



Youth Sports Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2024
7:00 PM – Lee Center

Attendees: Tamika Coleman, Jim Gibson, Bill Campbell, Dennis Burstein, David Brennan (Park and Recreation Commission liaison), Don Simpson, Bill Blackburn, Marvin Elliott, Timothy Catron, Randy Little, Sarah Christie, and Jeff Newhouse

Guests: Dana Colarulli, Acting Chair, Parks and Recreation Commission
Laura Durham, Deputy Director, RPCA

1. Laura led a discussion regarding the Board's history, composition, and overall mission.
 - a. There are topics that will need the Board's attention in the near future including field permit assignment policies and possible annual forums in collaboration with the Park and Recreation Commission.
 - b. We will continue to support Sports Affiliate program and encourage its refinement. This discussion included fees, demographics, scholarship opportunities, and staff reporting.
 - c. Both Park and Recreation Commission members present praised the efforts and accomplishments of our Board.
 - d. Jim Gibson gave a brief overview of the founding of the Board and expressed his appreciation our excellent working relationship with RPCA.
 - e. Don Simpson reiterated one of the primary purposes of the Board – improving the public's access to athletic fields.
 - f. Dennis Burstein touted our excellent working relationships with ACPS and Alexandria's private schools.
 - g. Jim Gibson mentioned that the Board will need to develop a succession plan as many members of this Board have served for 10+ years. The new Board Chair should have a multi-sport background and be able to advocate for all. We may need to formalize our policy regarding term limits.
 - h. David Brennan touched upon the importance of encouraging our youth to be multi-sport athletes, and that a study will be initiated to collect data on our current status in that regard.
2. Facility Updates
 - a. The fields lights at Hammond and Jefferson-Houston are now operational.
 - b. Hensley construction is underway.
 - c. Simpson construction is anticipated to begin this fall after a general contractor is selected.
 - d. Minnie Howard's building demolition could begin this summer. The new athletic field installation along with other recreation amenities could be ready by the summer of 2025.
 - e. Patrick Henry's building demolition is complete. The new athletic field installation could be ready in 2025.
3. Programming – Tamika Coleman discussed the success of a new participation policy. The recreational basketball program now allows 18-year-olds to play if they are still enrolled in high school. Twenty-five players took advantage of this change during the most recent season.
4. Affiliate News

- a. Swimming – there are 180 members, which almost their capacity based on facility capacity. This represents a 300% over just 20 years ago.
 - b. Little League Baseball – now is their busiest time as they prepare for the April 6th opening day. News about the annual celebration event will follow shortly.
 - c. Alexandria Soccer Association – the March outdoor soccer tournaments were a big success. The winter Futsal league just finished. It is the largest Futsal league in the country based on participation numbers. Four individual Futsal teams are playing with success at national competitions.
5. Outreach – Jim Gibson reiterated that all of the affiliates should work with this Board to expand the recognition of exceptional student athletes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.



Youth Sports Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes for April 8, 2024
7:00 PM – Lee Center

Attendees: Tamika Coleman, Jim Gibson, Dennis Burstein, David Brennan (Park and Recreation Commission liaison), Randy Little, Mike Scheuble, Tommy Park, Juelz Peters, Danny Organek, Nick Hildebidle, Bill Blackburn, Marvin Elliott, and Jeff Newhouse

1. Board Mission Statement & Structure

- a. Jim Gibson suggested that we should update our mission statement. He will develop a draft and distribute for review.
- b. Discussions ensued regarding the structure of the Board.
 - i. How many representatives should each sport affiliate be allocated?
 - ii. Should we consider at-large members and how would they be selected?
 - iii. Should we conform to conventional Board successional processes?
 1. Define term lengths
 2. Designate a Vice-Chair who would succeed the current Chair
 - iv. Tamika will obtain and distribute the City's guidelines for Boards and Commissions.
- c. Tamika indicated she would attend the next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting and update them on our efforts to modernize the Board.
- d. Discussions continued regarding potential guest invitations and the process for choosing them.

2. Performance Recognition

- a. We should strive to expand and enhance this Board's recognition of outstanding student athletes.
- b. We should formalize the criteria used for selection.
- c. We should not limit our considerations to just high school aged candidates.
- d. Several members volunteered to form a sub-committee for these efforts.

3. RPCA Updates

- a. Spring scholarship data is due from affiliates.
- b. Lights at Hammond and Jefferson-Houston have been up and running for several months now with very minimal negative reaction from adjacent property owners.
- c. The Patrick Henry rectangular field and light installation is underway.
- d. The future GWMS field and lights project was discussed.

4. Sports/Affiliates Updates

- a. Updates were provided by
 - i. Wrestling – off-season summer training is being organized. Six kids placed and one was a champion at the recent NOVA Wrestling Foundation competition.
 - ii. Lacrosse – over three hundred kids on fifteen teams are participating in league play that started two weeks ago.
 - iii. Soccer – recreational league play recently started with over two hundred teams.
 - iv. Baseball – opening day celebrations were held, and play began on April 6th. Five hundred + kids are playing this spring.
 - v. Swimming – registration has begun with competitions scheduled to begin after Memorial Day. Participant numbers are steady at 180 +/-.

- vi. Rugby – the non-contact division teams are performing well regionally. There are three other nearby programs outside of the City that offer non-contact play.
- b. Other City-organized sports will begin soon, including meets for Cheerleading and Track & Field. T-Ball and Coach-Pitch Baseball will have over 250 players.

5. Facilities

- a. Discussions were held regarding the future of the Cameron Run Regional Park. The current lease with NOVA Parks expires in 2028.
- b. Alexandria Soccer Association (ASA) shared the news that they are developing a proposal for the redevelopment of the Eisenhower Avenue parcel into a modern recreation facility, including a field house, that would benefit all the sports affiliates and City residents. Quasi-governmental agencies have indicated their potential endorsement and have assisted with economic models and studies that document positive economic impact. ASA looks forward to the Board's participation in these efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.



**Youth Sports Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2024
7:00 PM – Lee Center**

Attendees: Tamika Coleman, Jim Gibson, Dennis Burstein, Marvin Elliot, Mike Scheuble, Bill Blackburn, Tom Blackwood, Sarah Christie, Donnie Simpson, Laura Durham, Katy Matthews, Tim Catron, and Jeff Newhouse

Guests: Bethany Znidersic, Division Chief , Park Planning & Capital Development, RPCA
James Parker, Executive Director of Athletics and Student Activities, ACPS

1. RPCA Updates from Bethany Znidersic
 - a. Ball retention netting has been installed on the north and south sides of the rectangular fields at Witter. Funding for this amenity was supplemented by Alexandria Soccer Association.
 - b. Turf repairs are complete at the rectangular fields at Witter.
 - c. Witter is scheduled to have its turf replaced in the summer of 2025.
 - d. New turf with organic infill was installed at Brenman's rectangular field this summer.
 - e. A new scoreboard was recently installed at the Lee Center Miracle Field. Field surface repairs will occur soon.
 - f. Turf repairs are complete at Limerick.
 - g. The new dugouts and fencing at Stevenson are complete. ADA compliant walkway construction will occur next.
 - h. The lighting systems at Hammond and Jefferson/Houston have been tested. Performance certification documents are being prepared (light pollution standards).
 - i. Court re-surfacing is complete at Mason ES and Lee Center.
 - j. Pickleball lines have been added to the Potomac Yard tennis courts. Current policy is to make all hard-surface courts multi-purpose when feasible and appropriate. The City's inventory of pickleball has increased by 12 in the last two years.
 - k. Phase 1 construction at Hensley has begun. The upper and lower diamonds fields may be ready for use in February of 2025. The completion of the restroom building will likely be delayed past February by a few months.
 - l. Patrick Henry field construction is underway. This will be a smaller artificial turf field with lights and a baseball field overlay.
 - m. Consultant selection will begin soon for the renovation/reconstruction of Old town Pool.
 - n. The design/engineering phase of the Simpson Park renovation is complete (baseball fields and adjacent amenities). Contractor selection will begin soon. Portions of this park will be closed for all of 2025. Utility upgrades along Monroe Avenue will be the first construction activity. 2026 re-opening is anticipated.
 - o. The design/engineering phase of the Boothe Park renovation is almost complete (artificial turf conversion).
 - p. Four Mile Run softball field may be offline due to infrastructure work possibly beginning in late 2026 and continuing through 2027.

- q. Mason ES replacement – this project is currently in the design phase. Three configurations are being considered. Construction is scheduled to begin next summer. Recreational uses of this campus will likely be offline through August of 2027. Students will use swing space on N Beauregard Street during construction.
2. ACPS Updates from James Parker
- a. The middle school sports initiative has received funding to begin a three year test/pilot program, beginning next month. Coaches are currently being hired.
 - b. Basketball, swimming/diving, track/field, and academic events will be offered for the 2024/2025 school year.
 - c. Soccer, cheerleading, football, and forensics will be offered for the 2025/2026 school year.
 - d. Tennis, volleyball, and debate will be offered for the 2026/2027 school year.
 - e. Alexandria school participant will be George Washington, Francis Hammond, Jefferson/Houston, and Patrick Henry.
 - f. Format will be one team per sport per school.
 - g. Activities will occur Mondays through Thursdays.
 - h. The participation of other school districts is still being considered and studied.
 - i. Participation eligibility standards will include several factors, including GPA.
 - j. Program goals include:
 - i) Increase student participation in extra-curricular activities.
 - ii) Retain students who might select private schools that already offer this programming.
 - iii) Improve future participation and success of our high school sports program.
3. YSAB Mission Statement
- a. Three distinct options are being considered.
 - b. Members are encouraged to review and select their preference before the October meeting.
4. Sports/Affiliates Updates - updates were provided by:
- a. Wrestling – practices will begin in October at the new Minnie Howard wrestling room.
 - b. Lacrosse – fall programming has begun with almost 80 participants.
 - c. Soccer – most activities began last weekend. Recreational league play will begin this weekend with 185 teams.
 - d. Little League/Softball - fall softball registration is underway. Summer successes are being celebrated - they hosted and won the July Baseball Intermediate State Tournament.
 - e. Swimming – summer programming was robust with 200 participants. The stroke clinic will begin later this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.



**Youth Sports Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2024
7:00 PM – Lee Center**

Attendees: Tamika Coleman, Jim Gibson, Jeff Murphy, David Brennan, Dennis Burstein, Marvin Elliot, Bill Blackburn, Tim Catron, and Jeff Newhouse

Guests: Ryan Fannon, President, Alexandria Sportsman's Club

1. Affiliate Updates

- a. Soccer – ASA hosted the Heritage Cup Tournament this past weekend. U9-U12 games were held on fields all over the city. Hundreds of teams from the Mid-Atlantic region participated.
- b. Rugby - clinics begin 10/16 with three different offerings, including Flag Rugby.
- c. Baseball
 - i) They are currently in the middle of fall-ball season.
 - ii) They have developed a partnership with ACPS to teach fourth-graders about the sport.
 - iii) They will formally assume organizational responsibility for T-Ball and Coach-Pitch operations in 2025. This change will increase participation because protentional registrants for all diamond-filed activities will now be directed to the Alexandria LLB website.
 - iv) Recent regional successes lend hope to future participation in the LLB World Series.
- d. T-Ball & Coach-Pitch baseball – 150 +/- kids are participating this fall.
- e. Swimming
 - i) Current clinic offerings are fully registered with a waiting list. Lane availability dictates participation numbers.
 - ii) The upcoming Old Town Pool renovations will pose logistical challenges.
- f. Basketball
 - i) Over four hundred registrations have been received so far.
 - ii) 60 +/- participants will be involved in regional competitions through the Academy Programs.
 - iii) Youth referee training is being accelerated. As many as 15 kids will be assigned to referee 8U games.

2. Related News

- a. The Sports Affiliate program summary is currently being prepared.
- b. The Miracle League Field has received a donation to allow for the installation of a scoreboard.
- c. The Miracle League recently hosted a fun home-run-derby event.

3. Our Board

- a. The Mission Statement is undergoing final revisions.

- b. The Mission Statement will be sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission soon.
 - c. Succession planning is needed.
 - i) Several current members no longer have children young enough to participate in youth sports.
 - ii) The current Chair has served for 15+ years and would appreciate replacement.
 - iii) All Members should be actively recruiting potential new members.
 - iv) A qualification statement is being prepared for potential new members.
 - v) Outreach is needed for certain sports that are not currently represented on the Board.
4. Guest Presentation from Ryan Fannon, President, Alexandria Sportsman's Club
- a. The Club , which was established in 1947, has several points of emphasis:
 - i) Recognize and support student-athletes.
 - ii) Provide scholarship funding for student-athletes pursuing college education (vocational education opportunities are being studied).
 - iii) Build fellowship through the love of sports.
 - iv) Honor the City's history of high-achieving student-athletes.
 - v) Encourage and facilitate partnerships and collaborations between public and private high schools located in the City.
 - b. Eight student-athletes will be honored at a ceremony tomorrow evening.
 - c. Celebratory events typically include prominent guests such as former professional wide receiver Santana Moss.
 - d. A November 20th event will be held at the Old Dominion Boat Club.
 - e. The Club is currently in a membership drive.
 - i) \$70 per individual membership.
 - ii) \$100 per family membership.
 - iii) The goal is 100 new members by next spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54.