

Arlington Aquatics Committee (AC)
Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2020
Washington Liberty High School

Attendees

Members: Cynthia Hilton, Kristi Sawert, Guy Land, Carla Fletcher, Ron Kampeas, MacKenzie Kearney, Ron Kampeas.

Visitors: Former DPS staff advisor to the Aquatics Committee, Jennifer Lainhart.

Staff: Absent.

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of minutes/Announcements

- Minutes for meeting held on February 18, 2020 were presented and approved with two minor changes.
- Carla nominated Howard for the Vice Chair vacancy and was unanimously approved. A County Board (CB) appointee is needed to fill that vacancy.

Public Comment: No public comment

2021 Budget

The County Board signaled a zero sum game in the 2021 budget. Chairperson Cynthia Hilton anticipates distribution of a budget exhibit at the April meeting to include 2019 actuals and 2020 to date (Budget ends 30 June).

FY 2021 Work Plan

- a. Sports Commission (SC)/AC relationship (Cynthia Hilton)
The Superintendent has stated in the FY 2021 APS budget an intent to “re-organize the Aquatics Management structure to facilitate APS complete management of the three APS-owned aquatic centers including school-based instruction, community drop-in swim, rentals and community instructional [sic] currently managed by DPR, by no later than July 1, 2020.” The proposal would partition APS and DPS cooperative activity. It is unclear whether the spirit and intent of the proposal includes bifurcating any advisory committees on aquatic issues. The AC, which enjoys representation of County and School Board appointees, has advanced a proposal that the Committee’s mission be expanded to advise and liaison with the community on all County aquatic matters. The AC unanimously approved a motion to continue its support for expanding the oversight role of the AC irrespective of whether APS and DPR staff separate management of aquatic matters at the pool level.
- b. FY 2021 Budget/O&M Cost Recovery
 - AC continues to be committed to a policy and practice of O&M user/fee and tax support parity. Cynthia and Helena are updating the AC’s chart showing who cost-based fee setting and benchmarking to “what-the-user-will-pay” have resulted in inequitable outcomes.

- c. ED Center Pool Parking – Community meeting Mar 5, 7:00-9:00 pm at Washington-Liberty for a project update.

Howard presented an organizational chart of the reporting hierarchy of Community Planning, Housing & Development (Civitan permit), Arlington Public Schools (W-L pool operation), Parks and Recreation (W-L pool based classes), and Environmental Services, the proponent of reducing parking by 24 spaces along the west side of N. Quincy Street. The first level of integration is the County Manager who is unlikely to facilitate a cross functional problem-solving session. Howard also identified Assistant County Manager and Director of Communications and Public Engagement, Bryna Helfer as a person who is uniquely qualified and positioned to facilitate such a session. Several members who knew Bryna, endorsed her potential role, including Guy Land who works with her on a regular and recurring basis. The AC directed Howard to contact Bryna to solicit her participation with participation from Cynthia and Guy, based on their availability.

- d. Career Center (CC) BLPC/PFRC – Kristi Sawert
 - AC supports underground parking
 - AC advocates for a pool as a standard high school configuration
 - 22204 community underserved, largest and economically disadvantaged without a public pool.
 - Other pools reaching capacity for public school training.
 - Howard offered the illustration of Navy public works projects prepared to 35% design and placed on shelf in anticipation of receipt of project completion money. Rhetorically, might AC advocate for a 35% design for the CC pool?
 - Cynthia was asked to write another letter to the Boards summarizing new “needs” data supporting a pool on the site.

Sports Commission Update – Kristi Sawert

- Kristi gave a presentation with swimmer/non-swimmer data at select elementary schools. The area that would be served by the Career Center High School has a high percentage of non-swimmers.
- A representative of the Arlington Forest neighborhood outdoor pool volunteered the pool for swimming lessons for underserved, disadvantaged youth this summer. No cost would be incurred for the pool, but funds would be needed to cover insurance. It was reported the Marymount University is also offering instruction to underserved children.

Pool Maintenance – no report.

Old Business

- a. Revisions to APS Policy B-3.6.30.
 1. Members who have served more than 6 years will not be renewed; short run waivers will be considered.
 2. Three absences per annum, excused or unexcused, “may” be grounds for termination.
 3. With the exception of the AC chair, committee members should not advocate outside the APS system, unless authorized by the committee.

4. The School Board agreed to the AC-recommended change the descriptive paragraph of the Committee to state that the “Aquatics Committee is a joint committee chartered and appointed by the Arlington County Board and the Arlington school Board that supports aquatics...”

New Business

- a. The annual Forum is scheduled for March 18, 2020. The AC is:
 1. Interested in survey questions.
 2. Advocating for a policy and practice of O&M Cost Recovery.
 3. Keeping the current date in spite of the Coronavirus threat and lack of advance knowledge of APS plans.
 - i. An Arlington County decision to suspend meetings would take precedence.
- b. The AC will reconvene for the Forum on March 18, 2019 at the Syphax Education Center or an alternative site to be announced.

The next meeting of the AC is scheduled for WED, April 22, 2020 from 7-9 p.m., location TBD.

Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.