

# YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013  
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER  
7:00 P.M.

## AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the December Meeting
- III. Greenplay Cost Recovery Project Summary Report
- IV. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- V. Review of “Good Sports” Fest 2013 – January 13
- VI. Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
  - A. Miracle Field Mural Project
  - B. Witter Fields Opening
  - C. Jefferson Houston Project
  - D. Beauregard Small Area Plan
  - E. Upper Hammond Field
  - F. Big Simpson Lights/Restrooms
  - G. Braddock Community Park Plan
  - H. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts
- VII. Update on Youth Sports Programs
  - A. Girls Volleyball Season – Championship Games
  - B. Baseball/Softball Season Registration Began – December 1
  - C. Cheerleading Invitational – December 15 @ TC Williams
  - D. Winter Basketball League
  - E. Winter Kickers Indoor Soccer
- VIII. Other
- IX. Next Meeting Date – February 11
- X. Adjournment

## YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, January 14, 2013

### Summary Notes

**Board members present:** Jim Gibson, Laura Fries, Dennis Burstein, Steve Cann, Terri Belcher, Jeff Murphy, Sterling Gilliam, John Timmons, Donnie Simpson, Bob Moir, Beth Hamid, Bill Rivers

**Staff member present:** Mac Slover

**Guest:** David Miller (ADRPCA)

Jim opened the meeting by asking members to review the December minutes and alert he or Bill of any changes needed. He then asked David to give a briefing about the proposed Greenplay Approach to Cost Recovery.

David explained the pyramid of use/budget allocation/benefit that Greenplay would recommend for City residents. The 5 levels will each have a different cost recovery factor. For example, for non-monitored park usage, there would be 0% recovery; for monitored park usage by affiliates, there would be a 20% cost recovery. The recovery increases with the level of the pyramid until you get to 175% cost recovery on activities that generally have individual benefits. In this set of examples, most youth sports organizations – like ALL and ASA – would be considered an affiliate at the 20% cost recovery.

The approach will be presented to Council in February or March. There will be a fee assistance program for those who need assistance.

Dennis raised the issue that Chinguapin was now charging T. C for pool usage during swimming practice. He contends that there was an agreement not to charge such fees forever. David and he will look into the background of any agreement.

Mac added that new sports that are added have to be at the 100% cost recovery level.

Donnie recommended that David provide a comparison between the current fee structure and what the proposed one would be under the Greenplay approach. David will share those numbers with the Board.

Any questions that come up after the meeting can be sent to Mac.

Bill then gave an overview of the Aquatics effort. The new organization – Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics – will be meeting with the appropriate City officials, the Mayor, and

the rest of City Council to lobby for dollars to be included in the next CIP for new pools at Chinquapin, Old Town, and the Lee Center (a therapeutic pool) and a spray ground at Warwick. This will be a multiyear project and will involve raising several million dollars from the private sector to offset a portion of the costs.

Mac then gave a summary of his items:

- Sportsfest:
  - Went well but needs a bigger turnout from kids/parents.
  - Looking for feedback.
  - Dennis recommended alerting the PTSA's of the next one.
- Mural at the Miracle Field:
  - Awaiting a decision by General Services about attaching the proposed mural to the support building.
- Roth-Witter:
  - Opening in two weeks.
  - Waiting on a decision about generating new parking along the adjacent road by making the flow one way.
- Hammond:
  - Field is complete.
  - ACPS just awaiting clearance to take over.
- Simpson:
  - The fittings for the new light poles are in the ground now. Ready to start putting in the lights.
  - Restrooms are done. Should be open by February.
- T. C. Tennis Courts:
  - The SUP for the lights is going to the Planning Commission.
  - No opposition is anticipated.
- Volleyball:
  - Championships will be at Bishop Ireton.
  - 2 Rec players were honored at the Sportsmens Club.

- Baseball/Softball:
  - Registration for the spring has started.
- Cheerleading:
  - The Invitational went well.
  - 22 teams attended.
  - T. C.'s gym was packed for it.
  - Bill complimented the Rec Department for how well it was run.
- Winter Kickers soccer program:
  - Started on January 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - So popular that two sites are needed now: Patrick Henry and Mount Vernon.
- Basketball:
  - Largest program ever for basketball.
  - 1,062 players; 115 teams.
- Adult Sports:
  - Trying to re-do how adult sports is done in Alexandria.
  - Will look for more co-ed teams.
  - An adult winter soccer league will end by January 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Looking to do a co-ed wiffle ball league at the Miracle Field; Wednesday nights or on the weekend.
- Winter Open houses:
  - They will be held at Brenman. It was the most heavily attended of the fields previously used so it will be the one used now.

Jim then discussed our interaction with the Council and the School Board. There had been meetings with several of the candidates prior to the last election and those who won are interested in meeting with the YSAB to discuss youth sports. He anticipates that there will be 2 elected officials at a single meeting and said that we can pose questions ahead of time. He asked Mac to provide summary notes of his activities when the officials are here so we can spend most of the time talking to them.

Jim also said that he wanted the Board to discuss recognition programs at the next Board meeting. Possibly in conjunction with activities like the Sportsmens Club and Fairfax Youth Football. Also wanted to address recognizing coaches as well. Bob suggested recommending them for the Park and Recreation awards at the City Birthday event.

Jeff wanted to remind people that the next Sportsmens Club meeting will be on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. He also recommended that members attend any of the Youth and Family meetings coming up. He ended by relaying the good news that T. C. will provide at least partial funding for the high school rugby team.

Jim summarized that we needed to make sure that we follow up on three items: the pool usage charge at Chinguapin; the implementation of the Greenplay approach; and a community outreach program that Dominion wants to extend that could help out youth sports.

The meeting was adjourned with the next meeting to be February 11, 2013.

**Actions Needed:**

- Explore the pool usage fee charged to the T. C. swim and dive team.
- David will provide a comparison of current fees to Greenplay fees.
- Jim will coordinate Council/School Board officials attending YSAB meetings.
- Discuss recognition programs at the next meeting.
- Follow up on a Dominion Outreach Program.

# YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013  
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER  
7:00 P.M.

## AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the January Meeting
- III. Community Feedback on Parks Study – Dana Wedeles, Park Planner (Simpson, Holmes Run, Chinquapin and Four Mile Run Parks)
- IV. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- V. Alexandria Board and Commission Vacancies
- VI. Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
  - A. Witter Fields Opening
  - B. Jefferson Houston Project
  - C. Upper Hammond Field
  - D. Big Simpson Lights/Restrooms
  - E. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts
  - F. Miracle Field Mural Project
- VII. Update on Youth Sports Programs
  - A. Winter Basketball League
  - B. Winter Kickers Indoor Soccer
  - C. MARPSA Awards Program
  - D. “Good Sports” Fest 2013
- VIII. Roundtable Updates
- IX. Other
- X. Next Meeting Date – March 11
- XI. Adjournment

## YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, February 11, 2013

### Summary Notes

**Board members present:** Jim Gibson, Laura Fries, Dennis Burstein, Terri Belcher, Jeff Murphy, Sterling Gilliam, John Timmons, Brian McPherson, Bill Rivers

**Staff member present:** Mac Slover

**Guests:** Jim Spengler, Director Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities (DRPCA) and Dana Weddles (DRPCA)

Jim opened the meeting by indicating that we would not have Council or School Board members here tonight so more time would be freed up for the Parks discussion led by Dana Weddles. Before asking Dana to start, he asked Board members to let he or Bill know if any changes were needed to the January Board minutes.

Dana has been the coordinator of the City's efforts to evaluate the six largest parks in the City and determine what they were currently used for and what did people see as to future uses at the parks. She will e-mail the presentation to the Board members as well as discussing highlights tonight:

- Covers the six largest parks: Chinquapin, Simpson, Brenman/Boothe, Holmes Run, Four Mile Run, and Hensley Parks.
- All have seen some progressive improvements over recent years, but the study wanted to define where the individual Parks should be in future years.
- Study started in the spring of 2012.
- Based upon observations by City staff (current uses) and completed survey by citizens and users of the parks.
- Non-scientific as it relies on what has been submitted.
- Highlights a lot of passive uses of the parks: biking, walking, hiking, nature observations, etc.
- Also shows that gardening plots are a significant concern for many.
- Few youth sports people completed the surveys.
- The results will be compiled and there will be further workshops in the spring to discuss future uses.
- It is anticipated that final recommendations will be done in July 2013.
- Overall, it was very interesting presentation of what is going on in our parks. Dana did her usual good job in presenting the subject matter and answering questions.

At the conclusion of Dana's presentation, Bill and Jim both emphasized that the various youth sports should be present at the spring workshops so that they are better represented in the final results of the study.

Jim then asked Bill to bring the group up to date on the Aquatics situation.

Bill first mentioned two items about the Miracle League and then covered the Aquatics:

- Miracle League
  - Wrap up meeting with the City was held – some minor items that Donnie will complete and then the Field will be formally transferred to the City.
  - The Miracle League of Alexandria decided to continue helping the City run the actual Miracle League for another year. This season will feature opening the Field to more users from both inside and outside the City.
- Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics
  - Positive meeting with the Mayor in January.
  - Also met with John Porter about use of non-profits under the ACT umbrella.
  - Meetings scheduled with 5 Council members about the FY 2014 budget (waiting to set up the sixth meeting).
  - Will be recruiting for more members in AAA at Chinquapin shortly.

Mac then gave an update on the Fields:

- Roth-Witter
  - Opens next Tuesday.
  - He'll meet with the individual sports then for more discussion about usage.
  - Both Lacrosse and Soccer will be using the Field this spring.
  - Grand Opening sometime in April.
  - The surrounding road will be made one way in order to open up some more parking spots along the road.
- Jefferson-Houston
  - Now in the design phase.
  - Laura expressed a concern over no special needs classrooms. Dana indicated that she would check on that (she sent an e-mail the next day to indicate that there were indeed special classrooms being planned).
- Upper Hammond
  - Also opens next week.
  - T.C. will be using it for practice.
  - The walking path is receiving good usage by the neighbors.
- Big Simpson
  - Waiting on Dominion Power to get the new lights turned on.
  - Jim asked if the City had contacted the Community Relations person for Dominion. He'll resend the name to the City.
  - The new restrooms are just waiting on the keys being turned over.

- T. C. Tennis Courts – no update.
- Miracle Field Mural
  - Bill indicated that he had not heard back from the City contact on the mural status so he asked Jim Spengler what the status was.
  - Jim indicated that General Services had turned down the mural fastening concept so a new design would be needed.
  - Bill indicated that would mean that it would likely not be finished for the spring season, but he would follow up with the City to see what could be done.

Bill asked Mac and Dana for an update on the lights at Ewald. He had noticed some work being done there. Dana will check and get back.

Mac then gave his update on youth sports:

- Winter basketball – will finish in March; season going well.
- Kickers Indoor Soccer – Being held at both Mount Vernon and Patrick Henry; about 70 kids at each location.
- MARPSA award program – Jeff Murphy recently received recognition at a MARPSA event, for administrator of the year for youth rugby. Mac will e-mail more info out to the Board about MARPSA.
- Good Sports Fest – thanked everyone for their support and hopes for a larger participant turnout next year.

Jim then asked members for sports updates:

- Terri (High Schools)
  - High school tryouts for spring sports would be next week.
  - Inquired about outdoor restrooms at Chinquapin when the Center is closed this summer.
- Jeff (Rugby)
  - The status of rugby at T. C. has increased. School paying for transportation to away games.
  - Jeff mentioned the success that several former players were having after leaving T. C.
  - They will be hosting the Jesuit Rugby Classic at G. W. in April.
- Steve (Little League)
  - T. C. coach Jim Blair hosted three clinics for ALL this winter.
  - Spring registration is going well.
  - This season will be the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Simpson Field.
- Dennis (ACPS/swimming)
  - Need help about a broken diving board at Chinquapin.

- Dana will check out when funding is allocated for new boards there.
  - He also mentioned that his son has a diving scholarship to college for next year. Jim added that his daughter has been offered a scholarship at St. Augustine College.
- Mac – Dugouts at Brenman will be replaced soon.
  - Jim (football)
    - There will be an awards banquet in Fairfax for the fall season on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Several Alexandria representatives will be getting awards.

Jim asked about the pool usage fee that came up at the last meeting. Mac indicated that they were waiting on David Miller for that answer and he needed to discuss it with the Park and Recreation Commission.

Jim also encouraged all members to bring up problems to the Board so the collective force of the Board could be used to fix them.

He concluded the meeting by saying that Council Member Chapman and School Board Member Campbell would be at the next meeting.

**Action Items:**

- Dana will e-mail the Parks presentation to the Board members.
- Jim will provide the City with the name of the Community Relations officer for Dominion Power.
- Mac will e-mail the Board some more information about MARPSA.
- Dana will check on funding for the diving boards at Chinquapin.

# **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013  
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER  
7:00 P.M.**

## **AGENDA**

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the February Meeting
- III. Review of Draft Field Allocation Policy
- IV. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- V. Miracle Field Community Open House Night
- VI. Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
  - A. Witter Fields Dedication Ceremony – April 12
  - B. Jefferson Houston Project
  - C. Upper Hammond Field
  - D. Big Simpson Lights/Restrooms
  - E. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts
- VII. Update on Youth Sports Programs
  - A. Winter Basketball League Championship Games
  - B. Winter Kickers Indoor Soccer
  - C. Upcoming Spring Programs
- VIII. Roundtable Updates
- IX. Other
- X. Next Meeting Date – April 8
- XI. Adjournment

## YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, March 11, 2013

### Summary Notes

**Board members present:** Jim Gibson, Jeff Murphy, Owen Malone, Brian Donegan, Richard Stone, John Timmons, Brian McPherson, Bill Rivers

**Staff members present:** Mac Slover, Joe Petrella

**Note:** Bill was late for the meeting due to another commitment, so the March notes are a combined effort of Mac and Bill.

Chairman Gibson gave a brief overview of these topics.

VOICE IAE – VOICE is a non-partisan coalition of almost 50 faith communities and civic organizations in Northern Virginia working together to build power in middle and low-income communities. We organize in Prince William, Fairfax, and Arlington counties as well as the City of Alexandria uniting people across lines of race, class, religion, political party and geography to take action on key issues in our community including but not limited to affordable housing, access to health and dental care, and immigrant rights.

VOICE is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. VOICE is an independent and non-partisan organization led by a strategy team of religious, lay, and community leaders from across Northern Virginia. VOICE is funded by dues paid by member institutions (congregations, temples, mosques, union locals, business groups, schools, health centers, etc.) and grants from foundations.

Jim stated that they work to engage youth in getting registered in athletics also.

Meaningful Agendas – wants to limit agendas to several topics, with discussion on the most important issues. Some topics like sports updates by individual organizations can be sent out by e-mail.

Have several commitments from City Council and ACPS school board members to attend next meeting.

Field Allocation Policy – the policy was sent out by Joe Petrella, Division Chief a week earlier to gather feedback from the Youth Sports Advisory Board members. Joe and Mac explained the policy would not affect the present affiliate user groups and that it was developed as a guide to future users groups and rentals that will help make the process more transparent. A similar policy is already in place in other jurisdictions including Prince William County and Fairfax County.

The only comment made was by Owen Malone, Youth Rugby who requested to clarify the Section XV – Fundraising Events and Activities for Organizers. Joe stated that he and Mac would add the necessary information in. Everyone stated they supported the policy as it was presented. Jim stated they would conduct the final review at the April meeting with the additional information inserted.

Bill gave a brief overview of the Aquatics situation.

- The FY 2014 proposed budget was submitted by the City Manager to Council in late February.
- Virtually no dollars in the 10-year CIP for pools.
- A \$25 million line item for Aquatics was submitted as part of a supplemental plan involving a 3 cents tax rate increase.
- The Warwick pool is recommended for closure.
- The Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics has met with all Council members to lobby for funding of pools and other aquatic features.
- Bill testified before City Council earlier today.
- Virginia Theological Seminary may be involved in efforts to re-open Warwick (they are the land owner there).

Mac described the Open House planned for April 17<sup>th</sup> for the Miracle Field. He is looking to expand the sports opportunities they offer there and wants to introduce the Field to potential new users.

Mac then followed up with an update on construction projects:

- Witter:
  - Softball field still needs netting and storage shed.
  - Field dedication will be Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00.
- Upper Hammond:
  - Lots of use.
  - Mac has kicked some non-permitted players off.
  - Field is not used on Sundays due to church services.
- Big Simpson:
  - Waiting on Dominion Power for the new lights to be activated.
  - Mac has to check on the status of the restrooms.
- T. C. tennis courts:
  - Delayed; possibly due to funding of lights.

Mac kept going and briefed the Board on his sports programs.

- Winter Basketball
  - 9 championship games were played at T. C.
  - Good games.
  - Highest ever registration: 1065 players and 115 players.
- Winter Kickers Program:

- Another great job by ASA running this program.
- Held at 2 sites – could expand to 3 next year.
- Spring Programs:
  - Baseball/softball/T-ball/Coach Pitch starting.
  - Track and Field meet coming up.
  - Watch for the Cheerleading Competition.

Jim asked the individual sports to update the Board at this time.

Jim (Football):

- Youth Football banquet went well, including recognition for Alexandria players.
- Jim would like to see some recognition programs in Alexandria for players and coaches.
  - Hilton is on board for sponsoring.
  - Coca-Cola and McDonalds also interested.
    - Jim will draft a paper for them to review so they can decide about participating.

Brian D. (Lacrosse):

- Over 30 teams with 500+ players.
  - 15 girls teams; 15 boys teams
- An Alexandria team just won a local tournament.

Jeff (Sportsmen's Club):

- Next meeting is March 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday).
- Will feature basketball at the high school level.
- Richard is working to get names from the T. C. teams for nominations.

Owen (Rugby):

- Alexandria Rugby is now running the program; about 130 kids.
- There will a summer touch rugby league.
- Invited members down to O'Connell's on March 16<sup>th</sup> for a fundraiser for the Center for Alexandria's Children.
- He'll send a flyer to Mac (Mac has already forwarded it to Board members).

Brian M (ALL):

- Over 400 kids participating.
- Conducting evaluations now.

John (ASA):

- Soccer now has over 3,000 kids participating.

Jim then raised the issue of whether our Board should get involved in the hiring policies of T. C for its coaches. After some discussion, the Board decided not to.

The next meeting will be on April 8<sup>th</sup> and Jim will have two guest speakers at it. He will also do the agenda for that meeting and get it to Mac for distribution.

In closing the meeting, he asked any Board members wanting to get involved in the Youth Recognition initiative to get in touch with him.

**Actions:**

- Jim will draft a paper on corporate sponsorship for youth and coaches recognition.
- Richard will follow up with T. C. to get nominations for basketball awards provided by the Sportsmen's Club.
- Jim will provide the next agenda to Mac for distribution.
- Board members can notify Jim if they want to work on a Youth Recognition program.

# **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013  
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER  
7:00 P.M.**

## **AGENDA**

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the March Meeting
- III. Roundtable Discussion with Elected Officials
- IV. Final Review of Field Allocation Policy
- V. Sportsman Club's Collaboration for Youth Recognition Program
- VI. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- VII. Miracle Field Community Open House Night
- VIII. Witter Recreational Fields Dedication
- IX. Field & Court Construction/Renovation/Repair Updates
  - A. Jefferson Houston Project
  - B. Big Simpson Lights/Restrooms
  - C. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts
- X. Other
- XI. Next Meeting Date – May 13
- XII. Adjournment

## YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

**Monday, April 8, 2013**

### Summary Notes

**Board members present:** Jim Gibson, Jeff Murphy, Laura Fries, Dennis Burstein, John Timmons, Sterling Gilliam, Thomas Park, Beth Hamed, Donnie Simpson

**Staff members present:** Mac Slover, Joseph Petrella

**Guests:** John Taylor Chapman (City Council member), Bill Campbell, (ACPS School Board member)

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

#### **Councilman John Taylor Chapman**

Jim introduced Councilman Chapman. He was there to enlighten the board members on his stance on additional athletic field space, turf fields and lights.

Councilman Chapman gave an overview of his support and took questions. The main points:

- Played youth sports – soccer, lacrosse and swim team in high school and college
- Was glad to see progress of youth sports in the City of Alexandria
- Supports turf field with lights and knows it has been an issue in the City that needs to be addressed
- Believes lights on the fields adds value to youth sports
- Will be up to discuss the installation of lights at other locations in the City including TC Williams High School.
- Open to discuss the situation with Bishop Ireton and their neighborhood about lighting also

Donnie Simpson – asked him about opening the SUP by the school board to get community feedback.

Councilman Chapman – hopes that the ACPS Board and City Council can get it into the FY 2015 budget. He believes it can pass council if sent forward by the ACPS Board.

- He stated the citizens opposing it need to get past the issues and install the lights at TC Williams to better serve the community
- He believes that with limited space, more planning is needed – especially on the West End
- He stated ACPS needs to understand the field and lights issues are important
- He believes that more private organizations needs to be involved in funding and building of facilities

- He stated that there may be opportunities with Landmark Mall or in the warehousing district off Eisenhower and Van Dorn being redeveloped when asked about indoor sports facilities there
- Fully supports the aquatics proposal to get some or most the funding in for FY 2014 budget and beyond. He appreciates the community group coming forward with concerns and believes that the issues should have been addressed years ago.
- He is looking forward to the upcoming work session on the Aquatics proposal.

Dennis stated that Arlington County allocated \$80 million in support for aquatics at the high schools and parks.

Councilman Chapman appreciated the chance to have this conversation with the Youth Sports Advisory Board members and believes in the need to have meetings like this so the Council can be informed as to what the pulse of the community is feeling.

Jim stated that Justin Wilson would be coming to the May meeting.

**Field Allocation Policy** – Jim stated he formally would be sending a letter to the Park and Recreation Commission endorsing the Field and Court Allocation Policy. The letter was read and approved by the YSAB members present.

**Sportsmans Club Youth Recognition Collaboration** – Jim stated that he has spoken with representatives from McDonalds and Coca Cola about support the program idea. They stated that they would need a budget for the program before they could give financial support for it. Jim stated he meet with the Sportsman’s Club representatives but the club could not determine their level of support at the present time.

Jim stated that a criteria needs to be developed to determine the winners. These include possible criteria topics like academics, community service, sportsmanship, athletic ability, character elements and etc. He stated this needs to be developed more by developing the budget, when to host it and securing sponsorships.

**Bill Campbell, ACPS School Board Member**

Jim introduced Bill Campbell. He was there also to meet the organization and to discuss his views on athletic field space, turf fields and lights.

His main points included:

- Is concerned with the lack of fields with lights
- 100% supports lights at the athletic fields
- He is new to board and is learning the process but asked the hold up on the lights? He was told by the group that money and the SUP process the ACPS board must open it and get approval to modify the SUP to get lights at places like TC Williams High School
- He stated that more donors (businesses and private sector funding) should be getting involved with the process to help fund the needs. The payoff would include advertisements for the businesses.

- He stated that ACPS is facing a \$4 million deficit, but believes should start working how to get lights put into the FY 2015 and FY 2016 budgets.
- He believes he has five votes on the board to support lighting for places like TC Williams
- He supports aquatics in the City and grew up with swimming. He believes that swimming should be taught to all the students
- ACPS board may consider redistricting as the enrollment has increased 17% over the last four years.
- He believes there is real need for joint relationships between ACPS and the Recreation Department and because of the physical restraints there should be a good relationship between the two.

**Advocates for Aquatics Summary** – Bill Rivers was unable to attend due a meeting on the aquatics. Here are some notes about Aquatics he wanted to report on.

- The City Council had an Aquatics workshop on April 3rd to discuss the \$25 million in the proposed budget.
- Council favors taking action to improve Aquatics in Alexandria.
- Their preferences are:
  - 50 meter pool at Chinquapin
  - Keeping Warwick open this year and look for long term solution
  - A pool in the West End
  - A therapeutic pool at Lee Center
  - They favor pools over spray grounds
- Next major step is the Council's vote on the budget on May 6.

**Kelley Cares Miracle Field Open House** – April 17 – Mac reported the City, in cooperation with the MLA and Act for Alexandria, will be hosting an open house on **Wednesday, April 17 from 7:00 to 8:15 p.m. at the Lee Center Auditorium.** The Lee Center Auditorium is located at 1108 Jefferson Street. Light desserts from local businesses will be served. We will provide a brief overview about the Miracle Field project and discuss opportunities for organizations to utilize the field. We will conclude the meeting with a tour of the facility and answer any questions.

**Witter Recreational Park Fields Dedication** – April 12 – Mac reported that everyone was invited to attend the dedication of the new Witter Recreational Fields Complex on Friday, April 12, at 6:00 p.m. The complex is location at 2700 Witter Drive (behind the Landrover Dealership on Duke Street). The ceremony will lead by the Mayor and City Council and before the start of the TC Williams Girls Softball Team's game vs Annandale High School at 6:30 p.m. at the Witter Softball Field. The event will be held rain or shine.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

# **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013  
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER  
7:00 P.M.**

## **AGENDA**

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the April Meeting
- III. Roundtable Discussion with Elected Officials
- IV. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- V. Other
- VI. Next Meeting Date – June 10
- VII. Adjournment

## YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, May 13, 2013

### Summary Notes

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

**Staff members present:** Mac Slover, Joe Petrella

**Guests:** Justin Wilson (City Council), Kelly Booz (School Board), Jim Spengler (Director, ADRPCA), Steve Colantuni (AD, T. C. Williams)

Jim started the meeting by explaining the purpose of inviting public officials to the YSAB meetings. It is essential to share information among all parties in the City so that our youth will benefit. Each area of interest impacts upon what our youth are offered and how effectively service is delivered to them.

He then asked all Board members to introduce themselves so that Justin and Kelly were familiar with the audience.

Justin started off the discussion by explaining that he had kids in the rec programs and was very interested in expanding opportunities to all kids in Alexandria. He felt that more fields and better aquatics were needed to make sure that all kids had the appropriate opportunities. He also believed that the City and the School System needed to work better to deliver products to our kids. He has seen improvements and wants to see even more. He then opened the meeting to any questions.

The first regarded what his opinion was on having fields with lights.

His response:

- We need to be aware of the neighbors at each field.
- New lighting technology has improved the situation considerably.
- Artificial turf fields should be lit.
- ACPS needs to take the lead on the T. C. lights issue.
- All of us need to educate the neighbors.
- Need political will on both the School Board and the City Council.

Regarding fields, Tommy brought up the issue of park plans at Chinquapin. He believes that fields should have the priority since they benefit more people.

Bill joined in with the caution that both ACPS and field sports representatives need to be at the next public session on park plans at Chinguapin. Current input from non-fields people have resulted in the potential loss of playing fields at Chinguapin.

Steve also added his support to fields being at Chinguapin. It is particularly important since it is so near the school itself. There are a lot of needs that T. C. has and they will only grow with the increased enrollment.

Jim brought up the issue of public/private partnerships. Justin cited the Miracle Field and the aquatics program as two good examples of what the Council likes to see. They will be looking for private dollars to help the City out and make sure that the City is attractive to its residents.

Jim followed up with a question of how to get information to Council members. Justin agreed about the need to be kept aware of the situations. Council members should be contacted when problems arise.

Laura asked about the conflict between the concept of a community vs. that of a City. She cited Potomac Yards as an example of a focus more on a City approach than a community approach. It seems like new development is going in everywhere.

Justin responded that there is an economic thrust going on now due to several small area plans having been approved. At the same time, Council has tried to get the developers to contribute more to the City – open space, paying for amenities, etc.

Given the earlier comment about the City and the schools having to work closer together, Bill brought up the issue of the multi-sensory mobile van not being used because of a conflict between the schools and the Rec dept. There were apparently questions about liability on the use of the van so it was sitting at the Lee Center not being used. Justin indicated that he would look into the issue and contact Lindsey Swanson at the Kelley Cares Foundation (who donated the van).

Bill also raised the issue of addressing operating revenues when a new program is put in. He cited the example of some Miracle League games being cancelled by Therapeutic Recreation due to budget problems. If the private sector is going to raise funds for a project, then the City needs to make sure that the program is funded.

Justin then turned the meeting over to Kelly. She indicated that she is a former collegiate swimmer and swim instructor. She will be the School Board rep to the YSAB. Her belief is that sports are crucial to kids and their development. It contributes to the health and overall well-being of the individual. With all that said, she indicated that the School Board had to focus on capacity issues at the moment. The need for classroom space has reached a crisis level and needs to be addressed. She does look to the YSAB as a means to keeping the School Board aware of any youth related problems.

Jim brought up the issue of hiring coaches that also teach at the schools. Both Kelly and Steve said that is their preference, but that they cannot do that in every situation. It depends upon who applies. Dennis mentioned that it would help to have Human Resources (HR) identify potential coaching candidates during the recruitment process so that the athletic department can follow up with potential interested teachers. Kelley will discuss it further with HR.

Owen brought up the issue of field needs by youth sports vs. those needed by the high school. Sometimes there is a disconnect between the two as to who is assigned a field and has the right to use it.

Steve felt that the City would be well served if someone were hired to coordinate all fields. Now, he does ACPS fields and Mac does the rest. While they work closely together, there are always times when something falls through the cracks with two different offices involved.

Mac added that Ron Kagawa of the Rec Dept. is working closely with the ACPS staff to bridge those gaps.

Jim Spengler added that this is part of the reason that the park plans are being so widely coordinated. In addition, the Rec Dept. makes sure that ACPS is aware of any field projects that they are doing. He certainly supports having artificial turf fields with lights anywhere possible. However funding is always an issue. The only new turf field expected in the next couple of years is the one at the Alexandria Renew facility by Eisenhower Ave. He encouraged members of the Board to attend the Park Planning meetings and add their comments.

Tommy brought up the example of the MacArthur parents contributing to an artificial turf play area where teams can also practice. He believes that the Maury parents are thinking of doing the same thing. As important as the fields are, he reminded people not to overlook the need for quality staffing to coach the kids.

Kelly added that these are the same kids for both the Rec Dept. and the ACPS so cooperation would be in everyone's interest.

Beth said that Lacrosse would be interested in providing help for after school programs. They do some now and would be happy to expand their efforts.

Jeff pointed out that athletics should be used to help the kids improve overall. Push athletics at the same time as academics. Kelly was very supportive of that approach. She used to do it for the swimmers that she coached.

Dennis then brought up the issue of the 2.0 rule. T. C. sets a higher standard for its athletics than neighboring schools. While this sounds commendable, it also drives some kids away from participating and works against the goal of overall improvement. Jim voiced his opposition to the rule as well. Steve indicated that he personally works with

those kids affected and tried to mitigate its impact. He doesn't think that it is as big an issue now as it used to be.

Laura added that learning to swim should be an essential part of the school curriculum. It is a life saving skill to have. Kelly supports that and recommends fostering the partnership with Alexandria Aquatics.

In wrapping up the meeting, Jim thanked our guests for their participation and invited them back to future meetings. He also reminded everyone of the upcoming Sportsmens Club banquet on May 29<sup>th</sup> (Mac handed out a brochure).

He asked Bill to distribute the AAA update by e-mail. Bill said he would get it to Mac for the distribution.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup>. He would like to start at 6:30 to accommodate some guests coming. Everyone agreed to the earlier start.

#### Board Actions:

- Board members are encouraged to comment of the Park Plans, either through attending meetings or sending e-mails.
- Bill will get Mac a copy of the AAA update to distribute.
- Members are reminded about the Sportsmens Club banquet on May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Members are also reminded of the 6:30 start to the Board meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

# YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013  
MT. VERNON RECREATION CENTER  
7:00 P.M.

## AGENDA

- I. Welcome
- II. Review of the Summary Notes from the May Meeting
- III. Presentation by Attorney Cathy Puskar of The St. James Group on Proposal to Construct a facility at Hensley Fields Complex
- IV. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update
- V. 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 – August 12
- IX. Adjournment