority	
Adjourn (End meeting)	√			Majority	
Refer to Committee	√	√	√	Majority	√
Postpone to a later time	√	√	√	Majority	√
Table	√			Majority	
Postpone Indefinitely	√	√	√	Majority	√

January 24, 2020

Dr. Reuben K. Varghese
Health Director and Division Chief
Public Health Division
Arlington County, Virginia

RE: Safety of materials used in synthetic turf fields and findings in recent studies focused on PFAS

Dear Dr. Varghese,

You have previously spoken about the perceived safety of artificial turf fields used by Arlington residents. Many of those previous conversations have focused on the materials used for infill, (crumb rubber and others) on those fields. There have not been as many discussions thus far focusing on the safety of the plastics used in the "grass" blades and the turf backing materials themselves.

The Sports Commission is interested in all safety aspects of artificial turf, and we would like your thoughts regarding studies mentioned in an article, "[NEW STUDIES SHOW PFAS IN ARTIFICIAL GRASS BLADES AND BACKING](#)", posted on the Environmental Working Group's website last Fall. The article cites recent findings from Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, or PEER, the Ecology Center, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), all of which touch on concerns regarding user safety related to the materials used in turf fields.

Many in Arlington are already worried about the potential ill effects of rubber infill, and the additional concerns about the safety of the plastics used in turf construction contribute to a greater sense of concern. Would you please provide the Sports Commission with your thoughts about the above-mentioned studies? What guidance have you provided to Arlington County's Department of Parks and Recreation regarding user safety and best practices going forward?

Regards,

XXXXXX



AQUATICS COMMITTEE

Arlington, VA



December 20, 2019

Christian Dorsey, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22201

Tannia Talento, Chair
Arlington School Board
2110 Washington Blvd., 2nd Floor
Arlington, VA 22204

RE: FY 2021 Proposed Budget & FY 2021-30 Capital Improvement Plan

Dear Chair Dorsey and Chair Talento,

I am writing on behalf of the Aquatics Committee¹ (AC) to request support for our recommendations for parity of tax support and user fees to access Arlington public swimming pools within the FY 2021 budget, and for addressing the worsening capacity shortfall at our pools within the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). We request that you share these recommendations with the County Manager and Arlington Public Schools (APS) Interim Superintendent before the release of their FY 2021 budget and CIP proposals. FY 2021 is a significant year for aquatics with the opening of the new aquatics facility at Long Bridge Park (LBP) and with the opportunity to include funding in the CIP for a pool at the Career Center to avert looming aquatic capacity issues facing students and nearby community swimmers.

- FY 2021 Budget – Tax Support & User Fee Parity

Among the responsibilities delegated to the AC in its Charter is a directive to make recommendations on fees charged for the use of the pools. Over the last two years, the AC has identified disparities in the way pool patrons are assessed user fees and, last year, proposed recommendations for fee parity that would have reduced the current level of tax support to operate and maintain (O&M) our pools. Although some adjustments were made in the FY 2020 budget, parity has yet to be achieved.

By way of background, community users constitute the largest user group of the pools – 72%.² There are two subgroups within this universe – “Drop-in” swimmers³ and DPR class/team participants. Drop-in swimmer fees cover 94% of O&M costs attributed to them, while DPR participant fees cover only 16%. This discrepancy is at odds with the County’s “Cost Recovery Pyramid”⁴ for recreational and sport activities which recommends that fees for “Drop-in” programs recover no more than 30% of costs, while

¹ The Aquatics Committee is a joint committee of the Arlington County Sports Commission and the Arlington Public Schools. The Committee is charged with ensuring community engagement in the operation and use of the Arlington indoor swimming pools located within the three high schools and with making recommendations on behalf of users to the County Board, through the Sports Commission, and to the School Board as needed.

² Other pool user groups include APS and renters.

³ Drop-in swimmers include single-entry patrons and those who purchase multi-swim memberships or passes.

⁴ Department of Parks & Recreation, 2017.

fees for programs that mostly benefit individuals, such as classes and sports teams, recover at least 85% of costs. Additionally, APS tax support is tapped to cover 51% of the remaining community use O&M costs.

We do not believe that scarce APS funds should be allocated to pay for community use of our public pools. We do believe, however, that all community users should pay O&M fees based on the same fee scale. In support of these recommendations, the School Board issued FY 2021 Budget Guidance directing the Interim Superintendent to "... collaborat[e] with the County on ... service fees [and to] explore increases in revenue, including a review of all APS fees."⁵ In fulfilling these tasks, the Interim Superintendent is to "consider recommendations from 2018-19 advisory council reports." Likewise, County Board Chair Christian Dorsey noted that,

Arlington Public Schools fees are outside of the purview of DPR and the County Board. County staff do consult with APS staff on fee-setting, but the operational determination of what fees to charge, and for how much, is one made by APS staff and recommended for approval by the School Board.⁶

Although progress on these issues was made in the FY 2020 budget, we ask that the FY 2021 budget be the vehicle to finish the tasks of ensuring parity in the O&M fees paid by community users of Arlington's public pools, relieving APS of the tax support contribution it has made to support community pool use, and ensuring that the percent of tax support provided by the County to APS for community use of its pools be no less than the percent of tax support that will be provided to cover O&M costs attributed to the LBP aquatics facilities.⁷

- FY 2021-30 CIP – Aquatic Facility Capacity Issues

The AC Charter also tasks the Committee to make recommendations on "the need for additional ... aquatic facilities." At this time, APS is facing a tipping point in terms of available pool space and time to serve that instructional needs of students without reducing community access to Arlington's school-based pools due to growing enrollment.⁸

To understand the importance of providing necessary water safety swimming instruction to Arlington youth, drowning is the leading cause of death in U.S. children ages 1 to 4, and the second leading cause between ages 5 to 9. Among all school-age children (5-19), it is the third-leading cause of unintentional injury deaths. In Arlington, over 60% of students are non-safe swimmers before they begin instruction.

The APS Water Safety and Lifetime Fitness Program⁹ (Program) that is offered to elementary and high school students is an integral part of the corresponding Health & Physical Education Curricula. Once learned, swimming is a lifetime endeavor and the one sport that could save your life. Yet, Program

⁵ FY 2021 School Board Budget Guidance adopted 3 OCT 2019.

⁶ Email sent 25 JUN 2019.

⁷ As a benchmark, the County's transfer to APS for O&M costs attributed to community swimmers at neighborhood pools in FY 2019 is projected to be 24.5%.

⁸ Such reduction assumes that the structure of APS's instructional Program will not be adversely modified. Community assess most at risk of cutbacks would be "midday" swim, heavily used by older or physically-challenged swimmers, and/or "zero" hour swim, which would cut into the swim time allotted to "early-bird" swimmers.

⁹ The Program at the elementary level provides each 3rd or 4th grader one hour of instruction for five consecutive school days. At the high school level, the Program provides each 9th and 10th graders at least one three-week PE

scheduling is so tight that, given growing student enrollment, there will not be enough slots to accommodate the Program for 3rd- and 4th-graders when Reed Elementary School opens.

At the elementary level, pool use is scheduled by school – once during the fall semester for 4th graders and once during the spring semester for 3rd graders. Each school is slotted for at least two 1-hour sessions for each day that they are scheduled. Depending on the number of enrolled students, some schools require multiple slots because safety considerations and pool space limitations cap class size to 40 students per session. Adding to scheduling pressures, “non-safe swimmers” require instruction in shallow water areas of the pools. For elementary students, this means the smaller-capacity instructional pools. Finally, at the elementary level, classes are generally scheduled between 9:30 am-12:00 pm, due to transportation limitations, early-release days, and competing uses of the pool by high school students and the community.

At the high school level, classes (up to 35 students/class) are held occurs throughout the school day (8:00 am – 3:10 pm), including overlaps with morning elementary groups. In terms of capacity, the number of students participating in these two curriculum programs is raising commensurate with the growth in total enrollment. This growth, from the time our new high school-based pools opened in FY 2014 through the end of the current CIP, will more than double and is a high-level way to illustrate that we may no longer have the capacity to provide the existing Program to our students.

In short, based on the information provided the Aquatics Committee, we think that our existing pools are reaching a tipping point in programming capacity, and that, at the current growth rate in student enrollment, a fourth APS school pool will be warranted as early as School Year 2022-2023. We believe that, otherwise, APS’s ability to provide water safety instruction to elementary and high school students at the current level of instruction is in jeopardy. To address the looming pool capacity, the AC adopted the following position, which we urge you to support,

Arlington Aquatics Committee supports an aquatic facility within any High School with 1,200 or more students that can provide an equivalent aquatics curriculum as is currently administered by Arlington Public Schools.

Building a public pool is a generational decision. In this regard, special attention should be given to re-enforce the need for a 4th pool at the Career Center site from an equity perspective. The Career Center site is located in one of the “access gap hotspots” identified in the *Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP)* where the population in that area has limited access to recreation and sport facilities.¹⁰ Aquatics centers have been included within the footprint of all Arlington neighborhood high schools. While the Career Center is slated to be an “choice” school, it is being planned with the option to convert to a neighborhood school in the future. Meanwhile, APS plans to eventually serve 2,800 students at this site¹¹, comparable to the number to be enrolled at Washington-Liberty High School when the new “Ed Center” annex is complete. Even though students at choice schools are offered the option to return to their neighborhood schools to participate in APS sports that are not offered onsite, the pools at home schools are not being expanded. Thus, making room for choice-school students at home schools

unit of 8 to 10 hours in the pool. Additional PE swim units (the number may vary per school) are available for students who choose extra aquatic instruction.

¹⁰ PSMP, 25 APR 2019, page 195.

¹¹ Career Center BLPC/PFRC Presentation, 3 DEC 2019, slide 15, cites a student enrollment capacity of 2,857.

degrades opportunities to participate for all students. More importantly, the *Destination 2027 Report*¹² shows that where you live in Arlington is an indication of your overall health, and that those living in proximity to the Career Center site are currently at risk of poorer health and lower life expectancy as compared to areas surrounding other existing high school pools.

We support the County Board's equity resolution and the School Board for including equity as a core value. We also commend the School Board for priorities it has articulated in its FY 2021-30 CIP directive to eliminate opportunity gaps and address capacity issues created by growing enrollment. You have an opportunity to jointly step up and include funding from both County and APS sources for a 4th high school pool within the footprint of the new Career Center high school in the in the CIP.¹³ Including a pool in the plans for the Career Center school at this time will undoubtedly save future construction costs as opposed to attempts to retrofit a pool in the future. It will relieve the pressure on APS to continue uninterrupted its life-saving instructional program for our youth, and, for some of the County's most underserved population, it will be a valued asset for surrounding neighborhoods with few other aquatic options.

- Conclusion

Our priorities are to level the disparity in pool access fees paid by various community users, to ensure that space is set-aside for a pool facility that meets APS educational specs at the Career Center, and to oppose efforts to eliminate aquatic opportunities in Arlington. Our recommendations will enhance the safety and well-being of some of our most at-risk populations and level the field for user fees by ensuring the all community users pay their fair share of O&M costs. We look forward to working with the Boards toward achieving these objectives.

Thank you for your consideration of the Committee's recommendations.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Hilton

Cynthia Hilton
Chair, Aquatics Committee

cc: Members of the Arlington County Board
Members of the Arlington School Board
Mark Schwartz, County Manager
Cintia Johnson, Interim Superintendent
Jane Rudolph, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation
John Chadwick, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations

¹² *Destination 2027 – Arlington's Plan for Achieving Health Equity by 2027*, April 2019.

¹³ As noted above, community use of our school-based pools exceeds that of APS usage. The PSMP recommends that the County "work with Arlington Public Schools to maximize availability and stewardship of public spaces [and] ensure [that] the contributions to capital costs and maintenance of public spaces on County and APS sites are commensurate with use." PSMP, op. cit., pages 112-113.

Arlington Sports Commission

2020 Allocation of Constituent Representation

Constituent (Sports)	Commissioner Representing
Soccer, lacrosse	John Mingus
Flag and tackle football, ultimate frisbee	Justin Wilt
Baseball	George Thompson, Nancy Sharkey
Softball, field hockey	Steve Severn
Swim/dive	Kristi Sawert
Gymnastics	Shirley Brothwell
Skateboarding, fencing, riflery	Ryan Schaefer
Track, x-country, trail activities (walk, bike)	John Bacon
Court sports (tennis, pickleball)	Justin Wilt
Indoor sports (basketball, volleyball, ball and ice hockey)	Dave Maher
Constituent (Groups)	
Park and Recreation Commission Liaison	Drew Murray
Aquatics Committee Liaison	Kristi Sawert
E2C2 and Urban Forestry Commission Liaison	John Mingus
Underserved youth; differently-abled; Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families; Out-of-School Time Commission	Jessica Paska (Lead), Megan Sheckles
Community Drop-In and Social Leagues (softball, kickball, bocce)	Megan Sheckles
College programs (GWU, Marymount)	Megan Sheckles, Steve Severn
Adult and senior sports	Dave Tornquist
County Processes	
Public Spaces Working Group representative	Nancy Sharkey

