

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, July 8, 2013

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Jeff Murphy, Owen Malone, Beth Hamid, Sterling Gillam, John Timmons, Terri Belcher, Tommy Parks, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: Mac Slover, Joe Petrella

Guests: John Chapman (City Council Member), Jim Spengler (Director, DRPCA), Judy Noritake (Chair, Park and Recreation Commission), Gina Baum (Park and Recreation Commission), Cathy Puskar (Lawyer for the St. James Group), Kendrick Ashton (Principal, St. James Group), Craig Dixon (Principal, St. James Group), Jeff (City Planning Department)

The principal purpose of the July meeting was to discuss the proposed Sports Complex at Hensley Park. Jim introduced the representatives from the St. James Group and asked them to give the Board an overview of their project. Cathy Puskar, Kendrick Ashton, and Craig Dixon all took turns describing their proposed Sports Complex that they wanted to build at the Hensley Park complex. Handouts of their proposal were distributed to all Board members and the proposal itself is available on the City's website.

Rather than go into extensive detail about the proposal, readers are referred to the handout or the website. As an overall summary, the Sports Complex will house a number of different sports that will be available to paying customers. Features will include an indoor artificial turf rectangular field, a 200 meter track with a field, a baseball venue, two ice rinks, four pools, a golf driving range and indoor course simulator, a sports rehab facility, a childcare facility, rock climbing features, indoor basketball and volleyball courts, indoor tennis courts, retail stores, plus other sports related features. Members can join for an annual fee or can participate on a drop-in basis. The Group anticipates negotiating access for City residents at a free or a reduced fee in lieu of paying an annual rental fee for the use of the Hensley Park land. However due to the competitive nature of situation, they did not feel comfortable discussing actual numbers in the meeting.

The actual procurement process – if it goes to that – would be for the City to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) in the fall; select a winner; and negotiate the free or reduced cost access at that time. The City Council would have to instruct the City Administration to issue the RFP. Final approval of the facility/proposal would also have to be made by the City Council.

After the presentation by the St. James Group, Board members asked a number of questions:

- Jim mentioned the loss of three adult softball fields and one rectangular field. Cathy indicated that the Group expected to help mitigate the loss of those fields, but that would be subject to negotiation with the City.
- John was concerned over paying more for the Facility's services due to the extensive nature of the Facility and felt very uncomfortable about offering any decision without knowing the numbers to be negotiated. Cathy stated that the City and the City Council would know those numbers before a final decision, but John pointed out that didn't help the Board to make a decision.
- Judy expressed a high level of concern over the loss of the open space that Hensley Park represents. It is approximately 15 acres of open land that would potentially be turned over to a private sector, for profit firm to use.
- Jim stressed that we have to look at the benefit to all Alexandrians to make such a decision about the loss of open space.
- Owen asked for examples of similar facilities in other parts of the country. While there is not an exact match elsewhere, Kendrick and Craig recommended that people look at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan and Connecticut or at Hockensen (spelling?) Club in Hockensen, DE. He also followed up with a question about the next steps. Cathy said that it would be up to City Council to decide whether to pursue the proposal in the fall.
- Brian wanted to know who thought of using Hensley Park. Cathy indicated that she recommended it because she remembered an earlier effort to locate an All-City Sports Facility there.
- Bill mentioned that this wasn't the first time City land was turned over to an outside activity. Just down Eisenhower Ave., the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is leasing City land to run the Wave Pool complex.

The discussion wound up with Judy mentioning that the Park and Recreation Commission would make a recommendation to the City Council. She reminded attendees that there would be July 18th joint meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission and the YSAB to again discuss the issue. The meeting would be at 7:00 pm in the City Council workroom. She emphasized that consideration would have to be given to proposed mitigating actions to the field losses because they might involve putting lights at fields elsewhere in the City and that may encounter opposition from neighbors.

Jim summarized the discussion by saying that the project had huge hurdles to overcome, but also represented huge rewards if done properly.

The representatives from the St. James Group, as well as Judy and Gina left the meeting at that time.

Jim reminded members that all of these people were our guests and that we need to be courteous in how we treat them – even when we do not agree with them.

He asked John Chapman for his reaction. John said that it was important for City Council members to hear from Alexandria residents. He was disappointed that he hadn't heard anything from the sports groups yet, but he encouraged feedback at all stages of the process.

Brian mentioned a desire to see the whole process slow down. This is a very big issue and it seems to be on the fast track for actions to be taken. He urged taking more time to review the proposal and consider the consequences of turning over such a large area of public land to a private sector firm.

With the Sports Complex discussions completed, Jim then asked for an update on Aquatics.

Bill explained that the Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) would be filing for 501 c 3 status with the IRS now that the City Council has budgeted money for pools. He also indicated that the group was setting up meetings with City staff about pool types and about business models for operating pools – all part of the joint public-private partnership that is going on in Aquatics. AAA had met separately with the St. James Group and was interested in the proposal, but reserved judgment because the group was not at the stage of detail in their proposal that AAA needed to discuss in order to make a judgment.

Bill also mentioned that the Miracle League was going to form an Honorary Board of Directors for the Miracle League of Alexandria, including residents such as Kerry Donley, John Porter, Donnie Simpson, and others.

Jim then asked Mac for a fields update.

Mac indicated that Dana had sent out a summary of comments received to date on the Large Park Plans, but asked for more. Mac encouraged people to send Joe any comments since Dana would be on maternity leave shortly.

The TC tennis courts issue was brought up. Terri expressed a great deal of frustration with ACPS and the School Board, as it seems to be taking a long time to get a relatively straightforward project done. From the last meeting that she attended, it appears that there will be more delays because a new DSUP needs to be done to allow lights at the courts. A further complication is whether this will then involve the light issue at the TC football field. Both Jeff (Planning) and Jim Spengler said that it was an ACPS issue and that they would have to handle it.

Jim closed the meeting by saying that he feels the Board needs to meet in August due to issues like the Sports Complex. While we normally don't meet in August, there will be an YSAB meeting on the second Monday of August to allow further consideration of these issues.

Action:

- YSAB Members are encouraged to attend the July 18th joint session with the Park and Recreation Commission.

Notes from the Park and Recreation Commission Meeting

July 18, 2013

YSAB Attendees: Donnie Simpson, Brian McPherson, John Lavallo, Fred Wixon, Laura Fries, Melvin Miller, Jeff Murphy, Beth Hamid, Bill Rivers

These notes are limited to the portion of the meeting involving YSAB members. The official minutes for the meeting are done by the Park and Recreation Commission and the Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities.

The meeting was chaired by Judy Noritake from the Park and Recreation Commission (P&RC). It was a joint session of the YSAB and P&RC to discuss the Sports Complex proposal for the Hensley Park. I'll leave the description of the proposal to those doing the official minutes since we have already covered them once at an YSAB meeting.

Judy invited all members of the YSAB to offer their opinion of the proposal (along with P&RC members also doing the same).

YSAB comments were:

- Laura asked about the discounted fees that will be available to Alexandria residents because of use of public land. St. James Group (SJG) response: they cannot discuss any specifics at this time due to the competitive situation with other potential bidders. However, they understand that there needs to be offsets for the City to make this proposal attractive and would be willing to offer them in their bid.
- Bill asked when negotiations would occur (before or after bid award). Mark Jenks for the City indicated that negotiations would be part of the bid process. He anticipated it to occur after bid opening, but before final award.
- Brian asked about whether the City had a set process to evaluate unsolicited proposals. Mark Jenks indicated that there was one, although it is unusual to get one of this magnitude involving just recreation services. A copy of the process was handed out to attendees.
- Brian followed up with a further question on offsets. SJG response: it would depend upon what the City requested in negotiations. It could be discounted usage fees or a lump sum that would be distributed by the City. Just depends upon what the City prefers.
- Laura followed up with a concern about whether the dollars would go to benefit the recreation department. SJG response: Again, depends upon the City. In the Beauregard situation, it was a lump sum that the City then asked

the community how it wanted it spent. Any settlement could be tailored as part of the negotiations. Just for information purposes, the SJG intends to establish a Foundation to provide scholarships to needy kids to use the proposed facility.

- Donnie said that there were pros and cons to the proposal, but we had to recognize that the City would be losing use of three adult softball fields and one rectangular field. The loss of the rectangular field could be offset by allowing City access to the indoor field at the complex, but there was no equivalent offset for the softball fields. He recommended that the scale of the proposed facility be changed to allow for at least one of the softball fields to remain and then consider improving fields elsewhere to mitigate the losses.
- Bill then commented that a decision couldn't be made until the dollar offsets were known. However we have to recognize that this facility would provide services that the City will never be able to afford for its residents. The field losses would affect mostly adult sports and something needed to be done to mitigate those losses, but there is relatively little use of the fields now by Alexandria's youth. The complaints from some that our kids would not have much access to the new facility ignores the fact that our kids have little access to the existing uses of Hensley. He also pointed out that public land was currently being used for other than City purposes now: the bike share program, sidewalk café seating, the Wave pool at Cameron Run, etc. This proposal just changes the magnitude of the usage.
- Beth asked about the size of the indoor field and whether it could accommodate a lacrosse game. SJG response: the field would be large enough to accommodate all sports – regulation soccer, lacrosse, rugby, etc.
- Melvin expressed his concern over providing such a large area of public land to a for profit organization to build something that may have limited use by our recreation programs.
- Jeff and Fred also expressed concern over losing usage of such a large area of public land, even though the proposal had many positive aspects to it.
- John felt that the proposal offered the City access to many services that it couldn't provide itself and was worth pursuing. He pointed out that the existing rectangular field at Hensley had very poor drainage and was more frequently out of service than other fields in the City. Access to an indoor field would be a significant benefit.
- Brian said that the proposal should be carefully considered, but he felt that the process was moving too quickly. It needed to be slowed down to allow for proper evaluation.
- Bill asked Judy for her definition of what "slowing down" meant. Judy indicated that she wanted to see a public hearing by the P&RC this fall and then a decision made as to what else needed to be done.

Other comments were provided by members of the P&RC and will be covered in the official minutes.

Judy concluded the meeting by asking the youth sports groups to survey their membership and then provide comments back to the YSAB and the P&RC. She would also draft a letter to City Council as a result of this meeting.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2013
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the July Meeting &
Summary Notes from Park and Recreation Commission Meeting
- III. Gary Hensley, Recycling Program Analysis
City Public Space Recycling And Proposed Container Distribution List
- IV. Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing Manager, Recreation Services Division
Marketing Focus Group
- V. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- VI. Miracle League of Alexandria – Playground Grant Update
- VII. Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
 - A. Jefferson Houston Project
 - B. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts
- VI. Roundtable
- VII. Other
- VIII. Next Meeting Date – Tuesday, October 15 (Due to Columbus Day Holiday 10/14)
- IX. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, September 23, 2013

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Jeff Murphy, Laura Fries, Dennis Burstein, Tommy Park, Beth Hamed, Brian McPherson,

Staff members present: Mac Slover and Joseph Petrella

Guests: Gary Hensley, Recycling Analysis and Kelly Gilfillen, Marketing Manager

Jim started off the meeting by stating that there were several guest speakers here tonight and that we wanted to have them go first.

Gary Hensley – Recycling Program

Jim introduced Gary Hensley. He was there to enlighten the board members on the City's Recycling Program that is run through Transportation Environmental Services (TE&S). He was there to discuss the installation of recyclable containers in parks and along streets in the City. Mr. Hensley provided at handout on the Public Open Space plan which gives an overview of the program, the proposed locations and number of cans at each. (See enclosed).

Mr. Hensley gave an overview of their plans and took questions. The main points:

- Alexandria is an eco-friendly city which began public space recycling program in 2009.
- 1,300 tons of trash is generated a year in street boxes
- 65% is recyclable and 50% cost recovery from it
- TE&S has purchased 85 new recyclable trash units for the parks
- Scheduled to begin November 15
- New signage will be coming out
- Will have dedicated TES staff and route for pick up
- TE&S has just purchased a new Tube Grinder for produce cleaner mulch
- TE&S has recommended that recycling will start at the following locations: Four Mile Run Park, Chinquapin Park, Simpson Park, Braddock Road and GWMS, Hensley Park, Minnie Howard, Waterfront Parks, King Street, Union Street, Mt. Vernon Avenue and Washington Street.

Kelly Gilfillen – Marketing

Jim introduced Kelly Gilfillen, who is the new Marketing Manager for the Recreation Services Division. Kelly will be going around to many different youth advisory councils in the recreation centers and others to gain good feedback on the marketing aspects of the department.

Kelley provided questions to the YSAB for their feedback on marketing efforts by the department. Below is the feedback she received.

City of Alexandria Recreation Is...?

- Thorough
- Inconsistent and average with adults
- Progressive
- Diverse/enriching
- Trying to do best – being positive
- Since of Community – community oriented
- Child friendly

Alexandria's Patrons' Priority Is...?

- Field space
- Quality of programming
- Scheduling
- Lights
- Affordability
- Need for adequate aquatic facilities/options
- Location

Customers Choose Alexandria Recreation Over Other Options Because of Their...?

- Convenience
- Location
- Quality
- Affordability
- Family friendly – friendliness
- Sportsmanship – children and adults
- Diversity-Inclusion, ease of access
- Staff

Why Are Residents Not Choosing Alexandria Recreation?

- Indoor facilities
- Availability hours cut/services reduced
- Facility quality
- Overcrowding
- Lack of elite levels of competition
- Lack of offerings
- Lack of gym and field space
- Quality of coaching – in elite programs
- Develop elite amenities to add value
- Facility amenities like restrooms
- Lack of awareness of programs

What Can We Do To Make The Program Guide More Useful/Usable?

- Put Aquatics in table of contents
- Color code by age/program – Grids
- Get into school electronic newsletters
- Equality among internal/external organizations
- Organize by user age group
- List all off season options – for leagues/programs
- 55 Power Plus is repetitive

Which Do You Prefer?

- Multiple direct phone numbers?
- One phone number for all inquiries with short phone tree to connect to contacts?
- One phone number for all inquiries to customer support and then transfer to contacts.

Advocates for Aquatics Summary – Bill Rivers will send out a summary on the last Aquatics for Alexandria (AAA) since he was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Jim – Titans Football going well. They have 9 teams and over 180 participants playing. The program received recognition from Channel 9 Television and USA Today Newspaper as a representative of the Fairfax County Youth Football League on the new NFL/USA Football "Heads Up" Football training. The new training is designed to teach players new ways to safely tackle for concussion prevention safety reasons. The numbers of participation in the league is down 10% over the last two years. He stated that we have some solid coaches this season that are working with the teams. He stated that everyone is invited to the End of Season Titan Football Awards Program in December.

Jim – stated that TC Williams HS is developing a Wall of Fame to honor any student - athlete who played at the college and professional levels.

Jim – stated the next Sportsman's Club meeting on October 15 is Redskins Night. The meeting starts at 7 pm at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

Tommy – Parking at some of the locations continue to be an issue. He stated that since they began recruiting and paying coaches the quality of coaching has improved. Stated the games are going good so far.

Laura – Stated she was told by the Aquatics supervisor that the Wahoos Swim team may not be able to have home swim meets in the summer of 2014 due to the construction of the new Jefferson Houston School. The swim team is also considering forming an official board to become an affiliate of the Recreation Department.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 22 (changed due to Columbus Holiday).

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, November 11, 2013

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Owen Malone, Dennis Burstein, Beth Hamed, John Timmons, Tommy Park & Sterling Gilliam

Staff members present: Mac Slover and Joseph Petrella

Guests: Frank Fannon, President – Alexandria Sportsman's Club

Jim started off the meeting by stating that there was special guest here tonight and that we wanted to have them go first.

Frank Fannon – Sportsman's Club

Jim introduced former Councilman and current President of the Sportsman's Club, Frank Fannon. He was there to enlighten the board members on about the Sportsman's Club. He was there to discuss the history and purpose of the club, the monthly meetings, special guest they have and the monthly and yearly athletes of the year.

Mr. Fannon's main points included:

- The club is 66 years old and started in 1947 by alumni football players of the George Washington High School.
- Designed to organize a club for former football players in the Alexandria area.
- 1956 the club began to recognize high school athletes at its yearly event.
- The club's largest membership was over 300, but now is down to 100.
- Would like to recruit younger members to help sustain the club.
- Have speakers each month to come and speak about their experience as an athlete and student.
- \$100 a year to join and will receive free ticket to the awards banquet each May.
- Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Dominion Boat Club.
- Usually have a theme each month (Redskins, Baseball, Rugby, Basketball and etc.).
- They have catered dinner each month from one of the local restaurants.
- Next Meeting will be on December 17, 2013.
- He brought some club pamphlets to hand out.

Jim Gibson stated that he has approached Coca Cola, Hilton, Target and McDonalds about giving financial support for an Alexandria Youth Sports Awards Program if it can be developed. He stated that the board needs to develop the criteria for determining the winners. He stated he can then reengage corporate sponsors if the program can be set up. The time frame to do it would have to be determined such at the end of the school year.

Owen Malone asked if the awards program is a mission of the YSAB?

John Timmons asked if has been approved by the Park and Recreation Commission, since the YSAB is a subcommittee of it? He also said they should not move forward unless it has been approved by the Park Commission.

Jim stated he would put it on the December agenda.

Jim stated he wanted to put "Best Practices Used to Run a Program" on the December agenda. He wanted each organization to discuss their administrative duties, recruitment, retention of coaches/participants and awards.

Jim stated that he wanted to develop and prioritize the YSAB's goal and objectives for 2014 at the December meeting.

Jim stated that he wants to have a discussion on the YSAB's accomplishments and ways to enhance the meetings.

Jim stated that he has invited Interim ACPS Superintendent, Dr. Crawley or Chief Policy and Student Services Officer, Margee Walsh at the December meeting.

Advocates for Aquatics Summary – Bill Rivers will send out a summary on the last Aquatics for Alexandria (AAA) since he was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Summary - The meeting was then turned over to Carolyn who gave a slide presentation about the Christiansburg Aquatics Center in Christiansburg, VA and the Highland Park pool in Florida. Carolyn had done a great job taking pictures of all the relevant parts of the two swimming centers and gave us a good flavor for each through her narrative. The overall presentation gave us a nice feel for how our efforts at Chinquapin could turn out. Special thanks also to Laura for supplying the AV equipment for the presentation. Carolyn also had the business cards of several management personnel at Christiansburg for us to follow up with when appropriate.

Next was a proposal from Bill that we formalize our Outreach Program by asking Carolyn and Jeanne to be responsible for developing an overall plan to publicize AAA's efforts regarding the pools, as well as what we can do to make others in the City aware of what is currently available. The plan would be presented at a follow-up meeting for the whole Board to vote on. Initial discussions were for Carolyn and Jeanne to get with Laura and Kelly from the City to coordinate efforts. Future efforts could involve ACPS, citizen associations, other swimming groups, PTA's, etc.

We then moved to a discussion on fund raising. Bill had talked to the IRS that morning to find out the status of our tax-exempt application. Unfortunately, the Government shutdown and other workload were now stretching out decisions until 6 months (we are at the 3 month mark now). He recommended that if we don't hear from the IRS by the first of the year, we start our efforts with ACT. He indicated that John Porter said that they might be able to start an account for us with a \$3,000 initial deposit (as opposed to the

original target of \$10,000). If that is the case, Bill may be able to approach a Miracle Field donor and see if he can kick-start our campaign with a \$3,000 donation.

Initial funding is needed so that we can pay for a fund raising brochure to continue on with the campaign. Bill showed the group a copy of the brochure used for the Miracle Field and then described the one that is being done by the Kelley Cares Foundation's graphic artists for the accessible playground now. He suggested that we approach the Foundation to see if they would do a similar brochure for us on the pools. It may require a donation to Kelley Cares, but it may be worthwhile to pursue.

It is also time to start identifying possible grant sources, US Swimming contacts, etc. Bill will send out a message to the Board members asking them to submit possibilities so we can get a comprehensive look at what we want to do. He also asked Melynda and Craig to work with him as a subcommittee to develop the fund raising plan to bring back to the Board for approval.

As part of the fund raising discussion, Bill indicated that he would send a letter to Jim Spengler asking for an opinion from the City regarding reserved practice times in exchange for large donations from a group.

The group then discussed the recent Park and Recreation Commission meeting. There was a general consensus from the attendees there that the meeting went extremely well for the aquatics effort. The Commission strongly supported building new pools in the City and wanted to see the effort expanded to include a new pool in the West End. Specific mention was made about the need for a 50-meter pool, as well as a desire to see a separate therapeutic recreation pool at the Lee Center. That meeting concluded with an agreement to draft a letter of support for the aquatics initiative to send to City Council. In addition, as part of an effort to work more closely with other groups, Jennifer Adkins of the Commission volunteered to be a contact person. Bill has sent her an introduction message and offered to set up a meeting with AAA members.

Bill updated the Board that the Warwick Village Citizens Association had sent a message to the Commission after the meeting that it formally supported a new pool (similar to the old one) and a new or renovated building at Warwick.

With the Park and Recreation Commission offering its ideas on improving aquatics, Bill indicated that he would like to meet with Laura to develop a matrix showing the pool recommendations from the various organizations. Laura agreed and a meeting will be set up.

In other items, Laura indicated that the City still hoped to make an award for the Chinquapin feasibility study this month. After award, the contractor has 30 days to determine if a 50-meter pool would fit at Chinquapin and then another 90 days to answer issues like whether TR needs could be met there. Laura did indicate that the most likely spot for the 50-meter pool would be where the existing tennis courts are since there is a

large trunk sewer lateral underground in front of the facility and the general area is identified by TES/OEQ as a potential stormwater BMP site.

Bill indicated that he had set up a meeting in Germantown, MD for November 21st with Paddock Pools to discuss concrete pool construction. He invited any Board members to attend, as well as Laura. She has a previous commitment, but will see if David Ghezzi could attend.

Bill also updated the Board that he was setting up meetings with the Athletic Directors at Bishop Ireton, Episcopal, and St. Stephens/St. Agnes to brief them on the aquatic plans.

Following a conversation with Laura Fries of the Board, he had contacted John Chapman to see if the City Council wanted to issue a proclamation honoring the Wahoos for their championship season (especially considering John was a member of the Wahoos in his youth). John talked to the Mayor and both of them are eager to do the proclamation. Laura F. will follow up with them.

Carolyn mentioned her visit to Northern Virginia Community College and gave Bill the business card of the Provost there so he can follow up with them. They, as well as other colleges, may be interested in use of a 50-meter pool for their teams.

The last item was a discussion of possible pool visits (beyond the Germantown one on the 21st). Melynda is working with Ralph on the logistics. Everyone agreed that the next trip should be to the Wilson pool in D.C. Melynda will contact Ralph and make the arrangements.

The meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

Miracle League of Alexandria Playground Grant Update – On October 29, there was a joint conference call between CVS Caremark representatives Alisha Simmons and Keith Reynolds, Bill Rivers and Lindsay Swanson of the Kelley Cares Foundation on the upcoming Miracle playground behind the Lee Center.

The discussion centered on the official kickoff of the playground fundraising project and media release about CVS Caremark's donation to begin the project. Lindsey is working on a fundraising brochure with a graphic artist that will be released to the public and supporters of the miracle field project in December. The plan is to release it before the end of the year, to hopefully capture local business and corporate donations for tax purposes.

We discussed hosting a kickoff event (or something like that) event in December in which CVS Caremark's and Kelley Cares Foundation donations would be highlighted. It would also be the starting point of the Miracle League/Kelley Cares Foundation fundraising for the remainder of the project cost along with the draft design of the playground. They would like to have especially the Mayor and City Council members, but other groups and participants from TR/Park Commission/YSAB and other groups

invited to the event. CVS Carmark referenced the fact that it would be best to have it in around 10 am or 2 pm to maximize press coverage from the local media outlets. It was felt that waiting until the spring would not be good since we are trying to jump start the fundraising with CVS Carmark and Kelley Cares Foundation being focal points to help bring attention to the project and fundraising needs.

Maury Schoolyard Initiative – On October 23, the Maury PTA set up a meeting at Gensler’s office in DC to discuss their findings from the Visioning Session held on October 1 design charette where designers were able to work individually and together to come up with their design intervention for the school. It was an energetic fast paced way to generate several design ideas that may be used to inform the schematic design process and into the actual project.

Jefferson Houston Project

- Project is on schedule
- Steel framing is going up
- Last community construction outreach meeting – November 4
- Will have full size turf field and gymnasium
- New playground will remain a part of the project

TC Williams Tennis Courts

- Staff Reports by Planning & Zoning and other internal review departments are complete.
- Lights for the court are currently a part of the plan.
- Scheduled for Planning Commission (December 3) and City Council (December 21).
- Need members to speak on behalf of the project.

Patrick Henry School/Recreation Project

- Joint ACPS/City school board presentation on November 07.
- School Board approved feasibility study for school.
- Site Planning for Recreation Center and School anticipated to be jointly designed – including fields and parking.

Renaming of Braddock Road Fields

- Approved by City Council in October on behalf of Lenny Harris.
- Anticipate new sign installation this winter.
- Will remove existing brick planter as a part of the work.
- Once through procurement - takes 6-8 weeks for sign fabrication.

“Rock Your Park” Winter Open Days/Nights

Mac announced the dates for the annual winter open play days will run December 3 – February 16. The days and times will be Tuesday/Thursday from 6 – 9 pm, Saturday/Sunday 11 am – 5 pm at the Ben Brenman Soccer Field and Witter Recreational Field #2.

Jim stated that the Alexandria Titans Youth Football Program had six of nine teams making it to the playoffs with four teams making it to the championship finals. They will be hosting their end of the season program on Sunday, November 24 at TC Williams High School at 2 pm. They will honor all players, coaches, sponsors and other supporters of the program this season.

Jim stated he read an article on the Philosophy of Winning that discusses the objective of winning. Tommy (ASA) stated that everyone should play to win, but not at all cost. Playing should be focused on building skill development to learn how to play correctly. Beth (ALC) players must have equal playing time regulated by the leagues.

Tommy stated that ASA will be hosting indoor soccer clinics at various site in Alexandria beginning in January. He stated their U13 boy's team won the state championship this fall.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, December 9.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2013
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
6:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the September Meeting
- III. Frank Fannon, Former City Councilman &
Current President of the Alexandria Sportsman's Club
- V. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- VI. Miracle League of Alexandria – Playground Grant Update
- VII. Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
 - A. Jefferson Houston Project
 - B. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts Project
 - C. Patrick Henry School/Recreation Project
 - D. Renaming of Braddock Road Fields
- VI. Roundtable
- VII. Other
- VIII. Next Meeting Date – Monday, December 9
- IX. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, November 11, 2013

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Owen Malone, Dennis Burstein, Beth Hamed, John Timmons, Tommy Park & Sterling Gilliam

Staff members present: Mac Slover and Joseph Petrella

Guests: Frank Fannon, President – Alexandria Sportsman's Club

Jim started off the meeting by stating that there was special guest here tonight and that we wanted to have them go first.

Frank Fannon – Sportsman's Club

Jim introduced former Councilman and current President of the Sportsman's Club, Frank Fannon. He was there to enlighten the board members on about the Sportsman's Club. He was there to discuss the history and purpose of the club, the monthly meetings, special guest they have and the monthly and yearly athletes of the year.

Mr. Fannon's main points included:

- The club is 66 years old and started in 1947 by alumni football players of the George Washington High School.
- Designed to organize a club for former football players in the Alexandria area.
- 1956 the club began to recognize high school athletes at its yearly event.
- The club's largest membership was over 300, but now is down to 100.
- Would like to recruit younger members to help sustain the club.
- Have speakers each month to come and speak about their experience as an athlete and student.
- \$100 a year to join and will receive free ticket to the awards banquet each May.
- Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Old Dominion Boat Club.
- Usually have a theme each month (Redskins, Baseball, Rugby, Basketball and etc.).
- They have catered dinner each month from one of the local restaurants.
- Next Meeting will be on December 17, 2013.
- He brought some club pamphlets to hand out.

Jim Gibson stated that he has approached Coca Cola, Hilton, Target and McDonalds about giving financial support for an Alexandria Youth Sports Awards Program if it can be developed. He stated that the board needs to develop the criteria for determining the winners. He stated he can then reengage corporate sponsors if the program can be set up. The time frame to do it would have to be determined such at the end of the school year.

Owen Malone asked if the awards program is a mission of the YSAB?

John Timmons asked if has been approved by the Park and Recreation Commission, since the YSAB is a subcommittee of it? He also said they should not move forward unless it has been approved by the Park Commission.

Jim stated he would put it on the December agenda.

Jim stated he wanted to put "Best Practices Used to Run a Program" on the December agenda. He wanted each organization to discuss their administrative duties, recruitment, retention of coaches/participants and awards.

Jim stated that he wanted to develop and prioritize the YSAB's goal and objectives for 2014 at the December meeting.

Jim stated that he wants to have a discussion on the YSAB's accomplishments and ways to enhance the meetings.

Jim stated that he has invited Interim ACPS Superintendent, Dr. Crawley or Chief Policy and Student Services Officer, Margee Walsh at the December meeting.

Advocates for Aquatics Summary – Bill Rivers will send out a summary on the last Aquatics for Alexandria (AAA) since he was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Summary - The meeting was then turned over to Carolyn who gave a slide presentation about the Christiansburg Aquatics Center in Christiansburg, VA and the Highland Park pool in Florida. Carolyn had done a great job taking pictures of all the relevant parts of the two swimming centers and gave us a good flavor for each through her narrative. The overall presentation gave us a nice feel for how our efforts at Chinquapin could turn out. Special thanks also to Laura for supplying the AV equipment for the presentation. Carolyn also had the business cards of several management personnel at Christiansburg for us to follow up with when appropriate.

Next was a proposal from Bill that we formalize our Outreach Program by asking Carolyn and Jeanne to be responsible for developing an overall plan to publicize AAA's efforts regarding the pools, as well as what we can do to make others in the City aware of what is currently available. The plan would be presented at a follow-up meeting for the whole Board to vote on. Initial discussions were for Carolyn and Jeanne to get with Laura and Kelly from the City to coordinate efforts. Future efforts could involve ACPS, citizen associations, other swimming groups, PTA's, etc.

We then moved to a discussion on fund raising. Bill had talked to the IRS that morning to find out the status of our tax-exempt application. Unfortunately, the Government shutdown and other workload were now stretching out decisions until 6 months (we are at the 3 month mark now). He recommended that if we don't hear from the IRS by the first of the year, we start our efforts with ACT. He indicated that John Porter said that they might be able to start an account for us with a \$3,000 initial deposit (as opposed to the

original target of \$10,000). If that is the case, Bill may be able to approach a Miracle Field donor and see if he can kick-start our campaign with a \$3,000 donation.

Initial funding is needed so that we can pay for a fund raising brochure to continue on with the campaign. Bill showed the group a copy of the brochure used for the Miracle Field and then described the one that is being done by the Kelley Cares Foundation's graphic artists for the accessible playground now. He suggested that we approach the Foundation to see if they would do a similar brochure for us on the pools. It may require a donation to Kelley Cares, but it may be worthwhile to pursue.

It is also time to start identifying possible grant sources, US Swimming contacts, etc. Bill will send out a message to the Board members asking them to submit possibilities so we can get a comprehensive look at what we want to do. He also asked Melynda and Craig to work with him as a subcommittee to develop the fund raising plan to bring back to the Board for approval.

As part of the fund raising discussion, Bill indicated that he would send a letter to Jim Spengler asking for an opinion from the City regarding reserved practice times in exchange for large donations from a group.

The group then discussed the recent Park and Recreation Commission meeting. There was a general consensus from the attendees there that the meeting went extremely well for the aquatics effort. The Commission strongly supported building new pools in the City and wanted to see the effort expanded to include a new pool in the West End. Specific mention was made about the need for a 50-meter pool, as well as a desire to see a separate therapeutic recreation pool at the Lee Center. That meeting concluded with an agreement to draft a letter of support for the aquatics initiative to send to City Council. In addition, as part of an effort to work more closely with other groups, Jennifer Adkins of the Commission volunteered to be a contact person. Bill has sent her an introduction message and offered to set up a meeting with AAA members.

Bill updated the Board that the Warwick Village Citizens Association had sent a message to the Commission after the meeting that it formally supported a new pool (similar to the old one) and a new or renovated building at Warwick.

With the Park and Recreation Commission offering its ideas on improving aquatics, Bill indicated that he would like to meet with Laura to develop a matrix showing the pool recommendations from the various organizations. Laura agreed and a meeting will be set up.

In other items, Laura indicated that the City still hoped to make an award for the Chinquapin feasibility study this month. After award, the contractor has 30 days to determine if a 50-meter pool would fit at Chinquapin and then another 90 days to answer issues like whether TR needs could be met there. Laura did indicate that the most likely spot for the 50-meter pool would be where the existing tennis courts are since there is a

large trunk sewer lateral underground in front of the facility and the general area is identified by TES/OEQ as a potential stormwater BMP site.

Bill indicated that he had set up a meeting in Germantown, MD for November 21st with Paddock Pools to discuss concrete pool construction. He invited any Board members to attend, as well as Laura. She has a previous commitment, but will see if David Ghezzi could attend.

Bill also updated the Board that he was setting up meetings with the Athletic Directors at Bishop Ireton, Episcopal, and St. Stephens/St. Agnes to brief them on the aquatic plans.

Following a conversation with Laura Fries of the Board, he had contacted John Chapman to see if the City Council wanted to issue a proclamation honoring the Wahoos for their championship season (especially considering John was a member of the Wahoos in his youth). John talked to the Mayor and both of them are eager to do the proclamation. Laura F. will follow up with them.

Carolyn mentioned her visit to Northern Virginia Community College and gave Bill the business card of the Provost there so he can follow up with them. They, as well as other colleges, may be interested in use of a 50-meter pool for their teams.

The last item was a discussion of possible pool visits (beyond the Germantown one on the 21st). Melynda is working with Ralph on the logistics. Everyone agreed that the next trip should be to the Wilson pool in D.C. Melynda will contact Ralph and make the arrangements.

The meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.

Miracle League of Alexandria Playground Grant Update – On October 29, there was a joint conference call between CVS Caremark representatives Alisha Simmons and Keith Reynolds, Bill Rivers and Lindsay Swanson of the Kelley Cares Foundation on the upcoming Miracle playground behind the Lee Center.

The discussion centered on the official kickoff of the playground fundraising project and media release about CVS Caremark's donation to begin the project. Lindsey is working on a fundraising brochure with a graphic artist that will be released to the public and supporters of the miracle field project in December. The plan is to release it before the end of the year, to hopefully capture local business and corporate donations for tax purposes.

We discussed hosting a kickoff event (or something like that) event in December in which CVS Caremark's and Kelley Cares Foundation donations would be highlighted. It would also be the starting point of the Miracle League/Kelley Cares Foundation fundraising for the remainder of the project cost along with the draft design of the playground. They would like to have especially the Mayor and City Council members, but other groups and participants from TR/Park Commission/YSAB and other groups

invited to the event. CVS Carmark referenced the fact that it would be best to have it in around 10 am or 2 pm to maximize press coverage from the local media outlets. It was felt that waiting until the spring would not be good since we are trying to jump start the fundraising with CVS Carmark and Kelley Cares Foundation being focal points to help bring attention to the project and fundraising needs.

Maury Schoolyard Initiative – On October 23, the Maury PTA set up a meeting at Gensler’s office in DC to discuss their findings from the Visioning Session held on October 1 design charette where designers were able to work individually and together to come up with their design intervention for the school. It was an energetic fast paced way to generate several design ideas that may be used to inform the schematic design process and into the actual project.

Jefferson Houston Project

- Project is on schedule
- Steel framing is going up
- Last community construction outreach meeting – November 4
- Will have full size turf field and gymnasium
- New playground will remain a part of the project

TC Williams Tennis Courts

- Staff Reports by Planning & Zoning and other internal review departments are complete.
- Lights for the court are currently a part of the plan.
- Scheduled for Planning Commission (December 3) and City Council (December 21).
- Need members to speak on behalf of the project.

Patrick Henry School/Recreation Project

- Joint ACPS/City school board presentation on November 07.
- School Board approved feasibility study for school.
- Site Planning for Recreation Center and School anticipated to be jointly designed – including fields and parking.

Renaming of Braddock Road Fields

- Approved by City Council in October on behalf of Lenny Harris.
- Anticipate new sign installation this winter.
- Will remove existing brick planter as a part of the work.
- Once through procurement - takes 6-8 weeks for sign fabrication.

“Rock Your Park” Winter Open Days/Nights

Mac announced the dates for the annual winter open play days will run December 3 – February 16. The days and times will be Tuesday/Thursday from 6 – 9 pm, Saturday/Sunday 11 am – 5 pm at the Ben Brenman Soccer Field and Witter Recreational Field #2.

Jim stated that the Alexandria Titans Youth Football Program had six of nine teams making it to the playoffs with four teams making it to the championship finals. They will be hosting their end of the season program on Sunday, November 24 at TC Williams High School at 2 pm. They will honor all players, coaches, sponsors and other supporters of the program this season.

Jim stated he read an article on the Philosophy of Winning that discusses the objective of winning. Tommy (ASA) stated that everyone should play to win, but not at all cost. Playing should be focused on building skill development to learn how to play correctly. Beth (ALC) players must have equal playing time regulated by the leagues.

Tommy stated that ASA will be hosting indoor soccer clinics at various site in Alexandria beginning in January. He stated their U13 boy's team won the state championship this fall.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, December 9.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2013
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the October Meeting
- III. Presentation by: Jason Schneider and Jennifer Davis, Gump Sports Photography
- IV. YSAB Year End Evaluation
- V. Best Practices On Running Your Organization's Program
(Administration, recruitment and retention of participants/coaches/volunteers and awards)
- VI. 2014 YSAB Goals and Objectives
- VII. City budget and Cost Recovery Strategies
- VIII. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- IX. Miracle League of Alexandria – Playground Grant Update
- X. Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
 - A. Jefferson Houston Project
 - B. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts Project
 - C. Potomac Yards Playground/Basketball/Tennis Courts
 - D. Patrick Henry School/Recreation Project
- XI. Roundtable
- XII. Other
- XIII. Next Meeting Date – Monday, January 13
- XIV. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2014
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the December Meeting
- III. City of Alexandria Children and Family Master Plan
- IV. Best Practices On Running Your Organization's Program
(Administration, recruitment and retention of participants/coaches/volunteers and awards)
- V. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- VI. Miracle Playground CVS Caremark/Kelley Cares/MLA Council Presentation
- VII. Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
 - A. Jefferson Houston Project
 - B. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts Project
 - C. Potomac Yards Playground/Basketball/Tennis Courts
 - D. Patrick Henry School/Recreation Project
- VIII. Presentation by: Maury Schoolyard Initiative Group
- IX. Roundtable
- X. Other
- XI. Next Meeting Date – Monday, February 10
- XII. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, January 13, 2014

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Jeff Murphy, Donnie Simpson, John Timmons, Owen Malone, Beth Hamid, Laura Fries, Dennis Burstein, Sterling Gillam, Tommy Parks, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: Mac Slover, Joe Petrella

Guests: Jim Spengler (Director, ADRPCA), Ron Kagawa (Park Planning and Capital Projects, ADRPCA), Dale Medearis (Maury Project), Henri van Goethem

Jim started the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year and thanking the Board members for their efforts to get lights approved for the new tennis courts at T. C. A significant victory for our kids and hopefully a starting point for lights at the football field.

Jim then indicated that he had talked to the Mayor about the football field lights and that the Mayor was organizing a working group of interested citizens to discuss and explore the possible installation of lights there. Jim asked for volunteers from the YSAB and Donnie and Beth offered to serve on the group. Jim will forward their names to the Mayor's office.

He then asked Jeff to brief the group on the Children and Youth Master Plan. Mac had included a copy of the Plan in the handouts. Jeff went through the development of the Plan. This is Year 2 of the effort and the Plan looks to combine various functions into a unified force for our kids. He also emphasized that the Plan focused on the family unit as well, recognizing that was a key to helping kids. There are 29 members in his group representing groups from throughout the City. He also emphasized that the YSAB needs to work with the group on implementing the Plan since both activities focus on kids.

With the Master Plan serving as a "playbook", the YSAB could offer input on subjects like the need for more playing fields, more lighted fields to maximize availability to the kids, etc. He suggested that the YSAB could draft a letter to the Plan's Executive Committee detailing what the YSAB has done and what it hopes to accomplish. Dennis suggested that we may want to focus on new facilities as part of our future plans.

Since the Plan fosters cooperation between activities, Sterling brought up a problem that Little League had recently run into. They wanted to hold an indoor baseball clinic at one of the school gyms like they had in past years, but they found that ACPS had raised the usage fees by a significant amount this year. It was so high that Little League could not

afford to pay the fee and was forced to cancel the clinic. Sterling brought this up as an example of a City activity actually working against an effort to help kids out. After a lengthy discussion, Jim Spengler indicated that the Recreation Department got a discounted rate from ACPS because of a joint use agreement. He suggested that sports groups come to the Recreation Department for space needs and they could get the discounted space through their agreement with ACPS. This was viewed as a very good solution to the problem, but the view was also that ACPS needed to revisit their fee structures to encourage uses benefiting the kids.

An interesting side note to the discussion was that the Recreation Department uses the Green Play concept of pricing facility use, which results in a much lower cost than ACPS's pricing approach.

Bill then gave an update on the Aquatics and the Playground efforts:

- Playground:
 - Will be a fully accessible playground behind the Lee Center
 - Total cost of \$90,000
 - Planned to be built by this fall
 - \$45,000 raised so far
 - \$25,000 from CVS Caremark
 - \$5,000 from the Safeway Foundation
 - Fund Raising brochure developed by Kelley Cares
 - Mailed out to over 600 addresses
 - Recognition ceremony at City Council session on February 11th

- Swimming Pools:
 - We will be looking to protect the already approved funds in the next budget cycle (Proposed City budget to be submitted in late February)
 - A Feasibility Study contract will be awarded shortly by the City to determine if a 50-meter pool can fit at Chinquapin (among other actions)
 - Awaiting word from the IRS about AAA's tax exempt application
 - Working with ACT as a partner
 - City needs a decision on the Warwick pool shortly or they will close it this coming summer
 - The Wahoo swimming team was recognized by the City Council this month by a Proclamation honoring their championship season

There was some discussion about whether the YSAB needed a separate website for its activities. One point made was that we are officially a City-approved entity that reports to the Park and Recreation Commission. It may not be appropriate to have a separate YSAB website. It would more likely be the YSAB using an already established City website.

Jim then moved on to asking the members to discuss their best practices so that all sports could learn from each other.

Beth started off with the Alexandria Lacrosse Club. Her observations were:

- Most of their players were from private schools. Very difficult for them to get public school kids, despite repeated efforts at the middle school and elementary school level.
- Particular difficulty getting players from the West End.
- Tommy added that soccer found that prospective players had difficulty getting to practices and games – also from the West End.
- Very dedicated parents have helped the Lacrosse program grow over the past 10 years.

Sterling then followed with some observations from Alexandria Little League:

- Collaboration is the key to success.
- They work very closely with Jim Blair, the baseball coach at T. C.
- Also very close to the Recreation Department.
- They also have trouble getting a diverse participation.
- Jim suggested that they may want to get some fraternal organizations to sponsor teams – that may encourage more diversity.

Tommy added some observations from the Alexandria Soccer Association:

- Their organization was struggling until they decided to add a fulltime, paid Executive Director. They now have 4 fulltime staff members.
- He thinks that “professionalism” is a key to their success – up to 4,000 kids playing soccer now.
- Dedicated staff helps improve the quality of the experience for the participants.
- They also have improved their coaches – requiring professional training for both travel and recreational teams.
- They developed a 45-page curriculum for their organization to follow. Standardizes the answers to many questions.
- With an improved experience, they are able to retain more players from season to season.
- Over 80% of their registration is on-line now.
- They work closely with the T. C coaches. The girl’s coach is from ASA and Peter Abed on the boy’s team coaches in their organization as well.
- At T. C., the boys have over 150 kids try out, but only 50 can make the various teams. ASA tries to provide playing time to those that don’t make it.

At this time, Ron, Dale, and Henri arrived to talk about the Maury Project. But before they started that, Ron gave a brief overview of the capital projects:

- The tennis courts were approved at T.C., but he is not sure when the actual lights will be out in. ACPS is responsible for that funding.
- They are experiencing great use of the new park facilities at Potomac Yards.
- There is a joint RFP being put out by ACPS and the Recreation Department regarding the new facilities at Patrick Henry.
- Decisions being made by ACPS impact on the new Recreation Center so they are working closely.
- Dennis interjected that he felt that a K-8th grade school was a bad idea – too wide a mix of kids at the same facility.
 - He also questioned whether enough gym space was being built to accommodate all the different age levels.
 - Jim will work on a letter expressing the concerns of the YSAB.

Donnie suggested that the letter also encourage the City to have football teams at each elementary school as well as for 7th and 8th graders. This worked in the past and built a successful feeder program for the high school.

Ron then introduced Dale and Henri to the group. They were there representing a group of parents working to improve the outside area around the Maury School.

Dale and Henri indicated that they were there to provide information about the project tonight, but that they would appreciate a vote of support from the YSAB at the next monthly meeting. Some highlights of their presentation:

- They displayed the proposed outdoor areas and their uses surrounding the school.
- It was obvious that a lot of thought and effort has already gone into this project. They have contacted anyone that they think could be involved or interested in the project.
- Ron indicated that one of their main problems would be water drainage at the back of the school.
- They are looking at a phased implementation.
 - ACPS has pledged some money that was initially set aside for playground improvements.
 - They would like to meet with the Miracle Field group for fund raising ideas. Mac and Bill will follow-up with them.

Jim had to bring the meeting to a conclusion because the Recreation Center was closing.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the January Meeting
- III. Best Practices - Running Your Organization's Program
(For those organizations that did not present at the January meeting)
- IV. Maury Schoolyard Initiative Follow Up
- V. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- VI. Miracle Playground CVS Caremark/Kelley Cares/MLA Council Presentation
- VII. Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
- VIII. Goals and Objectives for 2014 – TC Williams Lights Discussion
- IX. Roundtable
- X. Other
- XI. Next Meeting Date – Monday, March 10
- XII. Adjournment

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: JANUARY 16, 2014

TO: ALEXANDRIA PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION
& YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

FROM: PARK OPERATIONS DIVISION
RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION
PARK PLANNING, DESIGN+CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

ITEM: RECEIPT OF CONCEPT PLANS AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION
MAURY SCHOOL YARD INITIATIVE; 600 RUSSELL ROAD

ISSUE:

Park and Recreation Commission and Youth Sports Advisory Board receive concept plans and supporting information for the Maury School Yard Initiative located at 600 Russell Road in Alexandria.

RECOMMENATION:

That the Park and Recreation Commission and Youth Sports Advisory Board:

1. Receive the provided information in anticipation of requests for action at their respective February, 2014 meeting(s).

BACKGROUND:

Since being requested to participate by the Maury School PTA during the Summer, 2013, RPCA staff have been engaged in a working process focused on developing a concept plan for the northernmost site area of Maury School. Since inception, RPCA staff has communicated the following guiding principles for initiative planning purposes:

1. Currently, all City schools are budgeted at level 3 maintenance intensity/frequency scope of work (1 being highest and 3 being lowest) by RPCA-at request/approval of ACPS School Board.
2. Site proposals will be a part of the ACPS capital budget – not the City and budgeting administered via ACPS Facilities.
3. Displacement of existing City programs from the site (such as transfer of existing City programs including soccer and little league will not be supported.to Beach Park) will not be supported.
4. Proposals for Beach Park will be a part of a larger public process as Park Planning undertakes its Neighborhood Parks planning initiative in calendar year, 2014.
5. Proposals need to accommodate construction staging and access for the planned addition to Maury by ACPS in +/-2017.

6. Any proposals will require an operations and maintenance analysis to identify changes in the current scope of grounds maintenance.
7. A multi-use synthetic turf area would be a desirable means for addressing heavy field use by the school and City.
8. RPCA will gladly share any technical/constructability information related to facilities including play areas, synthetic turf, storm water management, etc.
9. Consider re-orienting the existing ball diamond to a NW/SE direction to provide the most appropriate solar alignment.
10. Existing drainage challenges need to be addressed as far uphill as possible – prior to impact areas. Any off-site work related to storm water management (such as) within ROW of adjacent streets will need approval from TES/City.
11. RPCA will shepherd the plan to the City's Interdepartmental Review (IDR) for concept plan review as a means of obtaining a broad spectrum of department comments/concerns. Through this process, RPCA will provide comments of greater specifics and detail.
12. The plan will benefit from review comments/endorsement of the Youth Sports Advisory Board and Park & Recreation Commission.
13. Construction cost analysis associated with potential implementation phasing is critical to relating the proposal to future capital improvement requests.

DISCUSSION:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Operational impacts are to be determined based on a site maintenance analysis (principle #6 above). Capital project work associated with the initiative will be implemented by ACPS (principle #2 above).

ATTACHMENTS:

Maury School Yard Initiative Concept Plan Draft (Fall, 2013)
SOS Advocacy Flier

STAFF:

James B. Spengler, Director
James Nichols, Division Chief; Park Operations
Oscar Mendoza, Division Chief; Park Operations
Mac Slover, Youth & Adult Sports; Recreation Services
Ron M. Kagawa, Division Chief; Park Planning, Design+Capital Development

MAURY SCHOOLYARD INITIATIVE

A COMMITTEE OF THE MAURY ELEMENTARY PTA

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

LET'S REMAKE
OUR SCHOOLYARD
FROM THIS...



WHY?

- Our existing outdoor space serves students during recess and afterschool; neighbors in the afternoons, weekends and the entire summer; Alexandria Soccer Association practices for multiple teams; City of Alexandria Recreation League coach pitch and t-ball practices and games; Rosemont Citizens Association 4th of July gathering; and much, much more.
- The field suffers from significant overuse and deferred maintenance – the soccer pitch is almost entirely dirt and rocks.
- Serious drainage problems from water running downhill from Beach Park continue to threaten this space and make it even more unsafe for our children. Water pours through the mulch playground and runs across the large impervious blacktop, ultimately carrying the soccer pitch silt and ball field sand onto the sidewalk and into Russell Road.

HOW?

Spring 2013, the MSI Committee was formed:

- To assist in the development and implementation of a practical, sustainable and economically viable plan that will reinvigorate and enhance the Maury schoolyard for continued use by the many members of our community.
- Developing a cost-effective and consensus vision for the schoolyard's redevelopment requires thoughtful consideration of multiple issues. These include technical and inter-related environmental, engineering, aesthetic, safety and educational factors. In Summer 2013, we walked the campus with members of several City of Alexandria departments to discuss and better understand all of these factors.
- In Fall 2013, the MSI engaged Gensler, a world-class design/architecture/planning and consulting firm. Together we hosted several brainstorming sessions to share, collect and discuss ideas. Members of the Maury Elementary administration, staff, and parents, the Rosemont Community, Rosemont Citizens Association, ACPS School Board, ACPS Facilities Department, City of Alexandria Recreation, Parks & Cultural Events planners and maintenance discussed design, technical and financial ideas that could help with the redevelopment of the outdoor space at Maury.

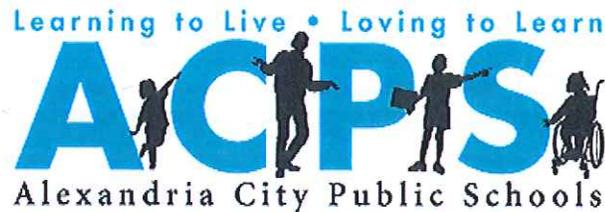
DESIGN RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

- A design concept book was developed by Gensler based on input from members of the community and experts from the City. The design focuses on solving the water issues, providing a sustainable and accessible area for sports, play, urban garden, and community events.
- MSI and Gensler will present the design results at the Maury PTA meeting on January 13th. We are also scheduled to present at January meetings of ACPS School Board, Alexandria City Council, Alexandria Youth Sports Advisory Board, Alexandria Parks and Recreation Commission.
- The design is subject to additional review, planning, permits and approval.
- The project funding will be a public/private partnership.
 - Private fundraising will include corporations, businesses, grants and in-kind donations, gifts from individuals in the Maury, Rosemont, Alexandria and Virginia communities and more.
 - We are currently working to inform members of the city government of our plans so funding can be included in budget discussions.

TO SOMEPLACE
LIKE THIS...



The MSI Committee welcomes your ideas for all aspects of the initiative. If you are interested in supporting the project or have fundraising ideas, please contact Sue Setliff at setliff.sue@gmail.com.



2000 N. Beauregard Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22311

Telephone: (703) 824-6600
Facsimile: (703) 824-6699
TTY: 711 (Virginia Relay)
www.acps.k12.va.us

School Board

Chair
Karen A. Graf

Vice Chair
Justin P. Keating

Members
Kelly C. Booz
Ronnie Campbell
William E. Campbell
Patricia Ann Hennig
Stephanie A. Kapsis
Christopher J. Lewis
Marc Williams

Interim Superintendent
Alvin L. Crawley, Ed.D.

Dear Mayor Euille and City Council Members -

For the past 18 months, the Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) staff has been partnering with the Alexandria City staff to develop the plans for new tennis courts at T.C. Williams. Tennis courts at T.C. Williams have been a topic of discussion by citizens, students and the Board for several years.

The Alexandria City School Board approved the tennis court plans on November 19, 2012 which included a feasibility study for lighting. In the following months, ACPS staff conducted the study and hosted community forums in the Seminary Hill area and with the TC Williams school community. On June 20, 2013, the School Board approved the updated plans that include the lighting.

The current proposed layout presents two banks of three fenced-in courts with access gates for security purposes. The site's lighting is currently included in the project design. When these courts are built, they will be the only courts in the city equipped to host tennis league play at a single location. The Alexandria City School Board's June 20' 2013 plan approval included building the conduits for lighting, even though the budget climate precludes funding lighting for the courts currently.

Installing lighting conduits at the time of construction, instead of in the future, prevents deconstructing the courts to set the lighting and having to restore the courts to playing condition. This not only provides cost efficiency, but also allows for the shortest downtime for the asset.

For large recreation projects, like the tennis courts and fields, the City of Alexandria must maximize its investments for the citizens as a whole, including our student athletes. While focus has been placed on the T.C. Williams Tennis Team using the courts, these courts will be available to the city residents who are tennis players up to *75% of the possible weekday hours during tennis season and all of hours on the weekends.*

Without lights, the citizens would only be able to access the courts 53% of the possible hours during the weekdays and 20% less time on the weekends. Additionally, our tennis team would not finish matches that go into long tiebreakers during day light savings time.

At this time, we are asking the city to consider two things:

- **Approve the original request for DSUP2013-0014.** This recommendation was made by City staff and the ACPS staff. Please vote to approve the tennis court plans, with lighting, in order to serve the citizens of Alexandria City and the T.C. Williams high school tennis team.

The Alexandria City School Board does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a parent, or pregnancy in its programs and activities. Please direct all inquiries regarding ACPS non-discrimination policies to the Chief Human Resources Officer, 2000 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, VA 22311, 703-824-6657.

- **Engage in future dialogue to changing the DSUP2002-0044 language.** The Alexandria City School Board asks that you consider changing the language that states that no permanent stadium lighting shall be installed at the T.C. Williams stadium or on any other athletic field on school property. Student athletes no longer compete in the daylight hours alone.

We appreciate your commitment to advancing our great city and we thank you for the time commitment you make on behalf of our citizens. We hope that you will agree that planning for lights on public fields maximizes the benefit for our entire community.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen A. Graf', written in a cursive style.

Karen A. Graf
Chair of the Alexandria City School Board

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, February 10, 2014

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, John Timmons, Owen Malone, Beth Hamid, Laura Fries, Dennis Burstein, Richard Stone, Brian McPherson, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: Mac Slover

Jim started the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking them to review the minutes from the January meeting.

Picking up from the January meeting, Jim asked Owen to describe the best practices for the Alexandria Rugby Club.

Highlights of Owen's presentation:

- The Club oversees youth rugby for kids from 5 to 15 years old. Touch rugby from 5 to 10 years old and then tackle beyond that.
- They look to make it a fun experience for the kids.
 - Play games at practices.
 - Keep the kids active.
 - Coaches restricted from talking during the tackle level games.
- They have on-line registration.
- Work closely with Mac and the Rec Department.
- They get good feedback from the players and their families and generally are successful against their age competition.
- T.C. is the only public school in the state with a team. All others are clubs.
 - The T. C. team is operated separately from the Alexandria Rugby Club and plays against private schools from the District.
 - The Club plays mainly other Virginia clubs.
- They look to educate the parents on the rules.
- The sport is governed by a state organization that sets the rules. Alexandria is the largest club in the state.
- In answer to a question, they don't have the same level of concussions as football.
 - Their goal is to control the ball; not to gain more yards when tackled.
 - They do baseline tests using an IPAD.
 - Test during the game if suspect a concussion.
 - Players sit out at least two weeks if they have one.
- They join with the City to host an all-star rugby tournament.
- Approximately 150 players. No cuts.
- Player/coach ratio of 8 to 1.
- Coaches are certified by the Club for their age levels, with the Club paying for the training.

- One of their emphases is to continue developing future coaches.

Laura and Dennis then described the Wahoo swimming program:

- Recent success is attributable to improved coaching.
- They maintain a close relationship with City staff.
- The Wahoo team is a very diverse one – noticeably more diverse than most of their competitors.
- They do need better facilities to compete against the better, private pool teams.
- They have formed a booster's club.
- They have tried to make the team a social as well as athletic attraction for the kids.
 - That has led to a high rate of return in swimmers from season to season.
- Examples of some social events:
 - Water balloons.
 - Water guns.
 - Theme parties (wear PJ's, etc.)
 - Kings Dominion Day.
 - Washington Mystics, DC United games.
 - Pizza Party to kick-off registration.
- Dennis mentioned that they have also focused on training kids to coach as they move through the program (older teach the younger, etc.).
- They are looking to start a development program for non-swimmers.
- Have grown from 30 swimmers to over 160 kids now.
- They have established closer ties to the T. C. swim team and to the Marlins (private club out of Chinquapin).
- Their swimmers range from 5 to 18 years old.

Jim then gave an update on the youth football program:

- Everyone can play regardless of skill or income level.
- 36% of players are from a single parent household.
- They have emphasized diversity by contacting rugby and lacrosse players.
- They have also focused on helping players control their weight during the off-season.
- Coaches meet year-round.
- They play in the Fairfax League and usually have at least one championship team each year.
- Training has improved significantly. They are part of the Heads Up tackling program (featured on local and national TV).
- They have also educated the parents more about the sport.
- Work closely with the high school.
- They have about 200 players with 9 teams.
- There are also some splinter groups that prefer to run their own team (usually past coaches in the program).

Mac and Bill addressed the Maury Schoolyard Initiative and reminded members that the Maury group had asked for a vote of endorsement at this month's meeting (after their presentation last month). Jim and John recommended deferring any decision because they thought that the Maury group was going to provide a one-page summary to make it easier for the Board to decide. After a discussion, Bill offered to contact the group and ask for the summary. Board members agreed that they thought the endorsement would be made, but probably won't be done until the next meeting.

Bill gave a quick update on Aquatics and the accessible playground:

- Playground:
 - The Miracle League and Kelley Cares have raised about \$48,000 out of the \$90,000 needed.
 - There will be a recognition ceremony in front of City Council on February 11th where CVS will present a check for \$25,000 to the City.
- Aquatics:
 - Waiting on the City to award the Feasibility Study contract for Chinquapin. Should be done shortly.
 - Waiting to see the City Manager's FY 2015 budget as it relates to aquatics (future capital dollars approved last year) and to Warwick (whether it will be open this summer). The budget will be submitted on 2/25.
 - Also waiting on a meeting to be set up by the City with the Virginia Theological Seminary (owners of the land that Warwick is on).
 - Recently arranged a meeting between the City and the Joey Pizzano Foundation for possible funding of City swimming lessons for special needs kids.

Jim then started a discussion on goals and objectives for the Board in 2014. He envisions three primary focuses:

- First, an expansion of the fight to get lights at the T. C. Football Field (as well as other locations)
 - This will build on the success of the Tennis Court lights.
 - Jim will see about inviting Mayor Euille to the March YSAB meeting.
 - Laura recommended trying to get some national press for the T. C. lights – play up the storyline about the “Remember the Titans” team not being able to play night games now.
- Pressure the School Board to join the fight to support student-athletes. Too often, they have been on the sideline when these issues are addressed.
 - Dennis believes that the high school needs to do more to educate both students and their parents about athletic opportunities.
- We should see what the FY 2015 budget calls for and see where we should concentrate our efforts to help student athletics.
 - Jim will see about inviting the City Manager to one of our meetings.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

**MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the February Meeting
- III. Presentation: FY 2015 Budget – James Spengler, Director
- IV. Presentation: Capital Projects Changes – Beth Carton, Park Planner
- V. Athletic Facilities Community Allocation Policy Revisions
- VI. Maury Schoolyard Initiative Follow Up
- VII. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- VIII. Sports Section Updates
- IX. Next Meeting Date – April 14
- X. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, March 10, 2014

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Owen Malone, Richard Stone, Beth Hamed, John Timmons, Tommy Park, Brian McPherson & Jeff Murphy

Staff members present: Mac Slover, James Spengler and Beth Carton

Guests: Beth Znidersic – Park Planning

Jim started off the meeting by stating that there was special guest here tonight and that we wanted to have them go first. Jim introduced Jim Spengler who was there to discuss with the board members about the 2015 budget and Beth on the changes in the capital project changes for FY 2015.

Jim Spengler and Beth Znidersic

Main points included: (Budget Summary Sheet Handed Out)

FY 2015 Department Budget Summary

| | FY11 Actual | FY12 Actual | FY13 Actual | FY14 Approved | FY15 Proposed |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | \$19,230,534 | \$19,387,579 | \$20,697,346 | \$21,530,916 | \$20,938,990 |
| Revenues | \$2,193,268 | \$2,485,995 | \$2,851,343 | \$2,756,193 | \$3,033,247 |
| FTE | 170.3 | 168.3 | 170.60 | 172.70 | 156.20 |

| Division | FY11 Actual | FY12 Actual | FY13 Actual | FY 14 approved | FY15 Proposed |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Leadership | \$1,754,952 | \$1,857,802 | \$1,827,045 | \$1,823,379 | \$1,907,228 |
| Recreation | \$8,067,487 | \$8,306,766 | \$8,558,440 | \$8,908,527 | \$8,718,859 |
| Parks | \$8,328,900 | \$9,497,232 | \$9,352,038 | \$9,828,997 | \$9,903,427 |
| Cultural | \$1,555,324 | \$1,594,783 | \$1,479,936 | \$1,495,060 | \$1,569,466 |

To reach the department FY15 target number of \$20,938,990 we made expenditure reductions of \$1,595,867 and proposed revenue increases of \$277,054. The expenditure reductions and revenue increases total more than the net change from FY14 approved and FY15 proposed. Any additions to the FY15 budget, such as increases required for salaries, benefits, contracts, supplies, internal services, and new parks required reduction offsets. Reductions in force (RIF) will affect 16.5 FTE, which equates to 27, separate individuals. Seasonal staff reductions are in addition to those for FTE positions.

RPCA Priority for Service (use of General Fund tax support)

- After school and out-of-school time programs for youth pre-K through High School, (Power Up, Power On, youth sports, camps, classes)
- Cultural and family oriented large special events including Farmer's Markets
- Opening all parks on a daily basis so the public can safely use them for their intended purpose
- Open space acquisition to include natural areas, passive parks, trails, neighborhood parks

Strategic decisions to implement priorities in FY15 budget

- Continued implementation of the Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy – greater share of service cost paid for by participant.
- Greater use of contractor services for seasonal and specialty services – impacts Urban Forestry, Horticulture, School Grounds, Waterfront, and new parks.
- Decrease in general operating hours for facilities, facilities will be open when there is a need or demand, versus opening when there is little to no use.
- Increased investment in Therapeutic Recreation and focus on Nannie J. Lee and Lee Centers for this purpose.
- New facilities planning emphasis on revenue recovery or third party support of operating costs.
- Review of non-pay uses of facilities and development of an affiliate policy.
- Review of resident and non-resident fees and services utilization.

Specific service impacts in the City Manager's proposed FY15 budget

- Reduction of seasonal staff and overtime throughout Park Operations organization that results in reduced capacity for response to landscaping, rights-of-way maintenance, facility repairs, and other general maintenance tasks. There will be a general decrease in appearance throughout City parks and increases in response times to citizen requests.
- Contracting of services for Urban Forestry, Horticulture, School Grounds, Medians, Rights-of-Way, and new park areas opened in FY2014. The focus is on getting more work done during the main growing season. There is a seven FTE reduction impact.
- Increased contracting for Waterfront park maintenance services and continue to prepare for non-city operation in the future (if determined).
- Patrick Henry and Charles Barrett open with general operating hours during after school program time and on demand all other hours (School year hours 2 – 6pm and summer 9am – 6pm).

- Durant Center opens on demand before 5:00pm Monday through Friday and on weekends. The weekday general operating hours are 5 – 10pm.
- Shift of Durant Center seasonal staff resources to provision of an average 20 hours a week of artist contracted community programs.
- Consolidate full-time custodian from Durant Center with the roving crew for recreation centers.
- Transfer of the traditional Nannie J. Lee after school programs to the Charles Houston Center. An inclusion based after-school program will remain at Nannie J. Lee as an additional option.
- Nannie J. Lee operated by Therapeutic Recreation 9am – 6pm for therapeutic and general public programs and general public use 6 – 9pm. Weekend the center is open by program demand.
- Reduction of 26 - .3 FTE positions in Recreation Services through RIF to better match program demand and operating hours.
- Increase of 8 positions to .5 FTE in Therapeutics.
- Reduction of seasonal staff hours at marina with staffing aligned to actual boating use.
- Recommendation to close Warwick Pool and begin renovation cycle dependent on CIP funding.
- Eliminate one vacant Park Manager position and increase geographic area of the remaining four districts.
- Eliminate one vacant Administrative Support IV position at the Lee Center and maintain partial replacement with temporary services.

Expansion of service – new funding

- RPCA will receive \$25,000 for partial year funding for maintenance costs of re-opening of public restrooms in the marina in conjunction with food court renovations (Blackwall Hitch restaurant).

Athletic Facilities Community Allocation Policy

There were several proposed several minor revisions in the policy that was originally approved in May 2013. The changes include the following.

Change: A1A and A1B are switched around from the previous policy

Section IV. Priority of Use

A. Priority of Use by Organizations for City Facilities

1. Level One Organizations

- A. Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Sponsored Programs - those activities planned on City property as per the RPCA and ACPS Shared

Use Agreement which defines the roles and responsibilities of each organization.

B. Alexandria City Public Schools on ACPS property or City Property.

Change: New wording about refunds was added.

Section IX. Participation, Processing, Team and Rental Fees

5. Cancellation of Rental Activities

Notification of cancelled use must be made in writing thirty (30) business days prior to the date of use rental fees paid, 25 percent of the facility reservation cost will be refunded. Otherwise, there will be no refunds unless due to inclement weather. The processing fee is non-refundable.

The Youth Sports Advisory Board members voted unanimously to support the changes. Jim Gibson will send a letter on the Allocation Policy to staff and Park Commission endorsing the revisions in the Athletic Facilities Community Allocation Policy.

Maury Schoolyard Initiative

There was no report.

Miracle League of Alexandria Playground Grant Update

- \$90,000 needed for accessible playground at the Lee Center.
 - About \$51,000 collected so far.
 - Alexandria Rugby Club fund-raiser this Saturday at O'Connell's.
 - Starts at 8:00 through mid-afternoon.
 - Big push on April 9th - ACTion Alexandria's one day of donations.
 - Coordinated through the Kelley Cares Foundation's website.
 - Asking City to name the playground after Ruthanne Lodato
 - Active in Kelley Cares.
 - Close friend of the Swanson family.
 - Helped kids throughout her life.
 - Her family strongly supports this effort.

Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics Update

- FY 2015 Proposed Budget:
 - Previously approved funds kept in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
 - \$23 million through FY2018
 - City Manager recommends closing Warwick this summer to save operating costs
 - Expect push back from surrounding areas to keep pool open.
 - Same situation as last year
 - Still negotiating with Virginia Theological Seminary
 - Some resistance since not part of their program mission

- Meeting to be set up with the Dean within the next month
- City awards Feasibility Study contract to Hughes Group.
 - Study of a 50-meter pool at Chinguapin
 - First phase due in one month as to whether a 50-meter pool can fit at Chinguapin
 - Other phases will address cost and usage implications on other pools.
 - Hughes was the contractor for Arlington with the problems at Long Bridge
 - They have an impressive array of subcontractors for the Alexandria study.
 - Up to them to prove that they can deliver a quality product.
 - Some problems caused by changes by Arlington.

Next meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, 2014.

The meeting concluded at 8:50 p.m.



Background

In late 2013, Alexandria City Council formally adopted a Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy. Under this model, programs with more community benefit are more subsidized by tax funding and programs with more individual benefit are covered by the participant.

Through a series of community meetings, and recommendations from recreation councils and participants, programs were placed in the model's tiers with a minimum recovery assigned to each level.

On May 1, City Council voted to adopt a General Fund Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2015, which begins July 1, 2014 and can be found online at alexandriava.gov/Budget. As the beginning of the first fiscal year since the Cost Recovery Policy was adopted, some program fees have been adjusted to align with their assigned tier minimums.

Youth Tackle Football League

Alexandria Titans Youth Tackle Football League is currently 84% subsidized by taxpayer funding with a \$50 fee per participant. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the new fee will be \$90 per participant, bringing the tax subsidy closer to its target minimum, with the goal of meeting its 50% target in Fiscal Year 2016.

Tackle Football registration is currently open and participants who turn in completed registration forms and payment by Monday, June 30 will pay the advertised \$50 fee and those who sign up on or after Tuesday, July 1 will be assessed the new \$90 fee. The program's existing \$20 late fee will remain in effect for those who register after the program's August 1 deadline.

Youth Basketball League

The Youth Winter Basketball League is currently 65% subsidized by taxpayer funding with a \$50 fee per participant. Beginning with its Winter 2014 season, the new fee will be \$75 per participant, aligning the tax subsidy to its 50% target minimum.

Out of School Time

The School Year Out of School Time program is currently 64% subsidized by taxpayer funding with a \$300 fee per participant for the 2013-14 school year. Beginning on July 1, 2014, when registration for the 2014-15 school year begins, the new fee will be \$415 per participant, bringing the tax subsidy to its 50% target minimum.

Therapeutic Recreation Mainstream After-School Program

Therapeutic Recreation's (TR) after-school programs are being combined and are currently 89% subsidized by taxpayer funding with a \$65 monthly fee per participant. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the new fee for this combined program will be \$100 per month, and as of January 1, 2015 the fee will increase to \$150 per month, bringing the tax subsidy closer to its 50% target minimum. The goal is to fully align this program with its target minimum in Fiscal Year 2016.



Fitness and Admission Passes

As part of the adopted policy, fitness pass prices have been slightly modified to align with their tier target minimums beginning July 1, 2014. Since Alexandria residents over age 55 are automatically eligible for a 20% discount, senior specific fitness pass and admission options for Chinquapin Park Recreation Center & Aquatics Facility have been removed from the list of options. For a complete list of the current pass and admission options, visit alexandriava.gov/12288.

Financial Assistance Policy

Discounts are available to City of Alexandria residents in need of financial assistance. To apply for a discount, complete and submit the Financial Assistance form found online at alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

Quick Reference FY15 Program Fee Increases

| <i>Program</i> | <i>Current Fee</i> | <i>Current Cost Recovery</i> | <i>New Fee</i> | <i>New Cost Recovery</i> | <i>Effective Date</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Youth Tackle Football | \$50 | 16% | \$90 | 29% | 7/1/14 |
| | | | \$156 | 50% | 1/1/15 |
| Youth Basketball | \$50 | 35% | \$75 | 52% | 7/1/14 |
| Out of School Time | \$300 | 36% | \$415 | 50% | 7/1/14 |
| TR After-School | \$65 | 11% | \$100 | 17% | 7/1/14 |
| | | | \$150 | 25% | 1/1/15 |

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 17, 2014

TO: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEMBERS

FROM: DANA WEDELES, PARK PLANNER 
LAURA DURHAM, PRINCIPAL PLANNER

SUBJECT: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK PLANS

In 2012, the Division of Park Planning, Design, and Capital Development began planning for parks by typology. The Division is now set to begin planning for the City's Neighborhood Parks. These parks often have multiple uses within their park boundary and attract nearby residents. We characterize them as being 0.5 acres to 10 acres with a service area of up to .5 miles. Twenty-two parks fit this criterion, however, of those, five have (or will have) recently completed plans and will only be included for documentary purposes. Park planning will approach the outreach process by planning district. The parks include the following sites:

Planning District 1

1. Montgomery Park
2. Lee Center
3. Powhatan Park

Planning District 2

4. Beach Park
5. Hooff's Run
6. Timberland Park
7. Goat Hill Park
8. Landover Park
9. Angel Park
10. Beverley Park
11. Hume Springs Park
12. 3550 Commonwealth Ave

Planning District 3

13. Mulligan Park
14. Stevenson Park
15. Lockett/Skate Park
16. Ewald Park
17. Taney Avenue Park
18. Chambliss Park

The following parks fit the Neighborhood Park Criteria but we will not be included them in this process because they have a recent plan or are undergoing a separate planning process:

1. President Gerald Ford Park
2. 600 North Henry Street
3. Carlyle Dog Park
4. African American Heritage Park
5. Mt. Jefferson Park and Greenway

We propose the following timeline for this project:

Spring – Summer 2014

1. Establish internal stakeholder group to inform on park needs and uses.
Group to include representatives from:
 - Recreation Division
 - Special Events
 - Park Operations
 - Natural Resources
 - Planning and Zoning
 - T&ES Planning
 - T&ES Office of Environmental Quality
 - T&ES Operations
 - Health Department
 - OHA
 - We will meet with APD, Office of Human Rights, and ACPS to review parks needs and draft plans, as necessary.
2. Begin research and analysis. Research to include:
 - Needs Assessment
 - Historical Documentation
 - Zoning
 - Site Conditions
 - Existing Master Plans/Site Plans
 - Current Operations
 - Demographics
 - Service Area Analysis
 - Future development/external considerations analysis
3. Establish calendar for public outreach strategy and establish project website

Fall 2014

1. Conduct Public Outreach for information gathering
 - Kick-off with establishing project goal with PRC
 - Tour of park sites with PRC (open to public)

- Feedback from Park users (park signs, surveys, etc.)
 - Hold workshops in each planning district
2. Summarize findings, including determination on which parks require substantial design change

Winter 2014

1. Develop standards for Neighborhood Parks
2. Develop list of recommendations and priorities for each park site
3. Develop conceptual plans for Parks that require major design change

Spring 2015

1. Conduct public outreach for feedback on plans
2. Conduct cost analysis

Summer 2015

1. Complete and release final plan (similar to Citywide Parks Improvement Plan process)

Long-term Planning

Following completion of the Neighborhood Parks Improvement Plan, Park Planning will address the following typologies, as stated in our Division work plan:

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Pocket Park | Small open space; mainly single use attracting nearby residents Example: Sunset Mini Park | Under 0.5 acres | .25-0.5 mile or less from users | 2015 |
| Natural Resource Areas | Includes open spaces that are primarily passive-use or preservation areas. Example: Dora Kelly Park | No Minimum or Maximum | Citywide | 2015 – 2016 |

- RPCA and ACPS will study and plan for outdoor facilities at school sites through the Long-Term Educational Facilities Plan beginning in July 2014.
- T&ES will include corridors and trails in the upcoming Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan, beginning spring 2014.
- Destination/historical parks, such as Ft. Ward, are planned on an individual basis.

###

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

FY 2015 Department Budget Summary

| | FY11 Actual | FY12 Actual | FY13 Actual | FY14 Approved | FY15 Proposed |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| General Fund | \$19,230,534 | \$19,387,579 | \$20,697,346 | \$21,530,916 | \$20,938,990 |
| Revenues | \$2,193,268 | \$2,485,995 | \$2,851,343 | \$2,756,193 | \$3,033,247 |
| FTE | 170.3 | 168.3 | 170.60 | 172.70 | 156.20 |

| Division | FY11 Actual | FY12 Actual | FY13 Actual | FY 14 approved | FY15 Proposed |
|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Leadership | \$1,754,952 | \$1,857,802 | \$1,827,045 | \$1,823,379 | \$1,907,228 |
| Recreation | \$8,067,487 | \$8,306,766 | \$8,558,440 | \$8,908,527 | \$8,718,859 |
| Parks | \$8,328,900 | \$9,497,232 | \$9,352,038 | \$9,828,997 | \$9,903,427 |
| Cultural | \$1,555,324 | \$1,594,783 | \$1,479,936 | \$1,495,060 | \$1,569,466 |

To reach the department FY15 target number of \$20,938,990 we made expenditure reductions of \$1,595,867 and proposed revenue increases of \$277,054. The expenditure reductions and revenue increases total more than the net change from FY14 approved and FY15 proposed. Any additions to the FY15 budget, such as increases required for salaries, benefits, contracts, supplies, internal services, and new parks required reduction offsets. Reductions in force (RIF) will affect 16.5 FTE, which equates to 27, separate individuals. Seasonal staff reductions are in addition to those for FTE positions.

RPCA Priority for Service (use of General Fund tax support)

- After school and out-of-school time programs for youth pre-K through High School, (Power Up, Power On, youth sports, camps, classes)
- Cultural and family oriented large special events including Farmer's Markets
- Opening all parks on a daily basis so the public can safely use them for their intended purpose
- Open space acquisition to include natural areas, passive parks, trails, neighborhood parks

Strategic decisions to implement priorities in FY15 budget

- Continued implementation of the Resource Allocation and Cost Recovery Policy – greater share of service cost paid for by participant.
- Greater use of contractor services for seasonal and specialty services – impacts Urban Forestry, Horticulture, School Grounds, Waterfront, and new parks.
- Decrease in general operating hours for facilities, facilities will be open when there is a need or demand, versus opening when there is little to no use.
- Increased investment in Therapeutic Recreation and focus on Nannie J. Lee and Lee Centers for this purpose.

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

- New facilities planning emphasis on revenue recovery or third party support of operating costs.
- Review of non-pay uses of facilities and development of an affiliate policy.
- Review of resident and non-resident fees and services utilization.

Specific service impacts in the City Manager's proposed FY15 budget

- Reduction of seasonal staff and overtime throughout Park Operations organization that results in reduced capacity for response to landscaping, rights-of-way maintenance, facility repairs, and other general maintenance tasks. There will be a general decrease in appearance throughout City parks and increases in response times to citizen requests.
- Contracting of services for Urban Forestry, Horticulture, School Grounds, Medians, Rights-of-Way, and new park areas opened in FY2014. The focus is on getting more work done during the main growing season. There is a seven FTE reduction impact.
- Increased contracting for Waterfront park maintenance services and continue to prepare for non-city operation in the future (if determined).
- Patrick Henry and Charles Barrett open with general operating hours during after school program time and on demand all other hours (School year hours 2 – 6pm and summer 9am – 6pm).
- Durant Center opens on demand before 5:00pm Monday through Friday and on weekends. The weekday general operating hours are 5 – 10pm.
- Shift of Durant Center seasonal staff resources to provision of an average 20 hours a week of artist contracted community programs.
- Consolidate full-time custodian from Durant Center with the roving crew for recreation centers.
- Transfer of the traditional Nannie J. Lee after school programs to the Charles Houston Center. An inclusion based after-school program will remain at Nannie J. Lee as an additional option.
- Nannie J. Lee operated by Therapeutic Recreation 9am – 6pm for therapeutic and general public programs and general public use 6 – 9pm. Weekend the center is open by program demand.
- Reduction of 26 - .3 FTE positions in Recreation Services through RIF to better match program demand and operating hours.
- Increase of 8 positions to .5 FTE in Therapeutics.
- Reduction of seasonal staff hours at marina with staffing aligned to actual boating use.
- Recommendation to close Warwick Pool and begin renovation cycle dependent on CIP funding.
- Eliminate one vacant Park Manager position and increase geographic area of the remaining four districts.
- Eliminate one vacant Administrative Support IV position at the Lee Center and maintain partial replacement with temporary services.

**CITY OF ALEXANDRIA
RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

Expansion of service – new funding

- RPCA will receive \$25,000 for partial year funding for maintenance costs of re-opening of public restrooms in the marina in conjunction with food court renovations (Blackwall Hitch restaurant).

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014

MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER

7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the March Meeting
- III. Special Guest: Mayor William D. Euille
- IV. New Adaptive Playground Funding Update
- V. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- VI. Next Meeting Date – June 9
- VII. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, May 12, 2014

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, John Timmons, Tommy Park, Donnie Simpson, Owen Malone, Beth Hamid, Laura Fries, Richard Stone, Jeff Murphy, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: William Chesley, Joe Petrella, Mac Slover

Guests: DeVon Barnett (Representative of Mayor Euille), Bill Simmons (Athletic Director, BI), Steve Colantuni (Athletic Director, TC), Bryan Hill (Boys basketball coach, TC), Bill Campbell (Alexandria School Board)

The meeting started at 6:30 to accommodate Mayor Euille's schedule, but unfortunately, he was still unable to attend. He sent DeVon Barnett as his representative.

After introductions of the attendees, Jim started the meeting by asking DeVon to address a few remarks to the Board. DeVon indicated that the Mayor was sorry about not attending – a candidates' forum came up unexpectedly and he had to be there. However, he had asked Devon to convey his thoughts about the lights situation at TC. His feeling is that the time has come to install lights at the TC football field. He wants to see a full discussion of the situation with the neighbors, the school system, and the sports community so that a reasonable solution can be reached. He anticipates that this discussion will start in September.

In response to some questions, DeVon indicated that he would contact the Mayor about what he meant by "discussions". Was that the formation of a working group? Informal meetings? Or other approaches?

The meeting then went on to discuss the sensitive issue of the new usage fees instituted by the Recreation Department. The Board didn't question the idea that fees had to be increased. The major concern was that the actual new fees had not been made public prior to issuance and in some situations, represented a 300% increase over existing fees. And this would be effective July 1, 2014.

Bill Simmons indicated that BI had been a good partner to the City over the years – donating equipment, scoreboards, etc. to offset their use of the fields. However, the City now wants \$90,000 from BI over 24 months. This is a significant increase that BI has not budgeted for. They would be happy to work with the City to increase their usage payments, but such a significant increase in a short period of time was unacceptable.

Jim also brought up the example of youth football where the fee was tripled over last year's – again without any prior notice. The City is willing to adjust that increase, but only after Jim had complained to the Mayor and several Council members.

An animated discussion followed, but the basic conclusion was that the Recreation Department needed to do a **much better** job of communication. William apologized for the lack of prior notice on the fee increases and committed the Department to do a better job in communicating in the future.

Jim asked for a couple of Board members to volunteer to help facilitate a better relationship. Tommy immediately volunteered and Jim will look for a couple of others as well.

Jim then asked Steve to introduce Bryan Hill to the group. Bryan is the new boys basketball coach at TC. There were 32 candidates applying for the position. Bryan was selected based upon his previous coaching experience at the youth, the high school, and the college levels. He gave a brief overview of his career and expressed his hope to return the TC boys team to its usual level of excellence. He also expressed an interest in working with special needs kids once he heard about the Miracle League. Bill and Laura will follow up with him on that possibility.

Jim then read a letter that he had written on behalf of the Board to the School Board. In it, he expressed the Board's support for lights at the TC football field and asked the School Board to have ACPS start the necessary actions to implement that. Four School Board members responded favorably right away. Bill Campbell from the School Board indicated that this is the right time to be doing lights – the Board and the sports community are in step on this issue.

Steve mentioned that he plans to have temporary lights at one of the home games this fall. Tentative plans are for the October 17th homecoming game. It will cost \$24,000 for that one night. He pointed out that he could have the temporary lights for 2 full months for just \$30,000, but that was not planned at this time. He too agrees that it is an appropriate time to pursue the issue, but he urged a compromise with the neighbors to avoid any legal delays.

Donnie added that all of TC's competitors have lit fields. It is a standard in Northern Virginia except for TC. The issue needs to be resolved now.

Jim summarized the discussion by saying that it may take a while, but it is worth it and the time is right. Bill Simmons added that he will ask BI parents to send written support also when appropriate.

Jim then asked for a quick summary of any issues/status:

Laura: Parking spaces are too limited at Old Town due to the school construction to be able to hold Wahoo swim meets there this summer. Some spaces are finished, but not enough. Meets will probably be at Chinquapin.

Tommy: Soccer is going well; some rain challenges, but they have seen a 15% to 20% increase in the number of players. They are up to 3,000 registered for the spring season.

Richard: Softball is improving in Alexandria. Several of the Rec Department players have moved up to T. C. and the effects are showing. T. C. usually wins only 1 or 2 games a year. They are already at 5 wins so far.

Steve agreed about the softball and added that the boys' soccer team and the Track team were doing very well also this season.

Bill gave an update on the accessible playground project. To date, just over \$80,000 of the \$90,000 needed has been raised. The combined effort of the Miracle League and the Kelley Cares Foundation should be able to reach the goal by June. He again thanked CVS Caremark for starting the effort with a donation of \$25,000. Beth ended the discussion by pledging \$1,000 from the Lacrosse Club to the playground project.

Regarding aquatics, Bill indicated that the first phase of the Chinquapin Feasibility Study has been completed and will be presented to City Council on the 13th and to the Park and Recreation Commission on the 15th. The consultant will be recommending that a 50-meter pool can fit at Chinquapin and that the City should continue to work towards that end.

Mac notified the Board members that the Miracle League games are being held on Friday nights (youth) and Saturday afternoons (adults) this season. Good turnout and a lot of fun. He also mentioned that the Miracle Field is now being used 7 days a week because youth T-ball and coach pitch games are scheduled there along with some senior exercise classes.

Steve recommended at the end of the meeting that the City consider putting artificial turf on the Booth fields.

Jim then adjourned the meeting.