YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2011
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. Welcome

II. Review of the Summary Notes from the June Meeting

III. YSAB Sub-Committee Summary Report

IV. Other Field Construction/Renovation Updates
- A. Witter Fields
- B. Potomac Yard Fields
- C. George Mason Field

V. Update on Youth Sports Programs
- A. Miracle Baseball League Opening Day – September 17
- B. Field Hockey Program
- C. Rugby Youth Program
- D. Wahoo Swim Team
- E. Titan Football Program
- F. Other Program Updates

VI. Review of Francis Hammond Lights
- A. Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing
- B. City Council Public Hearing
- C. Construction Timeline

VII. Next Meeting Date – October (TBD)

VIII. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, September 12, 2011

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Jeff Murphy, Brian McPherson, Bob Moir, Eva Shea, Kwinton Brown, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: William Chesley and Mac Slover

Jim started the meeting by welcoming the Board members back after the summer break. He asked the members to think about where we want to go as a body. We have done fields and lights very well, but we should be doing more. Items Jim covered were:

- Identify best practices
- Look for process improvement
- Be advocates for the kids
- Track what our kids do to see how we can improve

Jim then asked the Board members to review the June minutes. Based upon the review, no changes were needed.

In addition, Jim described the First Responders Ceremony held at T. C. on Sunday. The crowd honored the various groups of first responders from Alexandria and then a series of controlled scrimmages were held between Alexandria and Arlington youth football teams. Alexandria was awarded the First Responders trophy for winning the majority of the scrimmages.

John was absent so Bill represented the Field sub-committee and described the status of the Miracle League and the Miracle Field. Summary points were:

- A lot has happened over the summer.
- The Miracle League of Alexandria (MLA) was formed to oversee the fund raising efforts for a Miracle Field.
- A MOU has been signed between Kelley Cares and the MLA so that MLA can use the tax-exempt status of Kelley Cares during the fund raising.
- We will be starting a fall season for the Miracle League.
- That will coincide with an intensive fund raising effort this fall.
- To date, cash on hand and pledges total about $61,000 of the $135,000 needed.
- The Washington Nationals will be hosting an "Alexandria Day" on Saturday, September 24th in cooperation with the MLA and Alexandria Little League.

Mac added that the Miracle League season opener would be at 1:00 on Saturday, September 17th at the Lee Center. Games would run through the end of October.

Mac then introduced Kwinton as the Assistant Athletic Director of Bishop Ireton High School and that he was representing Bill Simmons at the meeting. Kwinton described his background with an emphasis on his local roots. He had played in the Rec football program and had graduated from BI.

Mac then gave a fields update:

- Roth-Witter
  - Construction has been delayed about 10 days due to rain.
  - The site will open in stages.
  - Spring for the rectangular fields.
  - Fall for the softball field.
- Potomac Yards
  - The City has not accepted the fields from the developer.
  - The City will continue to use the old soccer fields until the new fields are accepted.
  - There will have to be a SUP for netting between the new fields and the new road next to Route 1.
  - Fields may be ready by next spring.
- Simpson Fields:
  - New lights have been put in.
  - Nets will be placed between the baseball fields and the new soccer fields.
  - The storage building near the dog park will be torn down by October 1st and replaced by next summer.
  - Little League needs to see if they need to move anything out of the building.
  - The City will put in Porta-Johns during the construction period. They will probably have to be locked when the fields are not in use.
- George Mason:
  - Only part of the field is available.
  - Essentially one out of the two fields will be available to soccer this season.
- Hammond:
  - Board of Zoning Appeals hearing on October 11th.
  - Council vote the following month if approved.
  - Field construction timetable is for next summer. ACPS is out for bids again.

Bob wanted to add some information from a recent Park and Recreation Commission meeting. The Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA) is under an order to redo their facility just off Eisenhower Avenue. They will rebuild their treatment tanks and cover them. The plan now is that an artificial turf field will be built on top of that cover. It will be a rectangular field with lights – can accommodate adult games as well as youth games. The field is expected to be completed within a year from now.

Jim then added an observation that Alexandria is closing the gap with Arlington in terms of field conditions. While they have more turf fields, our other fields seem to be better than their non-turf fields.

Jim then asked each Board member to report on their sports:

Brian (Little League):

- 270 kids registered for their fall league; they have shut off registration.
- Everything seems to be going well.
- They are okay with coaches.

Jeff (Rugby):

- The Alexandria Under 17 tackle team made it to the semi-finals of the state tournament.
- It is currently the off-season for the T. C. team.
- The World Cup is currently going on.

Eva (Lacrosse):

- A lot of interest in their Fall Clinic.
- They will be conducting a Girls Lacrosse program after school at Hammond and GW. Can't do a boys program because of insurance requirements (boys would be considered as a contact sport)
- Alexandria Lacrosse will be providing the equipment and the coaches.
- They have increased their scholarship funds available for the spring season.

Kwinton (Bishop Ireton):

- They held their first field hokey games recently.
- Their football team is currently 2 and 0 – off to a good start.
- At Jim's request, Kwinton will research how many of the BI players came out of the Alexandria Rec Leagues.

Bob (Park and Recreation Commission):

- Already covered his news about the new turf field at ASA.

William (ADRPCA):

- Due to budget constraints, they are looking for dollars for the youth basketball program.
- It is the most staff intensive sport and costs the most in staff dollars.

- They are considering a reduction in the number of games from 8 to 6 to cover the budget shortfall.
- Mac said they would have a better feel for it in October. He'll keep the Board up to date.

Jim (Football):

- Season starts this weekend.
- They have had 2 weeks of scrimmages.
- Due to concern over getting new coaches, they are "buddying" up older coaches with new ones to help them out.
- All their games will be at G. W.
- There will be 10 teams with a 7 game schedule.

Mac (Rec Dept. Sports):

- Miracle League
  - Reminded Members that all games are at 1:00 on Saturdays at the Lee Center.
  - Looking to have 30 to 35 participants.
  - Distributing registration forms through the Office of Special Education at the schools. A Spanish version has been distributed as well.

- Field Hockey
  - Finished at the end of July.
  - Went from 112 kids last year to 201 kids this year.
  - 16 teams.
  - Coaches were from TC; BI; and St. Stephens/St. Agnes.
  - Good experience for the kids.

- Youth Rugby
  - 130 kids participating.
  - At GW on Saturdays during the summer.
  - Helped condition some of the kids for football.

- Swimming
  - First wining season in at least 10 years.
  - 135 kids participating.
  - It has been a huge success. Dennis is the head coach and deserves a lot of the credit.

- Volleyball
  - Just getting ready to start.
  - 160 kids – up about 30 from last year.

- Adult Sports
  - Marvin and Mac with reps from Ultimate Frisbee.
  - Plan on an adult program; may expand to youth or provide clinics if it does well.
  - It will be held at GW.
  - Possible clinics would be next summer.

Jim then added that ACPS is planning more intramural sports for after school. He'd like to see more youth sports input rather than just school input. He'll keep us posted.

Due to the holiday on October 11th, the next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 12th.

Action Items:

- Mac will keep the Board posted about the funding concerns and their impact on the youth basketball program.
- Kwinton will research the number of BI players that also played in the Alexandria Rec leagues.
- Alexandria Little league will check the building at Simpson to see if they need to move anything.
- Jim will keep the Board posted on the development of intramural sports at the Middle Schools.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2011
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. Welcome

II. Review of the Summary Notes from the October Meeting

III. Review of Francis Hammond Lights
   A. Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing

IV. YSAB Sub-Committee Summary Report

IV. Other Field Construction/Renovation Updates
   A. Witter Fields
   B. Potomac Yard Fields
   C. George Mason Field

V. Update on Youth Sports Programs
   A. Miracle Baseball League
   B. Titan Tackle Football Program
   C. Lil' Titans Flag Football Program
   D. Girls Volleyball Program
   E. Other Fall Program Updates

VII. Next Meeting Date – November 8

VIII. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, October 11, 2011

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Dennis Burstein, Jeff Murphy, Brian McPherson, Bob Moir, Eva Shea, John Timmons, Bill Rivers

Staff member present: Mac Slover

Guest: Dana Wedeles (DRPCA –Planning staff)

Jim started the meeting by asking members to review the minutes from the September meeting. No changes were requested.

Jim then introduced Dana Wedeles from the Planning staff who gave a presentation on the recent Needs Assessment Survey conducted by DRPCA. It was a randomly selected, statistically valid survey of all demographic groups throughout the City and reflected both what the respondents felt they needed and what they felt was being provided. The results are available on the City's website and Mac will e-mail a copy to all Board members. Among the many findings, it showed that certain groups had a high need for recreational sports and that while much of the youth sports need was being met, there was a definite shortfall in meeting adult sports needs.

The study would now be presented internally to the DRPCA, then to the Park and Recreation Commission, the Arts Commission, individual Recreation Centers, and ultimately to the City Council in a December work session.

The Board then discussed the situation regarding the Hammond SUP. The Board of Zoning Appeals will have a hearing on the 13th. Normally those are not open for public comment, but the Board has decided to allow such comments in this case. Bill will research the speaker's forms and get back to the members on Wednesday.

Jim mentioned that a group of 6 neighbors were going to meet and discuss the issue. Their goal would be to try to lower the emotional level involved from both sides and see what can be worked out between the groups. He will keep the Board posted.

Bill then briefed the group on the Miracle Field status. Highlights were:

- There was an Alexandria Day on September 24th at Nationals Park to highlight the Miracle Field effort.
- A group of supporters met with Vice Mayor Donley to post him on the status of the efforts.
- The Fall fund raising season has started and will run through November 15th.

- There will be a Spring fund raising effort from March 15th until May 1st.
- The SUP for the lights at the field is being submitted now. Planning Commission in November and City Council in December for votes.

Jim mentioned that he is working with some potential donors and will keep us posted.

Mac then gave a summary of the field situations:

- Roth-Witter
  - Little behind due to the rains.
  - Should be late May for the rectangular fields.
  - Softball field will be completed later.
  - Rectangular fields will be lined for soccer, lacrosse, and field hockey.
- Potomac Yards
  - City rejected the fields until a checklist of faults can be corrected.
  - Probably available for use next spring.
- George Mason
  - New grass was planted, but doesn't seem to be growing in well.
  - Soccer is using the available space for 2 U-8 fields.

Mac then transitioned into the sports update for his activities:

- Miracle League
  - 22-25 players average at games.
  - Played October 1st indoors at GW.
  - Great volunteers this year – so many that we are turning some away until next spring.
- Flag Football
  - 5 teams
  - Play on Saturdays at G. W. starting at 12:00.
  - Returning kids showed that they had learned a lot from the previous season.
- Volleyball
  - Registration is growing again.
  - 16 teams; 160 girls.
  - Just started last week.
  - Championship to be held at T. C. at end of season.
  - Good rapport with T. C. coaches.
- Basketball
  - Clinics will start in November.
  - Regular season practice will start at end of November/beginning of December.
- Bishop Ireton
  - Started a field hockey program this fall.
  - One of the Rec coaches is at BI – things are going well with the new team.

Jim then gave an update on football and asked others about their sports:

- Jim (Football)
  - 4 games into the season already.
  - The older kids are doing very well.
  - Younger kids are struggling some – shows the need for more experienced coaches at the younger age levels.
  - The program is running smoothly – much thanks to Tamika for her efforts.
  - Booster Club also doing well.

- Eva (Lacrosse)
  - Fall clinics are doing great.

- Brian (Alexandria Little League)
  - TC coaches are doing clinics for the ALL coaches. Help point out what they look for at the high school level.

- Jeff (Rugby)
  - World Cup going on now.
  - Also, the Sportsmen's Club will be hosting its Redskins Night next Tuesday.
  - Also Hard Times Chili night.
  - He also strongly recommended that anyone who could attend the Parent teaching course (PTLI) – really helpful for parents to learn how to deal with situations.

- Bob (Park and Recreation Commission)
  - Alerted the Board that as part of the Beauregard Corridor re-design, there will be a new firehouse placed adjacent to Ramsey and that one of the fields will become an artificial turf field.
  - On Lacrosse, there will be college games this weekend as part of the Battle against Parkinson's Disease. He will e-mail Mac with the game times.
  - Games will be at Episcopal and there will be kid games between the college games.

- John (Soccer)
  - Program keeps growing. Over 2,000 kids in the fall season.
  - They have a new Executive Director – Tommy Parks – had been with DC United.
  - Alexandria teams showed well at the recent Columbus Day weekend tournaments.

- Bill (basketball)
  - Getting ready for the winter season.
  - Expressed concern over the lights at Ewald; some broken or turned to face the playing filed.

- At Mac's suggestion, Bill will e-mail Jack Browand at DRPCA about the situation.

Jim then told the Board about a private sector group that wanted to recognize volunteer coaches. He asked the sports representatives to select a coach from their sport and provide a short bio on him/her. He will also e-mail some more info to the Board on the effort.

Mac distributed a handout about the "Safe Places" program by the City. This is where the Recreation Centers and local firehouses will be designated as safe places for any kid to go with a problem. Ann Redfern is the point of contact if there are any questions.

Dennis suggested that all of the high school sporting events should be announced at all of the City schools – not just TC, GW, and Hammond.

Jim closed the meeting by stating that the next meeting would be on November 7th.

Action Items:

- Bill will research about speaking before the BZA and get back to the Board.
- Jim will keep the Board posted on the local neighborhood meetings about Hammond.
- Jim will keep us informed about some potential donors that he is working with regarding the Miracle Field.
- Bill will e-mail Jack Browand about the lights at Ewald.
- Each sports representative is to name one coach to be recognized from his or her sport. Jim will send some more info out about the program.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER
7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. Welcome

II. Review of the Summary Notes from the October Meeting

III. Review of Francis Hammond Lights
- A. Review of Board of Zoning Appeals Hearing
- B. Upcoming City Council Hearing

IV. YSAB Sub-Committee Summary Report

IV. Other Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
- A. Witter Fields
- B. Potomac Yard Fields
- C. Montgomery Tennis Courts
- D. Ewald Basketball Court

V. Update on Youth Sports Programs
- A. Titan Tackle Football Program & Awards Program
- B. Lil' Titans Flag Football Program
- D. Girls Volleyball Program
- E. Winter Basketball Programs

VII. Next Meeting Date – December 12

VIII. Adjournment

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, November 14, 2011

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Dennis Burstein, Jeff Murphy, Richard Stone, Laura Fries, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: William Chesley, Mac Slover

Jim started the meeting by stating that he had to leave early for a T. C. basketball meeting, but wanted to cover some subjects before he departed. He also asked members to review the minutes from the October meeting. No changes were requested.

Jim then described the annual meeting of the Seminary Hills Association that he attended the week before. They are still adamantly opposed to the lights at Hammond. They plan to file a lawsuit to keep the City from taking action on the lights. Jim did note that the City would be doing an independent study on whether the proposed lights would impact the housing values in the area. He is still hopeful that some of the neighbors can get together and defuse the situation, but it will require a lot of work. Dennis, as a neighbor to the field, said that he had heard concerns about unrestricted use of the field if lights were installed. Mac assured him that the Rec Department would have a staff member present for all adult night games. Also there would be a fence around the field limiting who could use the field.

Jim wrapped up that discussion by noting that there is still a concern in the SHA about lights ultimately being put in at T. C. The Hammond situation could provide a precedent if the lights are installed there. Dennis mentioned that he had heard that Pennsylvania was using portable lights for their night games. It was cheaper than buying and installing the lights.

Jim then brought up a couple of other items:

- Football:
  - 5 of the 10 Alexandria teams made the playoffs.
  - 3 of those teams won the championship.
  - Tamika did a great job organizing and supporting the league.
  - Alexandria hosted 4 championship games this season at T. C.
    - Good turnout at the games.
    - Field in excellent shape.
  - Award program on Sunday, December 4th at T. C.
  - Very pleased with the level of coaching this year.
  - He also noted that the flag football program run by the City for younger kids was providing a nice pipeline of players to the tackle program.

- Basketball representative:
  - Jim announced that Bill Rivers was resigning from being the basketball representative to the Board.
  - Bill has retired from coaching due to some medical issues.
  - However, he will continue on the Board as a representative of the Miracle Field project.
  - Jim was very kind in thanking Bill for his service.

- Next meeting will be on December 12th.

- Jim also asked Board members to become a sponsor for the girls' basketball team by contributing a total of $100.

Jim had to leave at this point, so Bill ran the rest of the meeting. He asked each person to report on their sport.

Dennis (ACPS):

- 50 G. W. kids went to FEDEX field to participate with the Redskins on physical fitness activities. Kids had a great time.
- ACPS also provided training for nurses and social workers so they could help kids out in instances of things such as sexual abuse or bullying.
- William noted that Rec Department is committed to the program called "Safe Places". All Rec centers will provide a haven to kids having problems, including runaways, victims of sexual abuse or bullying, etc.

Mac (Various):

- Field status:
  - Roth Witter
    - Roads are being laid out. You can see the shape of the fields coming into existence.
    - Rectangular fields will be ready for the spring season.
    - The softball field will be ready in the spring of 2013 – need to let the grass grow in.
    - Bishop Ireton is donating 2 scoreboards for the rectangular fields.
  - Potomac Yards
    - City will be taking control of the new fields as of November 15th.
    - Will be able to use them next spring.
    - Fields have very good drainage.
    - Old field space being returned to the developer.
  - Little Simpson:
    - New netting is going in between the field and the new rectangular fields to keep balls from crossing over.
  - Montgomery Tennis Courts:
    - New lights have been put in there.
    - However a sinkhole has developed since the earthquake.

- Ewald:
  - Bill complimented the Rec Department on fixing the broken lights at the Ewald basketball courts so quickly.

- Volleyball:
  - 160 girls participated; 16 teams.
  - Playoffs will be starting soon; the championship game will be at T. C. on December 16th.
- Cheerleading:
  - An Invitational competition will be held at T. C. on December 17th.
  - Outside groups are being allowed to participate; 22 groups from the City and outside have signed up.
- Basketball:
  - Deadline for registration is November 15th.
  - The on-line registration system is working well.
  - They expect about 1,000 kids and 105 teams.
  - The season will start on January 7th.
  - There will be an 8 game schedule this year. They were able to move some money around within the Department to cover the game costs.

Richard (Girls Softball):

- The City had three teams participate in a fall league with Arlington County.
- They had a team in all three divisions; about 45 kids participated.
- The T. C. coaches came to some of the practices as well.

William (Rec Department):

- He described the tight budget situation facing the various City organizations.
- We should expect fee increases in our programs.
- The Rec Department faces a possible budget cut of $526,000.
- There will be fee hikes in other Rec Department programs as well – such as the after school care one.
- They will bring the proposed fee schedules to the Board when they are developed.

Laura (Swimming):

- She indicated that the citizens would look for better pool conditions if the fees increase.
- She then described the situation with the Aquatic Master Plan developed by a City consultant. In effect, the plan is being delayed due to the substantial capital dollars needed to implement all of the improvements.
- There needs to be a lobbying effort to get the pool situation improved.
- William noted that there needs to be visible public support for pool improvements. There is an advisory group being created for the swimming community at Chinquapin.
- Bill noted that he and Laura would be meeting with Jim Spengler early in December to discuss the situation and would report back to the Board.

Jeff (Rugby):

- T. C. has a hard time scheduling games in northern Virginia since it is the only local high school to have teams. Accordingly, they will play next season in the Metro DC League, which consists of the top private and public schools in the entire area.
- There will be three "7 on 7" tournaments in the November/December timeframe.
- Regular sized squads will play in the springtime.
- The T. C. team will be playing in the "Ambassador" series of games at Trinity University. Several levels of rugby will be participating from youth to adults.
- There are about 100 kids participating in rugby at T. C. now.
- They are doing an MOU with the school to better define the relationship since they are still self-funded.

Bill (Miracle Field):

- Noted that we are in the Fall fund raising season.
- $44,000 in the bank and pledges for another $30,000 from Kelley Cares.
- Donnie donated $5,000 and the Alexandria Youth Sports Foundation contributed another $5,000.
- There was a nice article in the Gazette in October about the Miracle League and Jack Taylor's donation of $20,000.
- He also noted that he spoke at the City Council hearing on the proposed 2013 CIP and budget.
- The Miracle League of Alexandria will be meeting on November 16th to discuss the status of the effort. It looks like we are on target for our goal of $135,000 by May 2012.

Mac added at the end of the meeting that the Department is re-looking at adult sports in the City. They are now adding Pickle Ball as a sport and will be considering other new sports to draw in more adult participants.

They also recently recognized their volunteers with the "Extra Mile Day". Mac passed on his and the Department's thanks for all that the Board members do for sports in the City.

Jeff reminded everyone that there would be an Army/Navy night at the Sportsmen's Club on the 15th. The local 75 pound youth football team would also be honored at the event.

Bill ended the meeting with a reminder that the next meeting would be on December 12th.

Action Items:

- William committed to bringing the new fee schedules to the Board when they are developed.
- Bill and Laura will report back to the Board about their meeting with Jim Spengler in early December.

YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, December 12, 2011

Summary Notes

Board members present: Jim Gibson, Richard Stone, Laura Fries, Eva Shea, John LaValle, Bill Rivers

Staff members present: William Chesley, Mac Slover

Guest: Jim Spengler (Director, ADRPCA)

Jim G. started the meeting by thanking the Board members for their service over the past year. Their work has helped make Alexandria a better place for kids to enjoy recreation. Along with his personal thanks, he also stated that the City had expressed its gratitude to the Board as well. Recognizing that many of the Board members are also coaches, he thanked them as well for their help with the kids through their coaching.

He also thanked Mac for bringing some holiday treats to the meeting.

Members were to get back to Bill with any changes to the November minutes.

At that point, he asked Jim Spengler to bring the Board up to date on the status of the lights at Hammond.

Jim S. started by saying that his department had just been briefed by the ACPS regarding the latest events involving Hammond. ACPS staff had been tasked by the Superintendent to review the situation at Hammond and offer alternatives. The staff did that and came up with four different options:

1. Install an artificial turf field with a full track now and then the lights after approval. Concern for this option was mainly that the project would be over the budget and the light situation could drag on.

2. Install an artificial turf field and the full track, but no lights. Lowers the cost, but still above the budgeted amount. Also doesn't maximize the potential for the field.

3. Install an artificial turf field, but with a modified track so that construction costs would be reduced (eliminating the need to alter bus lanes to accommodate the full track would reduce costs). Just somewhat over the budgeted amount.

4. No artificial turf field – use the funding to install three grass fields (Upper Hammond, Lower Hammond, and the practice field at T. C.). That could all be done within the budget and would actually free up some money for other projects that the ACPS hasn't

been able to fund. It did indicate that annual maintenance costs would be more because of the upkeep needed for grass fields.

Jim S. reported that the ACPS staff favored Option 4, which would eliminate the possibility of an artificial turf field. If the School Board selected option 4, it would probably need to be approved by City Council since it would be a major change to the already approved CIP.

These options will be presented to the School Board on Wednesday in a working session. While the public won't be allowed to speak during the meeting, Board members decided that they could contact the Superintendent and the School Board members privately beforehand to express their concerns.

After an intense discussion, Jim G. summed up the Board's feelings by saying that option 4 is just not acceptable. Doing the grass fields does not increase field usage any and just creates maintenance problems down the line. Jim will see about contacting Superintendent Sherman on Tuesday and will also see about a letter expressing the Board's position that an artificial turf field and lights are crucial for the best interests of the City. He also encouraged each sport to send a letter or message saying the same thing to the appropriate parties.

Jim S. also briefed the Board on another issue developing on Hammond. The City Attorney seems likely to decide that the Planning Department made some technical errors during the Hammond process (mostly involving the need to do a site plan) and that may necessitate that the whole lights process has to start over again. More information will be provided as that situation develops.

Jim G. then asked the members to brief the Board on their sports' activities since the last meeting.

Mac started by briefing the members on the status of fields in the City:

- Roth-Witter:
  - The fields are starting to take shape now.
  - However, weather delays mean that the rectangular fields will not be ready for the spring season. They should be available starting in the summer.
  - The softball field will follow due to the need to have the grass take root.
- Potomac Yards:
  - Old fields have been replaced by housing construction now.
  - New fields should be available starting in March.
- Montgomery Tennis Courts:
  - Sinkhole is being fixed now.
- Simpson Field:
  - The old bathrooms are being taken out and will be replaced with a new bathroom structure.
  - Should be done during the summer.

- Mac is meeting with each of the spring sports individually to schedule field usage for the upcoming season.
    - Jim G. asked Mac how well the field needs were being met. Mac indicated that things were okay, even though the Witter delay was putting a strain on the programs.
    - Jim did state that the football program was very satisfied with the fields at G.W.

Mac (various):

- Just for information purposes, the City will be focusing attention on adult sports and trying to bring them up to the level of youth sports.
- Basketball:
    - About 1,000 kids playing with 108 teams – increase over last year.
    - The on-line registration process has worked well this year.
    - Season starts on January 7th.
    - The T. C. girls coach – Keisha Walton – held a clinic for youth coaches this past Saturday.
    - There will be a picture night on December 22nd with the T. C. girls' basketball team, starting at 6:00.
- Volleyball:
    - Championship games will be at T. C. again.
    - Games start at 6:30 and 7:30 this Friday.
- Cheerleading:
    - Invitational will be held on the 17th at T. C. starting at 11:00.
    - A number of outside teams will be joining local Rec Center teams at the event.
- Soccer:
    - Indoor soccer will be held for 7 and 8 year olds this winter.
    - Will be using the Mount Vernon Rec Center on Sundays.
    - Will alternate instructions with games.
    - Doing it in cooperation with the Alexandria Soccer Association.
- Park usage:
    - Will be allowing open use of the turf field at Ben Brenman on Tuesday and Thursday nights during the winter – part of the Rock Your Park program.
- Pickleball:
    - There will be a Seniors' Pickleball League this winter.
    - At Charles Houston on Fridays in January and February.

Bill (Miracle Field):

- The Fall Fund Raising season is closed now. We have about $75,000 in cash and pledges so far.
- Will start the Spring Fund Raising season in February.

- While the fund raising season has closed, we are continuing to send out grant applications and donation requests to many national sporting goods companies.

Jim wrapped up the meeting with several comments:

- He reminded everyone that the Football Awards Program will be held on December 4th. T. C.'s interim coach – Avery Williams – will be there.
- Jim wants to explore how to recognize the good coaches in our programs. Maybe some type of reward program.
- He also mentioned that he is exploring efforts to recognize outstanding athletes in the various programs. He has talked to the youth programs separately and all favor it except for Little League (who didn't want to single out just one player among all the participants). He will work on developing criteria for selection and will bring the issue back to the Board for its consideration at a future meeting.
- Richard echoed Jim's position that leadership and outstanding effort should be recognized. This is particularly helpful for those students going on to college in terms of building an impressive resume.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting will be January 9th.

Action Items:

- Jim G. will contact Superintendent Sherman to express the Board's position about the Hammond field and lights. He will see about a letter from the Board on the issue.
- Jim also encouraged individual sports to send messages to the appropriate parties about the Hammond situation.
- The City will provide more information about the possible re-doing of the lights process due to the City Attorney's opinion.
- Jim will work on criteria to recognize outstanding athletes in each youth sports program and bring the issue back to the Board in the future.