

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

**MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from March 10 Meeting
- III. Athletic Field Updates
 - A. Ft. Ward Park
 - B. All-Sports Facility
 - C. Four Mile Baseball
 - D. Simpson Stadium
 - E. Potomac Yards
- IV. Fee Schedule for FY 2009
- VI. Youth Sports Section Report
 - A. Spring Softball & Baseball Leagues
 - B. Summer Teen Basketball League
 - C. Summer Sports/Camps
- VII. Program Updates
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Next Meeting Date – Monday, June 9
- XI. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, May 12, 2008

*** revised June 21, 2008***

(change in **boldface** below on page one)

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Bob Moir, Donnie Simpson, John Timmons, Dennis Burstein, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: William Chesley, Mac Slover

Mac mentioned before the start of the meeting that Roger couldn't attend because he was involved in flood related duties.

Jim asked the members to review the minutes from the February and March meetings (since there was no April meeting). Both sets of minutes were approved without changes.

Jim opened the discussion on the fields situation by saying that the fund raising group for the All City Sports Facility is continuing its efforts to raise funds.

With Roger out, Mac filled in the Board on the other fields:

- Ft. Ward
 - Construction started last Monday.
 - John expressed a concern over restroom availability at the field.
 - It was observed that there were restrooms at Fort Ward Park itself. Maybe some signage would be in order to direct people to them.
 - The concern did raise the issue at other locations. It was suggested that something like Don's Johns could be provided by the City. Bob indicated that it would be discussed at the Parks and Recreation Commission.

- Minnie Howard
 - Concern about the fence limiting use of the basketball courts.
 - Mac will check into it – he thinks that there is a proposal to change the fence there.

- Four Mile Run
 - The baseball field is basically done – much thanks to Donnie for his efforts on this project.
 - Bishop Ireton provided the scoreboard and other accessories at the field.
 - New fencing has been installed.
 - Overall, about **\$300,000** has been spent there.
 - Mac indicated that there should be new bleachers there soon as well.

- Simpson Field
 - New press box has been installed.
 - New scoreboard has also been installed.
 - Again, thanks to Donnie for his efforts at this site as well.

- Potomac Yards
 - Bob gave an update from the Parks and Recreation Commission.
 - The contractor will try to do the fields as soon as possible so they can eliminate the existing fields and build there.
 - The Commission has requested 120 yard fields (at least one of the two if not both).
 - Bob expects a decision in about two weeks.
 - Based upon the above, he would expect that there will be two lit, artificial turf fields there within the year.
 - A question was raised about an access road to the fields taking away the existing basketball courts. Mac will check that out.

- Other fields
 - Mac will check on the status of Roth-Witter.
 - A new football field at T. C. is expected by October.
 - The Braddock Road fields will probably be moved further out due to budget constraints.

Donnie brought up the issue of a new scoreboard at Minnie Howard. With the increased use of the new field, a more sophisticated one is needed. The Board voted unanimously to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission to consider action on a new scoreboard.

The next topic of discussion was the Proposed Fee Schedule for use of City services. It is being voted on by Council on the 13th. The increases are mostly modest ones with the youth registration fee for the City sports now being \$25 per child.

Another area of discussion was the use of City fields by inappropriate groups. This has been happening at John Adams, Hammond, and Patrick Henry. The City is reviewing what additional actions can be taken, but anyone can call the police or City Security if questionable field usage is observed. Mac will provide the phone number for the City Security unit. William indicated that they will be pushing for more park security in future budgets. Bob also offered that the Parks and Recreation Commission is considering use of trained volunteers.

Jim now asked each representative to summarize their group's activities.

- Mac started by giving a summary of his office's current efforts:
 - Both softball and baseball have been rain affected in terms of scheduling.

- There are 34 teams in T-ball and coach pitch; the number of teams have been increasing.
 - There will be a Teen Summer Basketball League this year.
 - Free clinic just done by the T. C. boys' coach – Ivan Thomas.
 - Two more free clinics scheduled – by Bishop Ireton coach and St. Stephens/St. Agnes coach.
 - The Hershey track meet is being held this weekend at Episcopal.
 - WAHOO swimming will start after Memorial Day.
 - The 30th anniversary Cheerleading competition was held recently.
 - Over 1,500 attendees.
 - Alumni cheerleaders attended and put on cheerleading demonstrations.
- John (Soccer)
 - ASA is trying to set up summer camps and is being forced into the City's RFP process.
 - He will discuss with Mac at a separate meeting on Thursday.
 - Dennis (School System)
 - 3 sets of archery equipment have been received for use at the middle schools and high school.
 - Some other mini-grants have come through – such as one for bike helmets.
 - Tennis workshops are being given by the schools, as well as ones for other skills.
 - There is a program stressing functional fitness being done at Hammond.
 - William said that some Recreation Centers will be doing “Sports Galore” programs for kids as well.
 - Jim (Football)
 - Starting to gear up for the 2008 Fall season.
 - William (City)
 - Three Recreation Centers stay open late for teens – until 11:00 on weekends.
 - He'll send out to Board members any updates about teen activities being sponsored by the City.
 - Bob (Lacrosse)
 - Middle of the season – greatly enjoying use of the artificial turf field at Minnie Howard.
 - Numbers are up slightly.
 - He is leading an effort to reorganize game scheduling so more games are played closer to home.

Jim brought up two other issues that he had. First, he believes that the newspaper coverage of youth sports is spotty at best. He talked to the Alexandria Gazette and said

that they needed reporters on a consistent basis. They agreed to try a sport this coming Fall. Jim recommends that each sport try to find a writer who can contribute to the Gazette during the sports' season. He will see about inviting a Gazette representative to the next Board meeting.

His second idea is to start a scholarship for T. C. graduates that would focus on a Youth Recreation Department participant. It should highlight a well-rounded individual who has come out of the Recreation programs. Maybe a fund-raising dinner could be held. The Board members supported the concept and Jim will send out an e-mail about a fund-raiser.

Jim closed the meeting by saying that the next session will be on June 9th. Mac will be in touch with members about that meeting.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2008
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from May 12 Meeting
- III. Athletic Field Updates
 - A. Ft. Ward Park
 - B. All-Sports Facility
 - C. Four Mile Baseball
 - D. Simpson Stadium
 - E. Potomac Yards
 - F. Roth-Witter
- IV. Presentation on Field Damage
- V. Youth Sports Section Report
 - A. Summer Teen Basketball League
 - B. NJTL Tennis, Swim Team, Rugby, Baseball, Track & Field
 - C. Summer Sports/Camps – Football, Baseball, Basketball & Soccer
- VI. Summer Fields Meeting – July 10 @ 6:30 p.m. @ Lee Center
- VII. Program Updates
- VIII. Old Business
- IX.. New Business
- X. Next Meeting Date – TBD
- XI. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, June 16, 2008

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Bob Moir, Richard Stone, John Timmons, Dennis Burstein, Mike Neilsen, Jeff Murphy, Skip Goree, Bill Rivers

Guests: Roger Blakeley (RPCA), Paul Kelly (Gaelic Football), Andrew Healy (Gaelic Football)

Staff members present: William Chesley, Mac Slover

Jim asked the members to review the May Minutes. Roger indicated that one correction was needed. On page one, in the section about Four Mile Run, the money spent to date was \$300,000 (not the \$200,000 previously reported). Bill made the necessary change.

Mac introduced Paul Kelly and Andrew Healy, representatives of Gaelic Football. They indicated that they were just introducing Gaelic football to the Alexandria area. They already had approximately 19 youth participants, as well as adult interest. They had been practicing informally on a field provided by the T. C. Williams Lacrosse coach. They were now trying to get a permit to have one field set aside for their practices and games. Mac had told them that they needed to go through the formal permit process, but he wanted the Board members to hear about the sport and the field needs. The general consensus of the Board was that any sports that interested Alexandria youth was a positive, although consideration had to be taken on the availability of fields given the needs of existing sports.

Roger then gave an overview as to the field status throughout the City:

- Ft. Ward
 - On schedule.
 - Will be finished by August/September.
 - Will have lights.
 - They will post signs to the restrooms at Ft. Ward.

- Minnie Howard
 - Lacrosse is very positive about the use of the field during the past season.
 - There is a problem with access to the basketball courts.
 - They will try to come up with a solution to the access issue. The long term solution is to move the courts outside the field area.

- Four Mile Run
 - Improvements include new sod, new dugouts, new scoreboard, new PA system, new lights, new bleachers, internet hookup, new batting cages, etc.
- Simpson Fields
 - Little Simpson
 - New PA system.
 - New batting cage.
 - Big Simpson
 - New scoreboard.
 - New PA system.
 - New Lights.
- Potomac Yards
 - Council gave its approval to the fields there.
 - City will pay for the upgrade to artificial turf and lights.
 - Should be done by the end of 2009.
 - The basketball courts will remain there.
 - There is a concern about available parking when the playing fields open since they will be sharing much of the same space as the baseball fields.
- Other fields
 - The turf field is in place at T. C. Work is being done on the track now.
 - Roth-Witter now has to go through the VDOT planning process. That may add a fair amount of time to the completion schedule, but so far, it is on time.
 - They hope to start planning the Braddock Road fields this fall, but the money for that may be needed for other priorities. Roger will keep us posted.

Roger stated that there will be 10 artificial turf fields by 2010:

- Minnie Howard
- Ft. Ward
- Potomac Yards 1 and 2
- Roth-Witter 1 and 2
- T. C.
- Braddock Road 1 and 2
- Hammond lower

He also indicated that they will not be able to do a turf field at George Mason. This was to be part of the drainage work, but funding now only allows for the drainage improvements (scheduled for this summer).

Roger briefed the Board on the field damage that the City has seen this year:

- \$3,000 to fix damage done by dragging the Lacrosse goals on the turf field at Minnie Howard.
- Electrical damage at Four Mile.
- Scoreboard damage at Little Simpson.

Due to these problems, as well as others, the City will now have a field representative on site for all games at these locations. He also encouraged anyone to call their field security person if any issues arise at a field. That is Donald Goff – 571-238-0307.

Roger wrapped up by reminding members about the Field use meeting on July 10th at the Lee Center.

Jim now asked members to give their sport's updates:

- Mac:
 - Basketball
 - Summer League starts June 23rd.
 - 7 teams for 14 and under.
 - One girls team, one 17 and Under boys team – they'll play neighboring jurisdictions.
 - Tennis
 - Starts on June 23rd.
 - Probably 150 kids.
 - Swimming
 - Starts on June 28th
 - 88 kids.
 - Girls softball
 - Just finished their season.
 - Track and Field
 - The Hershey meet was this past weekend. Some Alexandria kids will move on to higher competition, but the full results are not in yet.
- Jeff (Rugby)
 - Summer practices will start at two sites – Braddock Road and Polk.
 - T. C.'s club finished 6th in the informal state tournament.
 - The Mayor's Cup will be held in Scotland in August. A return game will be held in Alexandria next year.
- Skip (Lacrosse)
 - Regular season for the girls is done.
 - Did well in the playoffs.
 - Boys finishing with a tournament at Minnie Howard.
 - Lacrosse is very pleased with the use of the artificial turf field at Minnie Howard.

- John (Soccer)
 - Their spring season is finished.
 - 3 championship teams from end of season tournaments.
 - One U-19 team just finished their season – they started playing together at the U-5 level and have stayed together all that time.

- Dennis (School)
 - Tennis clinic by the father of the Bryan Brothers (top doubles team in the world). Held at G. W.

- Jim (Football)
 - They are starting to get ready for the fall season.
 - They have coordinated with the T. C. coaches so they can be using the systems used up at T. C.

Jim had some closing comments. The principal, the athletic director, and the boy's basketball coach have all left T. C. There were 9 All-Mets from T. C. this spring. He also had further conversation with the Gazette about expanded sports coverage. They are considering a version of All-Met for youth sports in Alexandria. They will need a calendar of the sports' seasons and game information.

Jim concluded the formal part of the meeting by saying that Item VII (Disciplinary Review Panel) will be discussed at the next meeting. William gave a short overview of the issue so that members could be prepared to discuss it in more detail.

The next meeting was set for July with Mac to notify Board members of the date. There will be no August meeting.

After the meeting, there was a short video of Gaelic football for members to watch.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

**MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2008
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from June 16 Meeting
- III. Review of Baseball and Rectangular Fields' Meetings
 - A. Game Field Standards
 - B. Projected Field Improvements
 - 1. FY 2009
 - 2. Future Plans
- III. Youth Sports Section Report
 - A. Summer Teen Basketball League
 - B. NJTL Tennis, Rugby, Swim Team, Track & Field Club, Football
 - C. Summer Sports/Camps – Football & Soccer
 - D. Field Requests
- IV. Program Updates
- VIII Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Next Meeting Date – September 15
- XI. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, August 17, 2008

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Bob Moir, Brian Donegan, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: William Chesley, Mac Slover

The meeting started with Bob introducing Brian as the new head of Alexandria Lacrosse. Bob then made a motion that the June minutes be accepted. It was seconded and the June minutes were approved as written.

In Roger's absence, Mac gave a presentation on field status. This included the results of meetings on baseball/softball fields and on rectangular fields (soccer, lacrosse, rugby, etc.). As a result of those meetings, a new master plan approach has been developed. One of the principal outcomes was development of a standard for each type of field. These standards would be followed whenever a new field is created or an existing field is redesigned. It is anticipated that subsequent meetings will be held with affected sports groups as the field situation develops.

The information on the baseball/softball fields was available in a handout. If Board members are interested in the details, please contact Mac for a copy of the handout.

Since there was not a handout for the rectangular fields, notes were made on Mac's presentation:

- Minnie Howard:
 - Exploring adding an additional turf field adjacent to the existing turf field.
 - Move the basketball courts from the back of the space to the front.

- Fort Ward:
 - New turf field will open September 8th.
 - Exploring a switch of the parking and the tennis areas.

- Potomac Yards:
 - Hopefully new turf fields by the end of 2009.
 - 2 with lights and parking

- Roth-Witter:
 - Fields should be in late 2009/early 2010.
 - The City is paying to upgrade to turf fields.

- Ben Brenman:
 - Want to ultimately make it a turf field.
 - If lights wanted, there will probably be an active community discussion during the SUP process.
- Four Mile Run:
 - Skinned out the middle of the field and replanted new grass.
 - Field won't be used until March.
- Hammond Lower:
 - Designs are for a turf field with lights.
 - Probably 2010 or 2011.
- Braddock:
 - It will be the next effort for turf fields.
- George Washington:
 - Will raise the surrounding fence to restrict access to the engineered field..
- Jones Point:
 - Nothing expected in the near future.
 - NPS has taken over scheduling responsibility. The Board wants to send a letter to the City requesting action to return the scheduling responsibility to the City.
- Mount Vernon:
 - Possible turf field in the future.
 - For general public use.
- T. C. Williams:
 - They have finished lining the track.
 - Football field is ready.
 - First home game is 8/29.
 - They may have to consider new fences to restrict access to the field.

Jim wrapped up the field discussion by re-emphasizing the need to create some open access fields for family activities.

Mac then summarized the summer sports activities for the City:

- Summer Teen Basketball:
 - 7 teams.
 - 1 girls team.
 - 1 17 & under boys team.
 - 5 14 and under boys teams.

- National Junior Tennis League:
 - 165 kids – most ever.
 - Able to use a lot of the new court surfaces put in by the City.
- Rugby:
 - About 20 kids.
 - Just finished.
- Swimming:
 - 88 kids.
 - Most in the last five years.
- Track and Field:
 - 35 kids.
 - Final meet last weekend.
 - Held 5 meets over the summer
- Football:
 - 330 kids.
 - 15 teams.
 - Largest turnout ever.
 - All coaches are in place prior to the season opening.

Jim added that the 330 kids included about 20 from Lacrosse as the effort to encourage kids to do multiple sports continues.

Mac also added that the Gaelic football group is trying to do some instruction with the school PE classes.

Regarding summer camps, Mac indicated:

- Football – Good turnout
- Soccer - ASA did a soccer camp at Boothe and is doing one currently at Lee.
- Volleyball – very good 6 week program at T. C.

Bob stated that Lacrosse had developed a manual for a 2 week PE class featuring Lacrosse. They will also be providing sticks and balls that can be shared by the classes.

Brian added that there is a Lacrosse clinic coming up in September. It will be held on two successive Saturdays.

Bill said that he and Jon Liss would be setting up a meeting with Roger to discuss the status of outdoor basketball court improvements.

Jim mentioned that he would have information on T. C. game passes for coaches and other discounts by the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned by 8:30 with the next meeting scheduled for September 15th.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Special Guest: Bob McKeag, *New* T.C. Williams Athletic Director
- III. Review of the Summary Notes from August 18 Meeting
- IV. Projected Fields Master Plan Timeline
- V. Outside Courts Update
 - A. Basketball
 - B. Tennis
- VI. Information Posted on Web Site
 - A. Collaborative Meetings (Diamond & Retangler)
 - B. Advisory Board
- VII. Youth Sports Section Report
 - A. Titan Football Program
 - B. Co-Ed Volleyball Program
 - C. Fall Fundamental Basketball Camp
 - D. Cheerleading Program
- VIII. Program Updates
- IX. Old Business
- X. New Business
- XI. Next Meeting Date – October 20
- XII. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, September 15, 2008

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Bob Moir, Brian Donegan, Mike Neilson, Don Simpson, Bill Rossello, Jeff Murphy, Dennis Burstein, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: William Chesley, Mac Slover

Guests: Roger Blakeley (ADPR&CA); Bob McKeag (new Athletic Director at T. C.)

The meeting started with Mac introducing a guest – Bob McKeag, the new Athletic Director at T. C. Bob gave an overview of his background in athletics from starting in Pennsylvania and continuing at various locations in Virginia. An open discussion between Bob and the Board members followed. Topics included:

- Bob agreeing with the concept of Rec Dept. teams attending T. C. games free of charge.
- Mac informing Bob of the Cheerleading competition that the Rec Dept. holds at T. C. It's the biggest single sporting event in the City.
- Mike re-emphasized the need for effective communication between T. C. and the Rec Dept. – particularly on things like rainouts and rescheduling of high school games.
- Cooperation was also encouraged on sharing of fields between the two programs.
- Various members also encouraged shared clinics and coaches' meetings between the T. C. coaches and the Rec Dept. coaches.

The overall theme was that there is a good cooperative atmosphere that has been created between the programs over the past several years and everyone was interested in making sure that continues.

Dennis had to leave early so he gave a quick update on school P. E. activities:

- Fitness For Life training taking place in October at the schools.
- A new concept in P. E. activities – Hopsports – has been introduced at G. W. It will be started at T. C. and Hammond now. Funding for Hammond is a joint venture between the United Way and the Washington Redskins. T. C. is also funded through several different sources.
- The school system held a sports circus at John Adams last spring – good success.

Roger then went over the status of the fields plan. He gave a background so Bob McKeag could see how far things have developed.

- 2005/2006 – started process – planning began.

- 2007 – Minnie Howard artificial turf field with lights completed.
- 2008 – Fort Ward artificial turf field with lights completed.
- 2008 – New grass field installed for soccer at Four Mile Run (ready in the spring)
- 2008 – New artificial turf field at T. C. completed.
- 2009 – Braddock Road is planned:
 - 2 artificial turf fields
 - track
 - softball field
 - restroom
 - Note: The City is short of dollars for the Braddock Road complex. They are considering moving funds previously set aside for the All-City Facility to pay for the Braddock Road improvements.
- 2010 – Considering new general use artificial turf fields at Mount Vernon School and Ewald Park.
- 2010 – Two artificial turf fields at Potomac Yards.
 - City paying \$850,000 to upgrade to artificial turf for these two fields.
- 2011 – Roth Witter:
 - Two artificial turf fields and one softball field – all with lights.
 - This is predicated on making the softball field available to the T. C. softball program and converting their old field at Boothe to baseball.
- 2012 + - Hammond lower field.
 - Pushed out due to dollars needed

Roger also indicated that 11 tennis courts in the City have either been resurfaced or are being resurfaced now. Action is also proceeding on resurfacing 4 basketball courts. Bill indicated that he and Jon Liss would continue follow up with the City on the basketball court improvements.

Jim asked each Board member to give a program update:

- Mac (Rec Dept):
 - Thursday – meeting with softball/baseball programs on fields.
 - 10/2 – meeting with programs using rectangular fields.
- Jim (Football):
 - Season has started.
 - 15 teams; 300 kids.
 - Fully staffed with coaches.
 - Crossover from Lacrosse players.
 - Again mentioned that the City’s engineered fields for football are the best in the Northern region.
- William (Rec Dept.):
 - Houston is scheduled for completion in April 2009.
 - Patrick Henry is next on the improvement list.

- Bill (Soccer):
 - Fall season has started.
 - Program continues to grow - about 1800 kids; 140 teams.
 - Travel program has the most kids ever – 295.

- Brian (Lacrosse):
 - Fall clinics have started.
 - 1 done; 5 more to go.
 - About 160 kids attending.

- Mike (Baseball):
 - Fall instructional program is underway.

- Bob (Parks and Recreation):
 - They are now considering proposed ideas for the Patrick Henry re-do.

- Bill (Basketball) :
 - Registration has started for the winter season.

- Jeff (Rugby):
 - New rugby movie coming out.
 - Pre-screening at Hoffman to benefit the Rugby Boosters program.
 - Mayor's Cup next year; possibly at Episcopal.

- Mac (Rec Dept. programs):
 - Girls Volleyball has started; still working on getting a boys program going.
 - The Fall basketball clinics have started.
 - Cheerleading has started practicing.
 - 12/13 competition at T. C.
 - This has been the best year in a while for football.

Bill asked for any changes to the August minutes to be submitted to him by 9/22.

Jim concluded the meeting by reminding sports about getting liaisons established for the Gazette if they wanted to see their sports covered in that paper.

The next meeting will be October 20th.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2008
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from September 15 Meeting
- III. Review of Budget Reductions
- IV. New Fee Schedule
- V. Updates on the Collaborative Meetings
 - A. (Diamond & Rectangular)
- VI. Youth Sports Section Report
 - A. Titan Football Program
 - B. Girls Volleyball Program
 - C. Fall Fundamental Basketball Camp
 - D. Cheerleading Program – Cheerleading Exhibition
- VII. Program Updates
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Next Meeting Date – December 8
- XI. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, October 27, 2008

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Bob Moir, Brian Donegan, Don Simpson, Jeff Murphy, Dennis Burstein, Owen Malone, Marc Kannenberg and John Timmons

Staff members present: William Chesley, Tamika Coleman

Guests: N/A

- The meeting started with Jim asking the board to review the summary notes from the September 15 meeting. He also mentioned Bill Rivers was absent from the meeting because he was in the hospital.
- The next agenda item was a discussion on budget reductions and Jim encouraged the board members to continue being advocates for youth sports by attending a FY 2009 Budget Reduction Meeting that was being held on October 30.
 - Jim asked William Chesley to talk about the budget reductions. William stated that all of the information concerning the budget could be found on the City's website and that the ADRPCA had to cut \$330,000 - \$350,000 and the Parks and Recreation Services Divisions will be effected.
 - In the Recreation Services Division, the budget cuts were spread among the programs in the division including Youth Sports.
 - The budget cuts may effect the upcoming basketball season, but the staff is looking for creative ways to cut the cost of the program such as using volunteer score keepers.
 - Jim asked that all board members see how using volunteers in some area could help cut cost in the individual sports.
- New Youth Sports Fee Schedule
 - There was an attachment to the agenda which stated that the youth sports fee will increase to \$25.00 on January 1, 2009 and a new Youth Sports Field Use Fee of \$5.00 will also be implemented.
- A Community Meeting on the Capital Improvement Program is scheduled for Thursday, November 6 at 6 p.m. at the Lee Center Exhibit Hall.

Jim asked each Board member to give a program update:

- Tamika (Rec Dept):
 - Girl's volleyball league is going well with 8 teams playing in the league. Games are scheduled for Thursday's and Friday's at Minnie Howard,
 - The Basketball Fundamentals Camp starts November 1 and each session is full.
 - The deadline to register for the 2009 Winter Basketball League is November 15.
 - The cheerleading exhibition is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 at T.C. Williams High School. Tickets for the exhibition will go on sale November 10.

- Jim (Football):
 - Out of the 15 teams, 10 made the playoffs.
 - The football banquet is scheduled for November 23 at 2:00 at the Lee Center.
 - Our football fields are among the best in the entire league.

- William (Rec Dept.):
 - Houston is scheduled for completion in April 2009.
 - Patrick Henry is next on the improvement list.

- John (Soccer):
 - U17 boy's team advanced to the State Cup and lost in the semi-finals.
 - U14 girl's team is in the regional finals.
 - The program is at the highest and continues to grow. Twenty percent of the kids receive financial aid.
 - One of the goals is to get the Arlandria community more involved in the program, getting the paperwork completed and transportation are problems that are preventing the Hispanic community from participating.

- Brian (Lacrosse):
 - Fall clinics are still going on. The participants are receiving good instruction from past lacrosse players from Duke and Navy.
 - Upcoming season should have 190 boys and 160 girls.
 - There is a tournament scheduled for November 23 at Episcopal High School

- Mike (Baseball):
 - No Updates

- Bob (Parks and Recreation):
 - No Updates

- Bill (Basketball) :
 - No Updates

- Jeff (Rugby):
 - Jeff mentioned he was a member of the PLTI – Parent Leadership Training Institute, which is a free 20 week program
 - Rugby participants are volunteering at Book Buddies at Jefferson-Houston
 - Jeff and Owen want to visit the after school programs to be able to introduce the kids to Rugby.
 - They are currently planning for the Mayor’s Cup.

- Donnie Simpson (Citizen)
 - Donnie asked about the possibility of adding flag football to the physical education programs in the school or the youth football program. He mentioned a lot of children are interested in football but do not want to play tackle football.
 - Alexandria Sportsman Club held it’s annual Redskins night which featured past Redskins.
 - Baseball night is coming soon

- Dennis Burstein (ACPS):
 - A few Redskins attended Hammond Middle School to help promote HopSports.

- New Business
 - Jim started a discussion on helping student-athletes navigate through the process of getting into college. There seems to be little help coming from the athletic department at the high school and a lot of parents and student-athletes are dealing with the process alone.

The next meeting will be December 8th.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from October 27 Meeting
- III. Review of Budget Reductions
 - A. FY 2009 Budget Reductions
 - B. FY 2010 Budget Reductions
- IV. New Youth Sports Fee Schedule – Effective January 1, 2009
- V. Update on Field Plans
- VI. Youth Sports Section Report
 - A. Titan Football Program
 - B. Girls Volleyball Program
 - C. Youth Basketball Program
 - D. Cheerleading Program – Cheerleading Exhibition
 - E. Girls Softball and Baseball Programs
- VII. Program Updates
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Next Meeting Date – January 12
- XI. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, December 8, 2008

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Bob Moir, Brian Donegan, Mike Neilson, Don Simpson, Jeff Murphy, Bill Rivers

Staff member present: Mac Slover

Guest: Roger Blakeley (ADPR&CA)

Jim started the meeting by thanking all Board members for their efforts over the past year. He also passed the Board's thanks on to the City representatives for the outstanding work that they have done over the year. The excellent relationships that have developed have contributed to many positive developments for the youth of Alexandria.

He also indicated that he would be inviting TC coaches and Council members to the January Board meeting.

The November minutes were read and accepted as written with Bob motioning for acceptance and Don seconding that.

Roger then took some time to bring the Board up to date on the impacts of reductions in the City's budget. He started by reviewing the progress to date on fields with many thanks to the Board members for their work getting things done.

- 2007 – The artificial turf field at Minnie Howard was completed.
- 2008 - Artificial turf fields were put in at Fort Ward and T. C. Williams; the Four Mile Run baseball field was improved; and the Four Mile soccer field was re-done entirely.
- 2009 - Negotiations are underway for the developer at Potomac Yards to finalize plans for two artificial turf rectangular fields (with the City contributing funds to upgrade to the artificial turf)

Then he went into what is planned:

- 2010 - Two artificial turf fields at Braddock along with a baseball diamond; two artificial turf fields at Roth-Witter; one softball or baseball diamond at Roth-Witter.
- 2011/2012 - Artificial turf open use fields at Mount Vernon and Ewald.

However, all Capital Improvement Projects (including the planned fields) are on hold due to the budget crisis. The Council will need to approve specific projects to get the funds

released. If the Board wants to meet the planned field growth, it will have to make sure that Council is aware of its position.

Also Roger indicated that budget cuts will force the City to use seasonal employees rather than permanent employees to oversee games at certain fields. This would also impact on the basketball games as well where parent volunteers will have to assume some of the support previously provided by the City.

One item that came up for discussion was the possibility of using money set aside for the All-City Sports Facility to build the artificial turf fields – if the matching private sector funds for the Facility are not raised.

The Board decided that it would be wise to send a letter to Judy Noritake (Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission) expressing our concerns about impacts of the budget situation on the field plan, since that Commission is the parent one for our Board. The letter to be sent would ask that our concerns be passed on to the City staff and to the City Council. Bill will draft a letter and send it around for review.

Mac spent some time highlighting the new User Fee schedule that will be effective as of January 1st. Most registrations will cost more (still below neighboring jurisdictions) and there will be a field use fee for affected sports.

Bob announced that there will be a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on December 11th to discuss items such as the field use fee. Also under decision will be whether such fees should go directly back to youth/adult sports or into the general City funds.

Before doing the individual sports updates, Jim reminded people about the significance of the budget cuts. Sports groups need to be aware of what is happening and try to work with the City to anticipate where the cuts will be. They may also want to consider private fund raising as well.

Sports updates:

Mac:

- Girls Volleyball
 - Finishing this Friday
 - Strong link to T.C.'s team.

- Basketball
 - 96 teams; 8 more than last year
 - Girls 14 and Under will play against Arlington schools.
 - Some duties will have to be taken over by volunteers.
 - With Houston not finished, still some space constraints in terms of practice.

- Can practice at T. C., but costs too much money to use the gym for games.
- Cheerleading
 - Season ending Exhibition at T. C. on the 13th.
- Baseball and Girls Softball
 - Registration has started on-line.
- Football
 - 15 teams; 330 players
 - 10 teams in playoffs; 5 champions
 - Honored at the Sportsmen's Club

Brian (Lacrosse)

- Registration has opened for the Spring season.

Jeff (Rugby)

- The boosters met with T. C. (A. D. Bob McKeag)
 - Continuing as club with some school support

Jim mentioned that there was a wrestling club that practiced at Bishop Ireton. They had been turned down by T. C. due to concerns about staph infection.

The meeting adjourned with the next meeting date being set for January 12th.