

# **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Monday, January 12, 2015**

## **Summary Notes**

**Attendees:** Mac Slover, Jim Gibson, Owen Malone, Tommy Park, Gus Chicrello, Jeff Murphy, Terri Belcher and John Timmons

- I. **Welcome Remarks.** Jim Gibson gave welcoming remarks to the group. He told everyone that Bill Rivers' wife was sick and as a result Bill would not be able to attend meetings for a while. Bill's role as Secretary of the Youth Sports Advisory Board will be shared by the group until he is able to return.
- II. **Review of December Meeting Notes.**
- III. **Eisenhower West Project.** Three members of Alexandria City government joined the meeting to present information on the Small Area Plan for Eisenhower West. Radika Mohan from the Department of Planning and Zoning gave a slide show presentation of the work that has been done so far. Approximately 1 year ago city planning staff began working on this, there are monthly Steering Committee meetings and they are currently preparing for their 5<sup>th</sup> community meeting. Radika outlined the schedule for 2015 and presented the process the planning staff has done so far, which has entailed asking the public for 1. Issues, 2. Vision 3 connections to centers of activities and 4 land use options. Radika encouraged the group to provide feedback about the proposed ideas via online and attend community meetings. Steve Sindiong from the Department of Transportation provided a slide show presentation about the options the city is considering for building a bridge from Eisenhower Ave. to Pickett St/Cameron Station to allow for better access to the metro for walkers/bikers. This is a long term project and is currently projected for the 2023 city budget. The transportation department has done a lot of modeling analysis to project usage, they see a high demand for the bridge, believe it will provide better connectivity within the city and better connectivity for metro users. Steve explained the various options they are considering for the bridge construction and showed how they would impact Boothe Park. John Timmins asked if the Youth Sports Advisory Board and provided input on the plans and the potential impact to sports fields. Mac Slover said that yes the Parks and Recreation Department/Commission had provided input. Jim Gibson asked John if he would like to communicate with someone about this and John replied he would follow up with Judy Coleman about what information the Parks and Recreation comments were. The next meeting about the Small Area Plan for Eisenhower West is on February 9 at 7:00 pm at the Beatley Library.
- IV. **TC Williams High School Tennis Courts/Lights Update.** Karen Graf, the ACPS School Board Chair came to the meeting to provide a summary of what is going on with the TC Williams Tennis Courts. Before she addressed the tennis courts, Karen gave a brief outline about how the ACPS School Board is talking about the big increase in the ACPS student population and how best to handle it, they are having

discussions about the need for a new school, what kind of school, and where. She said that in the past there have been challenges between ACPS and youth sports but that at the present there has been a lot of great collaboration between the groups. Karen then talked about the lights for the TC football stadium and mentioned the completed feasibility study and that the next step for the School Board is to start the design process. Jim Gibson added that there are a lot of interested community members who would like to help and hopefully there will be some type of public/private collaboration. Karen said that the School Board is supportive but need to be responsive to the community and follow through on commitments the School Board has already made. There needs to be more work done on the planning and design. Jim said that the community would like to help to show that support is out there for the lights. Karen said that the lights would be part of a bigger project because the field needs to be replaced in 2018 and there is the possibility that new bleachers, a press box and other items will be part of the entire process and that there are no concrete timelines as of now.

- V. **Other Facility Updates.** Mac Slover said that there are meetings coming up on Patrick Henry and encouraged Board members to attend.
- VI. **Affiliate Policy.** Mac Slover said that the final version is going to the city attorney for final approval. Jim encouraged members to review the Affiliate Policy prior to the next meeting. Tommy Park from representing soccer said that there are some issues in the policy that will prevent the soccer association and other members from signing it.
- VII. **Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update.** Laura Fries provided an update on the the current status, there will be a meeting with consultants for the public in January. And said, there is an all-city swim meet at Chinguapin tomorrow and she encouraged members to attend.
- VIII. **Next Meeting Date, Monday, February 9 at Mt Vernon Center.** Jim Gibson told the attendees that Dr. Crawley, the ACPS Superintendent would be at the next meeting. He encouraged everyone to attend to show your support/interest for youth athletics in Alexandria. Jim also said he would like to spend time at the next meeting discussing two things: helping to identify gratitude opportunities – so we could thank people and organizations in the Alexandria community and revisiting the vision of the organization. Jim expressed his opinion that 2014 had been a good year but wanted the group to think about what we could improve upon, develop a plan of attack and be more proactive. Jeff Murphy added that there will be a meeting next Tuesday for the Alexandria Sportsman’s Club and that someone from the Nationals would be there to address the group. The meeting starts at 6:30.
- IX. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Youth Sports Advisory Board  
Monday, March 9, 2015  
Summary Notes

Attendees: Laura Fries, Jim Gibson, Jeff Murphy, Beth Hamed, Ed Goeas, Donnie Simpson  
Guest: Dr. Crawley & Bill Campbell (ACPS), Nikki Zelaski & Matt Sahlin (Alexandria Country Day School)  
Staff: James Spengler and Mac Slover

Welcome Remarks; Jim Gibson informed members on the loss of Maggie Rivers and all expressed condolences for former YSAB board member Bill Rivers. A card was sent on behalf of the group.

Jim introduced present guests from Alexandria Country Day School and reminded everyone we were waiting Dr. Crawley, Superintendent of ACPS, who was double-booked for the evening, but would be there to answer our questions.

Presentation by Alexandria Country Day

Alexandria Country Day School has been around since 1983; 32 years old. Nicky Zaleskie, Physical Education Teacher and Matthew Sahlin, Director of Development talked about their expanding service projects in the community. Nicky joined the Miracle League Board, ACDS does not have many special needs students, but they want the kids familiar in dealing with kids facing adversity. Zaleskie has worked Miracle League participation in the curriculum as well as information such as Including Samuel book. Nicky has organized a 1K and 5K race to benefit the Miracle League. It is April 18; starts at Cora Kelly School and goes around Four Mile Run. 1K starts at 8:30 a.m. and hope to have TR participants. 9 a.m. for the 5K.

They are asking the YSAB to help pass along the information to sponsors and participants. The money earned through their Service Learning Program will be put back into the Community. Miracle League would earn half the profits from the race.

Dr. Crawley, Q&A

Jim Gibson offered introduction of the heads of various sports and city volunteers. He talked about how once they leave school; we enrich them. The board had a couple of concerns and questions. Mentioned the synergy between rec; volunteers and school system. Rec Coaches have relationships with some school coaches; but want to make sure we have that with admin as well. Dr. Crawley was thankful for the opportunity and showed appreciation for out student support. He usually deals with in school and classroom issues, but recognizes that what happens outside the classroom impacts students. Keeping students mentally connected and physically developed is key to their school performance. These relationships matter from pre-k to high school. He doesn't consider himself as a guest. Wants to hear the issues and how to partner together. Sending a clear and consistent message to our students. Be a champion for students; happens everywhere there are adults who care.

First issue brought up is that many youth sports participants are from single family homes. They don't get the level of support. What can be done through sports to help those students? They don't get represented in PTA, back to school night, etc.

Dr. Crawley advised to continue to do what we do; engage the kids. Parents do the best they can. We have to step up to the plate and be the voice for the voiceless and be a mentor and sometimes be very frank about what is happening to keep them focused. Dr. Crawley mentioned a recent meeting with middle and high school admin discussed how we support these types of students. ACPS has highest free and reduced lunch at 61 percent. Highest in the area. Additional support is needed. Jim Gibson reaffirmed that any student who wants to participate has the opportunity to participate. All sports have scholarships.

Jim Gibson brought up the 2.0 rule designed to raise academic standard. It has not been monitored or measured. Many feel it is not effective. Grades go down when they don't play. What can we do to the students that don't have the academic standards? Bill Campbell said the Virginia state standard is only 1.8. Dr. Crawley said what happens in the classroom matters in access to other activities. There is discussion within the school board on the issue. Dr. Crawley sees advantage in having 2.0, especially looking at the larger context. Having higher standards means better preparations for students in long run. Dr. Crawley recognizes that sometimes, it needs to be looked at on a case by case basis. We need to support students, but we need to set a standard. Bill Campbell agrees and said it's about making the connection with kids, especially early on. Peer groupings need work, though and according to Campbell, kids see 2.0 and set their sights on just 2.0. Bill Campbell said keep the standard, but make it better. Kids are graduating with 2.0. Dr. Crawley said when students leave high school on shaky ground, when they go to college ill prepared, they have more trouble. A lot don't stay in. The school board is looking into figuring out college retention rate for ACPS and is in discussion with NOVA and George Mason. Laura Fries asked if there as a process through which to follow on a case by case basis. Dr. Crawley said policy allows for appeals and the school board is working on documentation. Dr. Crawley acknowledged room for improvement in a better documentation to help a student below 2.0 in sports. Donnie Simpson mentioned tutoring or study hall for sports players not making the minimum. Donnie said these kids aren't in a position to improve that grade by themselves. Donnie recalled those years ago, private funds were used to help athletes meet 2.0, and pay for the support structure around it. Donnie said there are things we can do to provide support to these kids and not inhibit their participation. Once you lose them; you lose them forever. Participation in sports in the past was 28 percent, below normal average because they did not have support.

Dr. Crawley said he would be interested in developing resources at different levels; get partners for funding, grant and support. Dr. Crawley is having meetings to look at the middle school level because he is aware of that the transition to high school can be difficult.

Jeff Murphy said that for his Rugby program, he tries to establish easier ways to work through the school. Jeff said he has a diverse group of kids, but has no idea what their GPA is. He doesn't always know what goes on; but would like to see a better process in place on how to share information. Jim Gibson brought up turf fields and lights. He reminded everyone we aren't going to grow any more space and that the resistance to lighted fields impacts all of us. Dr. Crawley said he is keenly aware of the history and the discussion and that he is a proponent of added lights in a way that is respectful to the community. Dr. Crawley says we need to acknowledge concerns of spillage and sound and work through and address these. Dr. Crawley thinks it would be great to have lights on the field.

The turf is part of the CIP scheduled maintenance. Dr. Crawley can't promise every field will have turf but sees it can be a goal. The field at GW is certainly a possibility. Jim Gibson mentioned that our group is a big proponent of sportsmanship and that challengers to lights don't play fair. Jim Gibson thanked Dr. Crawley for coming; Dr. Crawley had to leave for another engagement.

Bill Campbell discussed improvements the football field including the press box; tree planting; parking lot. 2018 budget (ten year budget will change); includes money to replace the field and it would make sense to do it then and do the prep work for lights. There is a goal for this school board to create a proposal before the planning council by end of this calendar year to ask for update for the use permit. Jim Gibson mentioned the Miracle Field as an example of public/private partnership.

What would we need to do to expedite that to get the lights done? Bill Campbell said the Maury playground group has raised dollars to upgrade play space. The board feels there are opportunities for private support for the lights and that would be a necessity in the next five years. Jim Gibson has that if hypothetically, if money was the issue, if private citizens raised the money needed, would that accelerate getting lights at TC. Bill Campbell said the hurdle is the use permit. Lobbying city council and planning commission is where to work it. Money helps. Bill said that if every year you can show that you can raise money that may help but it may not expedite things. Bill says best case scenario is full funding in 2018; contract in 2019 done in 2020. Jeff Murphy expressed concerns about use of TC field and chasing kids off the field for scheduled practice time. More security at the field may be a solution

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Affiliate Policy Update:

Mac Slover said they are going back and doing a second go around and making changes so it aligns with field allocation policy. By April meeting or before he should have it to the board and then it would go in front of Park and Recreation Commission.

TC Williams tennis courts construction ongoing. There have been expressed concerns over court colors and surfaces, which are supposed to be red and blue. The concern is about the glare.

Minnie Howard gym upgrade is in discussions specially flooring. Jefferson Houston field will hopefully be open by March 15. The turf field needs time after bad weather; and to maintain warranty, they have to abide by certain procedures to keep it under warranty before they can use it. March 15 is the hope; this affects soccer and lacrosse and some rec programs; Mac says they will update week to week.

Jim Spangler said the City Manager has proposed 5.6 million for a recreation center at Patrick Henry, which is just not enough and 28 million for the school. Jim says 33 million is not going to get much. Jim says this is an outdated model to work from (Same number as 2008). For reference information, Jim Spangler said The Charles Houston Recreation Center was \$20 million; \$44 million total for Jeff Houston School.

Mac Slover said the study and design concepts on different fields will have a follow up presentations once he finds out from park planning on when they are released. Baseball mentioned an interested in private dollars to help improve fields.

Laura Fries gave Advocates for Alexandria Aquatic update from notes from Bill Rivers. City's consultant just changed its estimate for a 50-meter pool from \$20 million to \$30 million. Much more of a challenge. City Manager's proposed FY 2016 budget has about \$22 million in 2017 and 2018 for a new pool at Chinquapin and \$2.3 million for a new pool at Warwick in 2017. Regarding Chinquapin, AAA will pursue a four prong approach: - determine the pricing of a staged approach to the 50-meter pool. Maybe have a pool with a structured membrane (like a hard bubble) to start with and move to a brick structure after more funds become available.

There will be a meeting with the consultant about that on March 10 to explore a joint venture with Arlington County. They can't afford their Long Bridge project anymore so they may be willing to share resources with Alexandria to achieve a 50-meter pool. The next meeting will be held in early April between Council member and Arlington Commissioner to determine interest level. The goal is to obtain more funds from Council – in an attempt to reduce the cost of the brick structure to where it may be manageable to get more money from Council (from \$10 million difference to \$5 million one). To be brought up at consultant's meeting tomorrow. Pursue private sector fund raising as pledges now until a decision is made on the 50-meter pool.

Regarding Warwick Pool: AAA is in support of the new pool in 2016 - rather than have a closed pool for 2 or 3 years. The Tenants and Workers United supports 2016. Warwick Village Citizens Association also supports 2016.

Family Fun Night is Friday, March 13 at Chinquapin. Patrick Henry School will be featured. They had over 350 people at February's Family Fun Night which featured Mount Vernon School. Laura extended an invitation to all sports to participate in family fun nights as a good way to recruit kids. Laura also updated the group on TR family that suffered an accident at Chinquapin with an issue of secondary drowning. The Shaw family is a big advocate of the TR program; Helena is facing many challenges ahead, but that this underscores the need for a therapeutic rec pool for special needs kids.

Jim Gibson said a former youth football player is doing an internship with ESPN; he suggested they do some coverage of the Miracle League and asked the group if this was agreeable. All said it was.

Jim Gibson also mention The Alexandria Sportsman's Club's year end banquet that recognizes all student athletes; He stated he would really like as many of board as possible to come to do that. Best indication for future success is past performance. The event is May 19. Although primarily for High school students, board members can contact Mac with any youth sports recommendations.

Donnie Simpson talked about a Bishop Ireton swimmer who recognized by the Sportsman's Club and said Alexandria is a great, unique community and that he wouldn't have had the same

sporting opportunities anywhere else. The group discussed that there is something about Alexandria. That pride is something to rally around.

Bill Campbell said the ACPS school board is looking for new ways to do business and modernizing schools; propose school for 16 months and do all of the work. Looking for swing space is difficult and the Lee center is a site that would be explored. It is easier to find office space than school space in Alexandria.

Mac Slover gave an update on the Lee center playground. A local contractor donated over \$9,000 for a walkway, so funds and goals of \$90,000 have been met. June 13 is the dedication. Mac mentioned that it is a nice addition to Lee Center with a great design to honor Ruthanne Lodato's musical legacy.

Brian McPherson updated the group on a Parks and Rec Commission concern regarding Cameron Run Regional Park. It is owned by the city but leased to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. The park authority wants to renew the lease that was made 40 years ago. The Initial proposal was for another 40 years. Brian says it is the largest piece of open space at about 33 acres. The Water Park takes up 25 acres; Lake Cook about 7 acres. NVPA is made up of other counties; they charge each a per capita amount to each municipality to have access to their facilities. The rent for the park authority is \$10 a year but the city pays \$652,472.00 a year to be part of this group. Paul Gilbert from NVPA made a presentation to park and rec commission and gave impression of the backing of council.

Brian expressed concern over a quirky situation. City Council can do the lease without a public hearing and Brian thinks this is just wrong. NVPA wants a special use permit to put in some new feature and they don't want to invest money in something without a stable lease. The wave pool brings in \$1.8 million in revenue, which the city gets nothing from. The special use permit is in a holding pattern but Brian believes that Gilbert is trying to fast track in council with heavy lobbying. Brian says we need to keep an eye on this issue as it is a big chunk of land. If nothing happens, NVPA could just walk away from the property. Park and Recreation Commission have sent strongly worded letters to council with concern over why this could ever be accepted without public hearings. Cases were brought up for smaller parcels of land and city spent months on one acre plots, so why fast track a huge piece of land, but park authority wants to do improvements now. The Alexandria Times had a letter to the editor, but it is an issue that is under the radar for many. .

Jim Gibson closed the meeting reminding members that our next meeting is April 13. He thanked Bill Campbell for filling in for Kelly Booz for ACPS School Board. ALL Baseball asked for any updates about naming rights. Mac Slover said the new Parknership program is in the process of determining all of that.

8:24 p.m. adjournment.

# **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Monday, April 13, 2015**

## **Summary Notes**

**Attendees:** Mac Slover, Jim Gibson, Owen Malone, Jeff Murphy, Dennis Burstein, Richard Stone, Donnie Simpson & Beth Hamed

**Special Guest:** Ron Kagawa, RPCA, Bill Conkey, Sorg Architects, Bill Campbell, ACPS School Board, Tan Cross, General Services and Councilman John Chapman

- I. Review of January Meeting Notes (no February meeting).** Summary notes were approved.
- II. AlexRenew Project** – Ron Kagawa, Division Chief for Park Planning, Tan Cross of General Services and Bill Conkey, Architect discussed the new AlexRenew project on Eisenhower Avenue. The project will be providing a new artificial turf field, with lights on top of the new storage treatment facility being built.
  - \* The proposal presented to build a full size stadium with lights to support TC Williams Athletics by William Goff was discussed.
  - \* Attached is the summary of the findings presented to the City Council on the possible upgrades to fit the stadium in. In summary, the City does not own the field and there is a 15 year clause that the field lease can be canceled, there is limited space build in, parking is limited, limited ADA access, no room for bleachers, no locker rooms, and limited access by Fire and Code Enforcement.
  - \* The field will be size of Ben Brenman Soccer Field.
- III. Patrick Henry School/Recreation Center** – Ron Kagawa, Division Chief for Park Planning, Tan Cross of General Services  
See attached summary of the Feasibility Study and its findings conducted by ACPS. There are several proposals on the table for the site.
- IV. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts/Lights Update** – The courts are under construction and have a goal of May 30 to be finished.
- V. Jefferson Houston Field Update** – will be completed in May. The contractor has to finish a lengthy (30) punch out list before the City will open the field.
- VI. Affiliate Policy.** Mac Slover said that the final version is going to the city attorney for final approval and the final version will be presented at the May meeting. The Affiliate Policy will then go through the Park and Recreation Commission before it will be ready.
- VII. Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update.** Laura Fries provided an update on the current status for the absent Bill Rivers. .  
City's consultant just changed its estimate for a 50-meter pool from \$20 million to \$30 million. Much more of a challenge to raise the money.



- o City Manager's proposed FY 2016 budget has about \$22 million in 2017 and 2018 for a new pool at Chinquapin and \$2.3 million for a new pool at Warwick in 2017.
- o Chinquapin Pool - AAA will pursue a four prong approach:
  - determine the pricing of a staged approach to the 50-meter pool. Maybe have a pool with a structured membrane (like a hard bubble) to start with and move to a brick structure after more funds become available. Will be meeting with the consultant about that April 14.
  - explore a joint venture with Arlington County. They can't afford their Long Bridge project anymore so they may be willing to share resources with Alexandria to achieve a 50-meter pool. Meeting in early April between Council member and Arlington Commissioner to determine interest level.
  - more funds from Council - attempt to reduce the cost of the brick structure to where it may be manageable to get more money from Council (from \$10 million difference to \$5 million one). To be brought up at consultant's meeting tomorrow.
  - pursue private sector fund raising as pledges now until a decision is made on the 50-meter pool.
- o Warwick Pool
  - AAA to support doing the new pool in 2016 - rather than have a closed pool for 2 or 3 years.
  - Tenants and Workers United support 2016.
  - Warwick Village Citizens Association also supports 2016.
- o Family Fun Night this Friday at Chinquapin. Patrick Henry featured. Had over 350 people at February's featuring Mount Vernon School.

## **VIII. Roundtable**

- \* Councilman Chapman concerned with budget, the increase in fees, rentals and thinks a percentage of the field user fees should go into the payment of replacement surfaces. He stated that privatization of some sports like football should be looked at.
- \* Donnie stated that the models from the Little League and Soccer should be looked at as a template.
- \* Jim stated football cost has increased and the number of children playing will begin to decline because cost is steadily growing. He urges that cost must stay down to allow children to afford to play.
- \* Richard stated the City should consider bonds to help cover the cost of running the City programs, but knows they have a real hesitation in borrowing.
- \* Dennis – stated that the new schools like Patrick Henry need to have larger gymnasiums to be able to handle the K-8 concept. Councilman Chapman agreed with him that multiple gyms maybe needed. He is going to be applying for several million dollar PE grants over the next few months.
- \* Bill stated the K-8 concept is designed to help with the transition between elementary and middle school to make it smoother and a better connection with the community.
- \* Bill stated that ACPS Board may be looking at redistricting once the renovated facilities are completed.

**IX. Next Meeting Date:** Monday, May 11 at Mt Vernon Center.

**X. Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

## **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Monday, May 11, 2015**

### **Summary Notes**

**Attendees:** Mac Slover, Jim Gibson, William Chesley, Owen Malone, Jeff Murphy, Dennis Burstein, Terri Belcher, Karen Booz & Ed Goeas

**Special Guest:** Dana Weedles – RPCA & Pat Mann – City of Alexandria & Mark Esienhower - ACPS

April Summary notes were approved.

- I.** Alexandria Sportsman's Club –Allan Kaupinen discussed the upcoming Sportsman's Club Annual Banquet on May 19 at Westin Hotel. The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Dominion Boat Club. Membership is \$70/year and \$100 for membership and ticket to the banquet.
- II.** Long Range Educational Facilities Plan Presentation – Dana Weedles, Pat Mann, and Mark Eisenhower discussed the 30 year plan for RPCA and ACPS. Attached is the powerpoint on the plan.
- III.** **Maury Schoolyard Project** – Mark presented the updated plan on the project. See the attached.
- IV.** **Patrick Henry School/Recreation Center** – Mark presented the latest updates on the project. There are still several proposals on the table for the site. See the attached.
- V.** **TC Williams High School Tennis Courts/Lights Update** – The courts are expected to be finished by May 30.
- VI.** **Jefferson Houston Field Update** – is completed. The contractor has to finish the punch out list even though the field is now open.
- VII.** **Affiliate Policy.** Mac Slover the final version has been approved by the City Attorney's Office and then go through the Park and Recreation Commission before it will be ready in June.
- VIII.** **Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update.** Laura Fries provided an update on the current status for the absent Bill Rivers. Following up on our swimming conversations at the Miracle League games, we are participating with the City and the DASH bus system on an event next Tuesday to announce free bus service from the Arlandria/Warwick Village/Del Ray area in Alexandria to the vicinity of the Old Town swimming pool (on Cameron Street) this July and August.

This is being done in conjunction with the Make A Splash program that we also discussed. That program is focused on teaching every kid how to swim, with particular emphasis on minority kids (who historically have been less likely to learn to swim).

As such, the kick-off event is on the 30th. The Mayor will be announcing the program and we will have a DASH bus there to highlight the free bus service (it will link the area around the closed Warwick pool - closed due to structural issues - and the open Old Town pool). While we focus on kids riding free to get to the pool, in fact anyone can ride the AT10 bus route for free between 9:30 am and 3:30 pm Monday through Friday and 11:00 am to 7:00 pm Saturday and Sunday. Should be a nice benefit to residents of the affected communities.

Along with working with the City and DASH, we have also partnered with the Potomac Marlins Swim Club as our direct link to the USA Swimming's Make a Splash program. They should be at the event also.

**IX. Roundtable**

Melvin Miller, one of the YSAB members has passed away. He fought for affordable housing and was Chairman of the ACPS School Board and was a superlover of athletics in the City. You usually found him watching games at St. Stephens/St. Agnes School or TC Williams High School. He will really be missed.

**X. Next Meeting Date:** Monday, June 8 at Mt Vernon Center.

**XI. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

# **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Monday, September 14, 2015**

## **Summary Notes**

**Attendees:** Mac Slover, Jim Gibson, William Chesley, Owen Malone, Brian McPherson, Jeff Murphy, Dennis Burstein, Ed Goeas; Beth Hamed, Tommy Park, Steve Colantuni, Dan Rouse & Bill Campbell

**Special Guest:** Beth Znidersic & Ron Kagawa – RPCA Park Planning  
Jack Broward – RPCA Special Events

May Summary notes were approved.

**Facility Update Presentation** – Beth Znidersic & Ron Kagawa presented an update on the facility plans for the Capital Improvement Budget over the next few years.

- I. Little Simpson Project** – November of 2015 – removal of storage building and backstop and will be replaced with concrete pad and new scorers box. Alexandria Little League is working with RPCA to identify other areas on the field and park to help contribute to its upgrade, including the potential of converting the new Park Maintenance storage building into a park concession stand. The issue would be where relocate a new maintenance building for the staff and how it would be paid for.
- II. Patrick Henry School/Recreation Center** – Two important meetings coming up. September 28 – ACPS/City Council Meeting 5 pm at City Council Workroom and September 30 – Community Meeting at Patrick Henry School 6 pm.

On Thursday, September 10, Alexandria City School Board approved the selection of Brailsford & Dunlavey as project manager for the Patrick Henry School and Recreation Center.

A Community Advisory Committee of 10 citizens is being developed. The Community Advisory Group will be made up of citizens, including two citizens that live within a mile of the school, two members from the Patrick Henry PTA and a member of the Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Patrick Henry Advisory Council, Foxchase, Seminary Hill Association, Brookville-Seminary Valley Civic Association and Wakefield-Tarleton Civic Association. The three members of the civic associations should each have an existing involvement with the Patrick Henry School. They are taking applications now.

See ACPS web site for further updates:

<http://www.acps.k12.va.us/news2016/nr2015091101.php>

- III. TC Williams High School Tennis Courts & Facility Update** – The tennis courts are expected to open in October with a dedication on October 24. The lights will be on a timer set by ACPS and have a push button on switch. It will be part of the TC Williams High School 50<sup>th</sup> reunion.

- IV. Jefferson Houston Field Update** – is completed. The contractor has to finish the punch out list even though the field is now open.
- V. Arlington/Alexandria Swimming Pool Consideration** – the concept is in its earliest stages and there will be community meeting on September 15. Citing growing demand for enhanced aquatics amenities such as a 50-meter pool, recreation planners from the City of Alexandria and Arlington County have informally discussed the possibility of establishing a joint facility at Alexandria's Chinquapin Park or Arlington's Long Bridge Park. As part of this initial consideration, Alexandria and Arlington will survey their respective residents to determine whether there is further interest in a joint effort.

An independent research firm is contacting a random sample of Alexandria residents, to produce a statistically valid representation of community opinion. One question asks for feedback on a proposal to partner with Arlington County to develop a 50-meter pool at Long Bridge Park instead of Chinquapin Park. Results will be available in Fall 2015, and will be published at [www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation). Meanwhile, Arlington will conduct a resident survey in Fall 2015 and include a similar question.

- VI. Four Mile Run Restoration Project** - project was part of 10 year Master plan for the park and will be done in November. The walking/running path and parking lot area around the field will be redone. The dedication will be done on November 1 and a tour will be given on October 29 from 1 – 3 pm. The project came in \$200,000 under budget using federal government money.
- VII. AlexRenew Project – Four Mile Run Park** – on going and will be running through the spring.

**AlexRenew Project – Limerick Field Dedication & Family Fest** – field is built on top of nutrient management tanks. The field is 260 x 210 with restrooms and lights.

The dedication ceremony will be held on Friday, October 23 and the Family Day on Saturday, October 4 for the at the Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) site on Eisenhower Avenue.

Friday, October 23 - 3- 6 pm - the dedication ceremony will be for invited guest including the City dignitaries, Renew officials, Virginia state officials, representatives of the RPCA and Alexandria sports community. As a part of the ceremony, children from our youth organizations will help dedicate the field as they run through a banner together to open the field.

Following the ceremony there will be a Bar-B-Que dinner and music for everyone and an area on the field the players can play.

Saturday, October 24 – 11 am – 4 pm - AlexRenew will be hosting a Family Field Fest. The public will be invited to attend family festival day and they are expecting to have 300 – 400 people throughout the afternoon.

See the attached flyer on the event.

- VIII. Hume Springs Park Renovation** – Public/Private partnership with the Runningbrook staff to renovate the park. They have over 10 volunteers renovating the park under the City's guidance.

### **Presentation of Special Events Application Process**

Jack Broward, Division Chief for Special Events did a presentation on what the requirements were for trying to run a special event in the City. This is required if any organizations are trying to run any events or fundraisers outside the regular season. See the attached forms which are on the RPCA web site under Special Events. It would cover food sales, sound, tents, and etc. Jack stated that it can be looked into possibly developing a blanket permit through the City.

### **Future Strategy Planning By the Board**

Jim stated that the YSAB's recent focus over the past 8 – 10 years has been on the improvement of facilities in the parks and schools. He now wants the group to look at working with support groups and with the high schools to develop good relationships with the youth sports organizations. More to come on this.

**Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update** – No update

### **Roundtable**

- **Steve – TC Williams High School - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – October 24. Will have possible bonfire, tailgating party before homecoming football game, alumni gathering at Ramparts Restaurant, Basketball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and the Scholarship Gala. Jack Taylor has made a \$50,000 donation to the scholarship fund.
- TC Williams and local cable Channel 71 is showing a football film game of the month.
- November 7 – Keith Burns will be recognized as part of the NFL's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Super Bowl with its "Super Bowl" High School Honor Roll that honors local athletics at their high schools who have played in the Super Bowl.
- Excited that RPCA Sports and TC Williams are working together to have more of the youth and high school coaches supporting each other. This is evident with the coaches in football, volleyball, basketball, baseball and softball working together.
- At Witter Softball – A group of softball parents would like to install batting cages. Ron stated the DSUP would have to be reopened and amendment to it. Beth stated she would be willing to sit down with the group to discuss the options.

- Bill – ACPS is working on a three year feasibility study for the Parker Gray Stadium that will include field upgrade, concession stand, lights and press box. A design package is being worked on for the FY 2017 and FY 2018 budgets. Presently the scorer's booth is condemned and they are using a portable unit for the football games.

- **Dennis – Wahoos Swim Team** – finished the summer season of the Colonial Swim League 5 – 0 winning the division championship. The success of the program has come from changing the culture and direction of the team through good coaching and a strong commitment from the parents and swimmers.

- Brian – stated the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is again trying to develop another 40 lease with the City on the Cameron Run Regional Park area in the City. They bring in an estimated 1 million a year. He will keep everyone updated.

**Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, October 13 at Mt Vernon Center.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

# **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Tuesday, October 13, 2015**

## **Summary Notes**

**Attendees:** Mac Slover, Jim Gibson, James Spengler, Brian McPherson, Jeff Murphy, Dennis Burstein, Ed Goeas; Beth Hamed, Tommy Park, Steve Colantuni, Donnie Simpson, John Timmons & Bill Campbell

**Special Guest:** Ron Kagawa – RPCA Park Planning  
Jennifer Sonderman – Alexandria Health Department  
Jovanda Warren - VOICE

September Summary notes were approved.

**Turf Field Infill Materails Presentation** – Ron Kagawa and Jennifer Sonderman presented the finding of the recent Alexandria Health Department study on infill materails used in synthetic fields.

Ms. Sonderman explained that the study which began in May 2015, reviewed all data and tested the crumb rubber themselves and found no definitive link between the materails used and any health related issues. (YSAB members received the memo presented to the City Council on September 25, 2015). The study also supports the same type of report that Fairfax County and presented to their Board of Supervisors in June 2015.

Even through there was no health concerns found, the Virginia Department of Health has requested the state of Virginia and federal government to provide their own studies on this matter.

<http://wtop.com/fairfax-county/2015/10/reston-family-speaks-out-about-artificial-turf-dangers/>

**VOICE** – Jovanda Warren presented information on VOICE, (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement), 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. Anyone interested in working with them are asked to contact Jovanda at [jmwarren3@gmail.com](mailto:jmwarren3@gmail.com).  
<http://www.voice-iaf.org/about-voice>.

### **Discussion on Washington Post Article on Fewer Children Playing Sports**

Are parents ruining youth sports? Fewer kids play amid pressure. Sports hit with declines include basketball, baseball, soccer, softball, and touch football, survey shows. They spoke with ASA for them input on the article.



[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/are-parents-ruining-youth-sports-fewer-kids-play-amid-pressure/2015/10/04/eb1460dc-686e-11e5-9ef3-fde182507eac\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/are-parents-ruining-youth-sports-fewer-kids-play-amid-pressure/2015/10/04/eb1460dc-686e-11e5-9ef3-fde182507eac_story.html).

Brian – stated that the travel programs are now more all about money and parents feel if they pay then their child must play.

John – travel can give parents and athletes false hopes about receiving scholarships to play sports.

Donnie – playing high school sports is very important and they should be playing multiple sports but, many of them now are specializing in one sport. The colleges want athletes who play multiple sports. He feels travel sports are a money maker.

Jim G. – travel groups are selling false dreams to parents and athletes. The athletes burn out more quickly. Playing multiple high school sports is important for the student athletes to experience.

Tommy - the priority for ASA is the recreation level even though they sponsor travel teams. They have modified the recreation level games to give more children opportunities to play and experience the game. Program delivery is very important and taking out the specialization portion of sports. Parents must decide where to spend their time and money when it comes to sports for their child. ASA is 50 – 100% cheaper than most travel organizations. ASA's goal is to grow the recreation league so they can make a smoother transition to the travel program. The quality of the recreation league is far more important than the travel program. He stated that repeating is the key to mastering the sport.

Dennis – asked if YSAB should more openly promote playing youth sports and high school sports and create a program that supports the values of the City.

Steve – stated that it is hard to find coaches now who are willing to coach; parents want to know how his teams can be more competitive. He stated that he has athletes that do not know how to compete and cannot understand that losing is okay as long as they improve. The Virginia High School League now allows non-season practices throughout the year to help retain and develop high school athletes.

Ed- the idea of everyone receiving a trophy is something to review also. The goal should be to get children to practice more to develop their skills.

Jim asked for someone to volunteer to write a response to the article. He asked Tommy to draft a response to the article and to send it around for comment, before sending it to the newspaper.

### **Facility Updates**

**TC Williams High School Tennis Courts & Facility Update** – The tennis courts are expected to open with a dedication on October 24. The lights will be on a timer set by ACPS and have a push button on switch. It will be part of the TC Williams High School 50<sup>th</sup> reunion plans.

**Four Mile Run Restoration Project** - project was part of 10 year Master plan for the park and will be done in November. The walking/running path and parking lot area around the field will be redone. The dedication will be done on November 1 and a tour will be given on October 29 from 1 – 3 pm. The project came in \$200,000 under budget using federal government money.

**AlexRenew Project – Limerick Field Dedication & Family Fest** – field is built on top of nutrient management tanks. The field is 260 x 210 with restrooms and lights.

The dedication ceremony will be held on Friday, October 23 and the Family Day on Saturday, October 4 for the at the Alexandria Renew Enterprises (AlexRenew) site on Eisenhower Avenue.

Friday, October 23 - 3- 6 pm - the dedication ceremony will be for invited guest including the City dignitaries, Renew officials, Virginia state officials, representatives of the RPCA and Alexandria sports community. As a part of the ceremony, children from our youth organizations will help dedicate the field as they run through a banner together to open the field.

Following the ceremony there will be a Bar-B-Que dinner and music for everyone and an area on the field the players can play.

Saturday, October 24 – 11 am – 4 pm - AlexRenew will be hosting a Family Field Fest. The public will be invited to attend family festival day and they are expecting to have 300 – 400 people throughout the afternoon. As a part of the Field Fest, the RPCA Sports Office, Alexandria Rugby Club, Alexandria Lacrosse Club, Alexandria Soccer Association, Wahoos Swim Team and the Alexandria Little League will have demonstrations and/or table set up to advertise their programs.

**Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update** – Money has been placed in CIP for some pool construction. A report is due soon from the City on the pools.

**Patrick Henry School and Recreation Center Project** – Mac handed out a project timeline. In November ACPS and the City Council will have a joint work session.

## **Roundtable**

**Steve – TC Williams High School - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – October 24. Will have a bonfire, tailgating party before homecoming football game, alumni gathering at Ramparts Restaurant, Basketball Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and the Scholarship Gala. Jack Taylor has made a \$50,000 donation to the scholarship fund.

- TC Williams and local cable Channel 71 is showing a football film game of the month.

- November 7 – Keith Burns will be recognized as part of the NFL's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Super Bowl with its "Super Bowl" High School Honor Roll that honors local athletics at their high schools who have played in the Super Bowl.

**Tommy – Dennis Menza** – came from Ghana as a child and was invited to join the DC United Academy team, but could not afford it is now been invited to participate in the Virginia Olympic Development team and will practice with the US National team. Congratulations to Dennis.

**Jim** – Would like to know everyone participation numbers for this past year and would like to hear about and success stories or challenges from this past year.

**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, November 9 at Mt Vernon Center.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

## **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Monday, November 9, 2015**

### **Summary Notes**

**Attendees:** Mac Slover, Jim Gibson, William Chesley, Jim Spengler, Brian McPherson, Jeff Murphy, Dennis Burstein, Ed Goeas; Beth Hamed, Tommy Park, John Timmons, Kevin McDermott, Gus Chirillo, Owen Malone, Donnie Simpson, Lutfi LaSida, Bill Rivers, John Timmons & Bill Campbell

**Guest:** Marc Leon – Community Citizen

October Summary notes were approved.

### **Field Proposal at Four Mile Run Park**

Marc Leon reviewed his letter sent to the City Council in which he is requesting that Four Mile Run Park's Frank Mann Baseball Field and the Girls Softball Fields be turfed so that fewer games can be rained out. Mark stated that it was needed to help with demand, cut down the rain out days, more use throughout the year.

Jim Spengler stated that several factors outside the environmental aspect would be account. These included the timing and structure of the City's CIP, that RPCA is working with the Alexandria Little League (ALL) to improve the drainage, backstop and the concessions at Simpson Park. Also, that in FY 2017 the City is facing more budget reductions.

Ed stated that ALL has been working consistently with the City for improvements to their fields, especially at Simpson for the past year.

### **2016 Objectives of the YSAB**

Jim Gibson stated that he wanted to see the board in 2016 to further discussions on athlete field improvement, reiterating the importance of Youth Sports programs – determining what is good and bad for children and building better high school connections.

He stated the Sportsman's Club of Alexandria is good organization to help build the connections between the youth and high school programs by dealing with the youth leaders and high school AD's.

He stated that individual sports need to be able to make the connections to remain strong especially with TC Williams and the private schools. Other factors pointed out by members that with TC Williams, the lacrosse and swim programs from the schools need to be more engaging with each other. The baseball, softball, football, basketball, rugby and soccer are engaged more with each other.

**AlexRenew (Limerick Field) Dedication** – Mac stated that the field dedication and Family Field Fest on October 23 and 24 went very well. All four of the affiliate programs and RPCA's Sports Section and Classes/Camps Section participated.

Concern is for the low fencing around the west end of the field for balls to be kicked or thrown over during practices and games. The City's Planning Commission and City Council voted not to support the higher fencing at the time of the final plans for the field were presented by the RPCA Park Planning staff.

### **Advocates for Alexandria Aquatics (AAA) Update**

- Hughes has finished their submission of how to reduce costs on the 50-meter pool at Chinquapin.
  - Submitted to City
  - Not released to public yet
  - Release to public and Council – probably January
  - City asked them to review a couple of different building options to further reduce costs
    - Should be done shortly
- Warwick
  - City hopes to brief Council on it November 24<sup>th</sup>
  - Feasibility study completed; should come in at budget
  - Possible stainless steel pool as a retrofit
  - Question on new building
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room
- Needs Assessment
  - For Council November 24<sup>th</sup>
- Preparing for fund raising
  - Wait for public release of cost study
  - Preliminary meetings
- Family Fun Nights
  - Chinquapin – Friday nights
  - This Friday – Hammond – 6<sup>th</sup> grade
  - Last week was MacArthur
  - Pick up again in January
  - Alexandriaaquatics.com
    - Also TC schedule
  - Working with City and ACPS on other swim projects – lessons

### **Roundtable:**

#### **Outstanding Volunteers Recognition at December Meeting**

Jim Gibson wants each organization to bring up to a maximum of two outstanding volunteers that helps with YSAB members programs this year. He wants to recognize them for their achievements and present a certificate to them. Need them by November 23.

### **Patrick Henry Recreation Center/School Renovation**

Design to start in January and finished by March by ACPS. The first citizen meeting will be held in January – date to be determined. ACPS wants a grass field, so they debate is to whether to install turf or grass. RPCA wants a turf field.

Brian stated the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary “Sleepy Thompson” High School Basketball Tournament will be run December 3 – 5 and will feature the teams from Bishop Ireton, SSSA and Epsicopal.

Lutfi LaSida is a TC Williams High School student and swimmer for the school and Wahoos and will be one of new representatives for the Wahoos Swim Team on the board. Welcome Lutfi!

**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, December 14 at Mt Vernon Center.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

## **YOUTH SPORTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**Monday, December 14, 2015**

### **Summary Notes**

**Attendees:** Mac Slover, Jim Gibson, Bill Rivers, Brian McPherson, Jeff Murphy, Dennis Burstein, Beth Hamed, Tommy Park, John Timmons, Kevin McDermott, Owen Malone, Donnie Simpson, Lutfi LaSida, Steve Colantunti, Laura Fries, & Bill Campbell

**Guest:** Berk Stoy, Michael Burch, Jeff Newhouse, Todd Carroll, Berlina Vert, Janet Eissenstat, Deb Riley, Adam Tabaka, Maria Filios

November Summary notes were approved.

### **Outstanding Volunteers Award Recognition Reception Ceremony**

As a special part of the holiday season, the YSAB began its first annual Volunteers Award Recognition and Reception Ceremony. Each organization had the option to recognize up to two outstanding volunteers that helped with organization over this past year. Each of them were recognized for their achievements and presented a certificate of appreciation from the Youth Sports Advisory Board. Below are the volunteers recognized.

#### **Alexandria Soccer Association**

Jeff Newhouse

Todd Carroll

#### **Alexandria Lacrosse Club**

Anna Puglisi

Adam Tabaka

#### **Miracle League of Alexandria**

Janet Eissenstat

Jennifer Dickson

Deb Riley

#### **Alexandria Little League**

Pam Murphy

Brian Murphy

#### **Wahoos Swim Team**

Laura Fries

Maya LaSida

LoLo LaSida

## **Alexandria Titans Football**

Krys Filios

Jeremy Greer



## **2015 Program Summary Presentations**

-- **Alexandria Titans Football** – Jim Gibson gave an overview of the youth football program for this year. Approximately 140 youth participated in tackle football this season and along with 60 in Lil' Titans NFL Flag Football program.



The Titans program is continuing to evaluate its transition phase between the program being run by public funds to a program that is run by private donations. Football Commissioner Jim Gibson is currently recruiting for board members to begin the process.

Jim also discussed the challenges and the success of the teams for this season. The program which is currently run by the City is led by Mac Slover, Director of Sports and his sports staff including Tamika Coleman, Program Manager.

**- Alexandria Soccer Association** – Tommy Park, Executive Director of ASA gave an overview to the many programs they operate including youth recreational & travel, tots, TOPS, futsal and clinics in 2015. ASA's mission is the commitment from the club to allow all players the opportunity to play soccer regardless of their ability, education or financial standing.

The club accommodates over 3,400 youth participating in youth soccer in the City. They also provide financial scholarship support for families unable to afford the program fees. Tommy and his staff at ASA expect to continue to expand and improve the overall quality of their program in the coming years.

**Next Meeting Date:** Monday, January 11, 2016 at Mt Vernon Center.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:55.