

# **Sports Commission Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026**

**In-Person Meeting**

**Lubber Run Community Center**

**[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)**

**Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm**

## **Public Comment**

## **Approval of Minutes**

- February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meeting minutes
- March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meeting minutes

## **Old Business**

- Recap of March 2026 Joint Meeting and Budget Presentation

## **New Business**

- Update on County Board Meeting by SC Chair, Lizzy Stell
- SC Member Discussion on Interests of the Members
- Discussion on 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Workplan

## **Commission Member Reports**

- Chair updates
- Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Update

## **Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings**

- **May 28<sup>th</sup> (Virtual)**
- **June 25<sup>th</sup> (In-person)**
- **August 27<sup>th</sup> (Field Trip)**
- **September 24<sup>th</sup> (In-Person)**
- **October 22<sup>nd</sup> (Virtual)**
- **November 19<sup>th</sup> (Third Thursday) (In-person)**
- **December 17<sup>th</sup> (Third Thursday) (Virtual)**

# Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Virtual Meeting

Lubber Run Community Center

[Microsoft Teams Meeting](#)

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

## Public Comment

- None

## Approval of Minutes

- January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, meeting minutes
  - Motioned – George Thompson
  - Seconded by – Chair Lizzy Stell
  - Approved

## Old Business

- Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Update
  - The Commission received a report on the Parks and Recreation Commission's recent review of the Leckey Gardens site plan and the proposed FY27 budget impacts on Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) operations.
  - Discussion emphasized the importance of the upcoming March 26 joint meeting to align both commissions on facility preservation strategies and the implementation of the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP).
- Day of Play Discussion
  - The Commission discussed the revival of the "Day of Play" event, targeting a sunrise-to-sunset celebration on June 20, 2026, to align with the summer solstice. Members emphasized the immediate need to identify a Project Lead to manage cross-agency logistics, finalize activity stations for youth sports, and coordinate marketing "hype" with local sports organizations.

## New Business

- Kenmore Project Update presented by DPR Landscape Architect Supervisor Bernedette Grullon.
  - The Kenmore conversion layout will be a combination diamond-rectangular fields that will support baseball, softball, soccer, and lacrosse. The total project cost is strictly \$10.1 million.
    - The "90ft Diamond": One of the two fields is being designed with a 90-foot base path capability. This is a significant win for senior-level baseball (ages 13+), as 90-foot fields are currently at a premium in the county.
    - Backstop and Fencing: To accommodate both soccer and baseball, the backstops will be "low-profile" with high-tension netting rather than heavy chain-link. This reduces the visual "clutter" for the neighborhood while maintaining safety.

- Dugout Design: The dugouts will be sidewalk-level (flush) to ensure full ADA accessibility.
      - Bernedette confirmed the Kenmore turf will be made of organic infill more. Organic infills, require a dedicated irrigation/hydration system. Unlike crumb rubber, organic infill must stay slightly moist to prevent the particles from becoming too light and blowing away or becoming overly abrasive.
    - Final design and permitting (slated for completion by late Spring 2026). The county plans to begin bidding and procurement by Spring/Summer 2026.
      - Construction is currently scheduled to begin Fall 2026 with a 12-month duration with hopes of having the target completion date of Summer 2027. However, this depends on the final county board construction approval.
- Community Center Pass Visit, Unique User, & Facility Reservation Hours Numbers
  - The Commission reviewed data regarding the Community Center Pass (CCP) program, which grants access to fitness rooms and drop-in sports across the county's facilities.
    - DPR reported a 9% increase in "unique users" (individual residents using the pass) compared to the same period in 2025. This growth was primarily attributed to the high usage at the newer Lubber Run and Walter Reed centers.
    - Total visits across all community centers surpassed 215,000 for the first half of the fiscal year.
    - The "Pass vs. Daily" Trend: There is a noted shift where more residents are opting for annual memberships (\$225/year) rather than daily passes, which staff suggested indicates a more "committed" and "regular" user base for indoor fitness.
  - The discussion around "Reservation Hours" was used to highlight how "maxed out" Arlington's indoor spaces currently are:
    - Between 5:00 PM and 9:00 PM on weekdays, facility reservation hours are at 98% capacity across all major community centers.
    - Staff highlighted that basketball and volleyball programs are currently "squeezing" every available hour, leading to Commission's concern that any further budget cuts to staffing might result in reduced hours (e.g., closing centers earlier), which would directly eliminate scheduled league play.
    - A point of debate was the "Unique User to Reservation" ratio. Some Commissioners noted that while reservation hours are high, the number of unique groups getting those hours is small. They requested a future audit to see if a few large leagues are monopolizing the hours at the expense of smaller, emerging sports groups.
- Budget Overview
  - Total Proposed Budget: \$1.69 billion, representing a slight 0.1% decrease from the adopted FY 2026 budget. To balance the budget, the County Manager proposed \$10.6 million in total service reductions and efficiencies.

- The budget includes the potential elimination of 56 staff positions county-wide (24 currently filled).
  - The Commission discussed how reduced staffing at community centers could lead to shorter operating hours, directly impacting evening league reservations.
- There is a move to increase various user fees, which would include the Field Fund fee to help close the budget gap without further cutting programs.
- Despite the operating budget squeeze, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) remains a priority for field maintenance.
- Proposed Barcroft Gymnastics Program Cut
  - One of the proposed budget cuts for DPR is the elimination of both competitive and recreational gymnastics programs at the Barcroft Community Center.
  - Commission Members expressed strong opposition, noting this removes a unique regional asset for youth.
- PSMP Update
  - Status report on the ongoing implementation and updates to the County's master plan for public spaces and athletic facilities.

### **Commission Member Reports**

- Chair updates
  - The Chair provided a summary of administrative transitions and upcoming engagement priorities, including a call for members to finalize their review of the FY27 Proposed Operating Budget in preparation for the March joint session.
  - Additionally, the Chair highlighted the shift to an in-person format for the March meeting at Lubber Run for the Joint meeting with PRC.
  - It was also noted that three to four vacancies currently remain open on the Sports Commission board, encouraging members to share recruitment information with interested community leaders.
- APS Liaison Update:
  - APS Liaison Update: Chris Willmore provided a briefing on current school-based athletic initiatives, focusing on the development of the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school year calendars.
    - ongoing community feedback process and the coordination between APS and the County to ensure athletic facility availability aligns with proposed school holiday schedules and professional learning days.

### **Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings**

- **March 26<sup>th</sup> (Joint Meeting with PRC) (In-person)**
- **April 23<sup>rd</sup> (In-person)**
- **May 28<sup>th</sup> (Virtual)**
- **June 25<sup>th</sup> (In-person)**
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**MEETING MINUTES OF THE HYBRID  
JOINT ARLINGTON COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION AND SPORTS COMMISSION**

March 26, 2026

The **Park and Recreation Commission (PRC)** and the **Sports Commission (SC)** convened their meeting at **6:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, March 26, 2026**.

**PRESENT (IN-PERSON)**

**SC Members Only**

SC Chair, Lizzy Stell  
SC Vice Chair, Hamilton Humes  
Commissioner David Lansing  
Commissioner George Thompson  
Commissioner Meredith Wearing  
Commissioner Sam Watzman  
Commissioner Joseph Dunn  
Commissioner Peter Oshanick  
Commissioner Kyle Brown

**ABSENT**

Commissioner Preston Redd  
Commissioner Megan Sullivan

**STAFF**

Mariah Leonard, DPR, SC Staff Liaison  
Marco Rivero, DPR, PRC Staff Liaison  
Benjamin Harris, DPR  
Kisha Holland, DPR  
Nakish Jordan, DPR  
Ignacio Rodriguez, DPR  
Jane Rudolph, DPR

**PUBLIC COMMENTERS**

Brandon Hemel

- [Link to Teams Recording](#)

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

*Introductory Remarks (PRC and SC Chairs) and Public Comment*

*\* Park and Recreation Commission public comment is open to all with a 3-minute limit per person.*

- **Public Commenter #1: Brandon Hemel**, spoke about the construction at 601 S. Carlin Springs Rd., particularly at the scenic easement along the Long Branch Nature Center. Mr. Hemel is the Glencarlyn Civic Association president; the civic association area encompasses the nearby Glencarlyn Park and Long Branch Nature Center. Build a 146-bed facility next to the site and abuts the salamander creek area and park land/quasi-public space has been used for many decades. There may be encroachments on to the Resources Protection Area (RPA) along the area of development. Ways to downsize this facility as proposed to decrease the negative impacts to the community (light spillage, sound pollution, increasing traffic along South Carlin

Spring Road, among others). Mr. Hemel is looking for access to the site which may avoid additional runoff, additional impervious surfaces and looking to downsize this facility as it has been proposed. There is concern that the proposed facility does not follow biophilic design principles.

*Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Presentation, DPR Organizational Chart, and Discussion*

Jane Rudolph, DPR, presented on the DPR organizational chart and the department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget. The discussion included DPR expenses, revenue, budget changes, reductions, additions, proposed capital projects, and next steps for consideration by the County Board in April 2026.

The SC and PRC discussion included but was not limited to:

- Community Center Use and Youth Programming
  - Ms. Rudolph described the various teen, after-school, and community center programming that were initiated in the previous year.
- Budget Development Challenges
  - Ms. Rudolph described the issues associated with balancing priorities with limited resources, rising operational costs, vacancies, maintaining level of service, and the ability to continue expansion of free and/or affordable programming.
- Repurposing of Barcroft Sports and Fitness Center and Other Budgetary Considerations
  - Ms. Rudolph detailed the methodology for cost recovery within DPR's recreational programs. For example, competitive teams and classes are at Level 4. Gymnastics classes cost recovery was detailed further including participation and staffing considerations. Adaptive gymnastics/movement classes for disabled groups/populations will continue to be provided by DPR under the proposed FY 2027 budget.
  - Staffing and other facility reductions/freezes were detailed further. This includes but is not limited to Madison Community Center programming reductions/staffing, Parks and Natural Resources (PNR) selective reduction of mowing, park restroom closures, contractual landscape maintenance reductions, freezing the woodshop program at Thomas Jefferson Community Center for 12 months, etc.
  - There are additions to the proposed budget as well (mainly, one-time funding), including but not limited to the congregate meal program, invasive management, deer management, and coordination with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT).
  - FY 2027 proposed fees were discussed further, including a 3% inflationary increase for most classes and programs, Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center next tax support which moves away from Boeing taking on the operation contributions to mainly through the County.
  - Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) considerations were detailed for FY 2027 proposed capital costs.
- Invasive Plant Management
  - Ms. Rudolph shared that the \$100K one-time and additional funding was detailed. As was considered in previous years, this is the same \$100K proposal for FY 2027. Ms. Rudolph detailed that this funding assists in the ability to take down invasive plants at various County public spaces. This maintenance also include strategies and implementation efforts which prevent these species from emerging again in the long term.

- **Gymnastics Program Considerations**
  - Hiring has been an issue within recent years; however, there may be some considerations given to competitive hiring and the procedures for hiring moving forward. Space usage was discussed as well for gymnastics purposes, considerations for offering classes for seniors, and for populations who may be served during school hours. Also, scheduling may be difficult for staff to participate on weekdays during work hours, when the majority of classes occur after school hours. Overtime pay is being scaled back across the board through the County, so considerations are very few given these circumstances.
  - The use of non-profit organizations or similar organizations running gymnastics programs as opposed to County staff is difficult given the dynamics regarding different employment procedures and responsibilities.
  
- **Cost Recovery at Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center**
  - Facility costs are now transitioning out of initial funding provided by Boeing into the County taking over that tax support and costs for future maintenance and operations.
  
- **Overall Cost Recovery Models**
  - The County/DPR does benchmark fees across various nearby jurisdictions and are very similar across the board. The DPR cost-recovery model analysis and review will continue this summer in partnership with the County's Department of Management Finance (DMF).
  
- **Proposed Reductions**
  - Temporary freeze hiring of four positions for 12 months within PNR, including two trades workers, one urban forester, and one trades manager affected by this. Closing bathrooms in the winter is a reduction that provides some relief at various park facilities.
  
- **Deer Management**
  - Sharpshooting contracts and working with the Arlington County Police Department on closing the parks for these activities is a major consideration for the \$71K one-time funding.
  
- [Presentation Link](#)

*Ice Breaker (What is your favorite park, facility, public space, or program? – Small Group Discussion) & FY 2027 Budget Letters (PRC and SC)*

- The PRC and SC participated in an ice breaker where commissioners detailed their favorite park, facility, public space, or program.
- FY 2027 Budget Letters (PRC and SC): Staff acknowledged that each commission will be authoring their own letters associated with the FY 2027 Budget.

*SC and PRC Discussion Only Topics (small group discussions followed by large group discussion)*

1. *Discussion of the FY 2027 Budget (SC Chair, Lizzy Stell introduced the discussion)*

2. *Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY 2027-2036 Priorities (PRC Chair, Jill Barker introduced the discussion)*

Both discussion items were considered simultaneously during the report out by both commissions. The PRC and SC discussion focused on the following:

- One group discussed, about invasive plants, gymnastics program considerations (repurposing the Barcroft facility and what would the net be in terms of use, with gymnastics currently and what may be possible in the future), a non-profit idea for staffing of a gymnastics program, CIP budget was discussed including the Three Urban Parks project moving forward with planning (but there may be cost saving considerations for implementation). Invasive plants and natural capital maintenance was discussed as well.
- Gymnastics was discussed further, reduction of restroom facility operations, and further discussion of the Virginia Hospital Center (VHC) Health Wellness & Behavioral Health Facility development of 146 additional beds. There was also discussion on synthetic field maintenance and new technology.
- Sudden news of the gymnastics program cuts was discussed further, including logistical questions and details of how such programs would transition out if it were cut. The importance of lighting at athletic fields was discussed further as part of the on-going CIP discussions.
- Individual commission discussions have been difficult to have ahead of time with both the PRC and SC because of the short turn around for considering letters to the County Board (meetings between both commissions typically occur in March, and the County Board considers the budget considerations in April).
- Potentially have an early-March Microsoft Teams presentation with the various DPR commissions and then have separate meetings later in the month, with a joint meeting between the SC/PRC occurring at another time. A separate virtual meeting early in the month of March with opportunity for questions/answers would be important.

#### **MOTIONS & ACTIONS/VOTES**

No motions and actions (with documented votes) were taken on any items presented at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at **8:36 p.m.**