



## Youth Sports Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Mount Vernon Recreation Center

### Attendees:

Jim Gibson, Dennis Burstein, David Brennan, Marvin Elliot, Bill Campbell, Mike Scheuble, Jeff Newhouse

Guests: Marvin Paz, RPCA  
Randy Little, RPCA

1. Marvin Paz led a discussion regarding fields:
  - a. maintenance
  - b. repairs
  - c. opening dates
2. The Athletic Field Maintenance Guide was distributed. This 36-page document was published by RPCA in 2017.
3. Affiliates provided updates for their programs:
  - a. Lacrosse
  - b. Swimming
  - c. Basketball
  - d. Volleyball
  - e. Soccer
4. Upcoming events include the Alexandria Sportsman's Club meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, and the basketball championship tournament on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.



## **Youth Sports Advisory Board**

Meeting Minutes for March 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Mount Vernon Recreation Center

### **Attendees:**

Tamika Coleman, Jim Gibson, Sean Reilly, Tom Blackwood, Don Simpson, Danny Organek, Doug Mueller, Sarah Christie, David Brennan, Marvin Elliot, Bill Campbell, John Timmons, Jeff Newhouse

Guests: Lucresha Murphy, RPCA

1. Lucresha Murphy gave a presentation focusing on the PARKnership Program:
  - a. FY22 PARKnership summary
  - b. Adopt-a-Park, Adopt-a-Garden
  - c. Living Landscape Fund
  - d. Sponsorships, Partnerships
  - e. Community Matching Fund – FY23 awardees
2. A general discussion was held regarding our goals and objectives:
  - a. Should we explore the idea of “one fee – play all offered sports?”
  - b. Outreach efforts/ideas
  - c. Possibly re-establishing a youth sports “Fair”
3. Affiliates provided updates for their programs:
  - a. Lacrosse
  - b. Baseball
  - c. Rugby
  - d. Wrestling
  - e. Soccer

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.



**Youth Sports Advisory Board**  
Meeting Minutes for April 10, 2023  
7:00 PM - Mount Vernon Recreation Center

Attendees: Tamika Coleman, Jim Gibson, Tom Blackwood, Marvin Elliot, Bill Campbell, Skylar Borman, Nicholas Hildebidle, Randy Little, and Jeff Newhouse

Guests: Mitch Dillon, Project Manager, Department of Project Implementation  
Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs

1. Mitch Dillon gave a presentation of the proposed Simpson Park improvements.
  - a. The Park and Recreation Commission endorsed the overall park improvement plan in 2014.
  - b. In 2021, an amendment was approved to allow for artificial turf installation at the baseball fields.
  - c. The current design efforts (60% complete) include improvements to the baseball fields, parking lots, entry plaza, basketball court, and walkways.
    - i. Improvements at both fields include enhanced drainage, bleachers, press boxes, dugouts, bullpens, batting cages, and storage.
    - ii. Big Simpson will have artificial turf. Little Simpson will remain grassed.
    - iii. A new pedestrian entrance from Monroe Avenue will be added between the dog park and the soccer fields.
    - iv. New pedestrian entrances from E Bellefonte Avenue and River Terrace alleyways will be added.
  - d. The final design should be ready in January 2024. Construction is planned to begin in the fall of 2024.
  - e. Project link: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/parks/project/eugene-simpson-athletic-diamond-fields-renovation-plan>
2. Beth Znidersic gave a presentation of the proposed Public Open Space Zone Text Amendment.
  - a. The project goals include:
    - i. Creating efficiencies
    - ii. Implementing typical recreational uses and park safety
    - iii. Implement approved plans
  - b. In broader terms, by better defining parks their elements, it will be easier and faster to implement improvements.
  - c. Planning Commission and City Council hearings will occur in June.
  - d. Project link: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/2023%20Public%20Open%20Space%20Zone%20Text%20Amendment%20-%20Youth%20Sports.pdf>
3. Affiliates for baseball, softball, volleyball, soccer, and adult sports provided program highlights.
4. Mr. Gibson is working towards a possible July 4<sup>th</sup> youth athlete recognition event.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.



## Youth Sports Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2023

7:00 PM - Mount Vernon Recreation Center

Attendees: Tamika Coleman, Tom Blackwood, Marvin Elliot, Danny Organek, Nicholas Hildebidle, Randy Little, Dennis Burstein, David Brennan, John Timmons, and Jeff Newhouse

Guest: Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Affairs

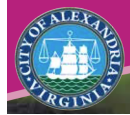
1. Beth Znidersic provided information and updates:

- a. In May the City Council approved the 10-year capital improvement budget, including \$16M for the Simpson Park renovations.
- b. Final design revisions for Simpson Park are underway.
- c. Design and engineering funding was approved for the Old Town Pool renovations. Consultant procurement has begun.
- d. The Minnie Howard aquatic improvements will include separate lap and therapeutic pools.
- e. The Colasanto Park sprayground will provide year-round enjoyment. In the summer the sprayground will be active. During fall, winter, and spring the space can be used as a public plaza.
- f. Warwick Pool was recently re-plastered.
- g. Recent court improvements include Boothe, Chinguapin, Simpson, and Lee Center. A contractor has been hired for the Ramsey court improvements.
- h. The Witter netting installation could begin in August. Utility marking and geotechnical investigations will occur later this month.
- i. Stevenson baseball dugout construction is scheduled for July and August.
- j. MacArthur ES is scheduled to open this fall. The demolition of old Patrick Henry ES can then take place, followed by the installation of the lighted, artificial turf athletic field.
- k. Field light installation at Hammond and Jefferson-Houston will occur this summer.
- l. A contractor will be selected in July for the Hensley Phase 1 renovation. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall and run through early 2025.
- m. The Boothe artificial turf installation is scheduled for a possible late fall groundbreaking.

2. Affiliate News

- a. The swimming program has 178 members. Time trials recently occurred. Several meets are scheduled for this summer.
- b. Wrestling is dormant until the winter.
- c. The Little League and Softball All-Star program is starting soon.
- d. ASA soccer teams recently participated in half-time activities at a Washington Spirit game at Audi Field.
- e. Adult summer soccer, softball, and basketball programs will begin soon.
- f. The Football program recently celebrated an undefeated U12 division championship.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.



## Youth Sports Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2023

7:00 PM – Lee Center

Attendees: Tamika Coleman, Jim Gibson, Mike Scheuble, Tommy Park, Matt Hardiman, Alex Perugganan, Bill Campbell, Tom Blackwood, Danny Organek, Dennis Burstein, David Brennan, and Jeff Newhouse

Guests: Beth Znidersic, Division Chief, Park Planning and Development, DRPCA  
Sarah Christie, Operations and Strategy Director, Alexandria Soccer Association  
Katie Brooks, PR and Communications Director, Alexandria Soccer Association

1. A CIP/Budget letter from the City Manager was distributed. The letter served as a summary of FY24 goals/objectives and as a prompt for FY25 input.
2. Beth Znidersic provided information and updates:
  - a. Hammond MS – lights have been installed and electrification is underway.
  - b. Jefferson/Houston – equipment is in hand and installation will occur after permitting is complete this fall.
  - c. Hensley – a general contractor has been selected for phase 1 construction. Late winter/early spring 2024 groundbreaking is anticipated.
  - d. Simpson – the consultant is proceeding towards final design and permits. Fall 2024 groundbreaking is anticipated.
  - e. Stevenson - dugout construction is imminent.
  - f. George Washington MS – one of the two rectangular fields (west) will be converted to artificial turf during the summer of 2024. Lighting is permissible, but currently unfunded.
  - g. Boothe - a general contractor is being selected. Spring 2024 groundbreaking is anticipated.
  - h. We were reminded that the FY25 budget cycle is beginning soon. Advocacy by our Board is encouraged and expected.
3. Sarah Christie and Katie Brooks gave a presentation on a proposal to establish a bus route that would enhance access to seven of the city's major athletic facilities.
  - a. The service would operate on weekdays 4:30-9:00 PM.
  - b. Outreach to patrons has demonstrated there is a need and an eagerness to participate. Transportation challenges are a document impediment to youth sports participation.
  - c. Initial outreach to city officials, DASH, and other grantees has generated positive feedback.
  - d. Alexandria Soccer Association is seeking the endorsement of youth sports affiliates and this Board.
4. Affiliate Updates (with an emphasis on financial aid)
  - a. Rugby – enjoyed a successful summer with highly-placed finishes, including an undefeated U12 team. Scholarship support is available for all who request it.
  - b. Wrestling - scholarship support is available for all who request it.
  - c. Little League - scholarship support is available for all who request it. Outreach has begun to ACPS for possible elementary school PE programming.
  - d. LAX – fall participation included a large influx of beginners. Scholarship support is available for all who request it.

- e. Field Hockey – participation expanded to 6 teams this fall. Financial aid packages are available. ACPS and private school administrators have indicated they are very pleased with the establishment and success of this new club.
  - f. ACPS – discussions were held regarding the encouragement of student-athletes to participate in multiple sports. This Board is ready to advocate to ACPS the fact-based benefits.
  - g. Swimming – summer participation increased by 20%. Past successes resulted in a divisional promotion. U8 and U15 boys proved to be best-in-division. **Scholarship support is available for all who request it.**
  - h. Soccer – scholarship support is available for all who request it. Johnatan Nunez, Outreach Coordinator, recently gave a presentation at a national conference in Minnesota regarding the Access4All Project. US Soccer Federation will be modeling their national program after ASA's efforts.
5. Housekeeping
- a. We will be inviting all the local athletic directors to future meetings.
  - b. Local periodical Zebra would like to establish a monthly column dedicated to youth sports stories. YSAB should consider a coordinated effort here to ensure comprehensive coverage of all the affiliates.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.



## Youth Sports Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2023

7:00 PM – Mt. Vernon Recreation Center

Attendees: Jim Gibson, Mike Scheuble, Nick Hildebidle, Jeff Murphy, Danny Organek, Dennis Burstein, David Brennan, and Jeff Newhouse

1. Affiliates were reminded to submit their volunteer award nominations by November 20<sup>th</sup>. The award ceremony will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup>.
2. Engagement
  - a. The need for this Board to be proactive was re-emphasized.
  - b. ASA's formalized efforts to partner with the DPRCA and ACPS for facility improvements were discussed.
3. Affiliate Updates
  - a. Wrestling will have its first, full, post-covid season this winter.
  - b. Soccer recently hosted the Harvest Festival – a tournament open only to recreational teams.
  - c. Baseball recently held its annual meeting.
  - d. Club Rugby is in the middle of their off-season, with Sundays being used for skills training.
  - e. School Rugby is currently recruiting for the spring season.
  - f. The LAX fall season is complete.
    - i. Clinics are currently being offered.
    - ii. The current player pool system was discussed. Alexandria's draw is not equitable and is being discussed with league officials.
4. Guests – athletic directors from local schools have been invited to the January meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.



## **Youth Sports Advisory Board**

Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2023

7:00 PM – Lee Center

Attendees: Numerous

1. Opening remarks made by Jim Gibson.
2. Volunteer Awards were presented by youth sports affiliates.
3. Closing remarks made by Jim Gibson.
4. Refreshments were served.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.