Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, June 25th, 2026
In-Person Meeting
Lubber Run Community Center
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

- May 28th, 2026, meeting minutes

Old Business

New Business

- Arlington County Field Fund Update by DPR Sports Unit Manager, Iggy Rodriguez
- Vote on Holding Additional SC Meeting in July (Proposed Date July 23rd)
- 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan Drafts & Feedback
- Zoning Study for lights on WMS fields
- August Field Trip Places of Interest
- Dutch Walking Day in Arlington Discussion by Vice Chair, Hamilton Humes

Commission Member Reports

- Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Update
- Chair updates
- Open Sports Commission Seats

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- **July 23rd (POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL MEETING)**
- **August 27th (Field Trip)**
- **September 24th (In-Person)**
- **October 22nd (Virtual)**
- **November 19th (Third Thursday) (In-person)**
- **December 17th (Third Thursday) (Virtual)**

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 28th, 2026

Virtual Meeting

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Commission Members Present:

Chair, Lizzy Stell
Vice Chair, Hamilton Humes
Member, Peter O'Shanick
Member, David Lansing
Member, Kyle Brown
Member, Sam Watzman
Member, George Thompson
Member, Meredith Wearing

County/APS Staff:

Ignacio Rodriguez, DPR
Mariah Leonard, DPR
Erik Beach, DPR
Chris Willmore, APS Liaison

Commission Members Absent:

Start: 7:00PM

Public Comment

- None

Approval of Minutes

- April 23rd, 2026, meeting minutes
  - Motioned by Hamilton Humes, Vice Chair
  - Seconded by Kyle Brown and Meredith Wearing, Members
  - Approved

Old Business

New Business

- Capital Investment Program Presentation by Park Development Division Chief Erik Beach
  - The CIP is a 10-year investment plan adopted every two years by the County Board. It balances park spending with other county needs (transportation, police/fire, etc.) within strict financial parameters, specifically limiting debt service to 10% of the annual budget
    - Key Projects discussed:
      - Restrooms: Budget allocated for internal renovations (toilets, tile, sinks) at various locations, and a full replacement planned for Gunston Park using a prefabricated unit to manage costs
      - **Fields:** Several synthetic field replacements are scheduled, including Long Bridge 1 & 4 (FY27) and others in following years. The use of natural infill (e.g., coconut/corn husks) is favored for environmental sustainability

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        - **Other Projects:** Discussions included developments at Gateway Park, Drew Park, Penrose Square, and the Arlington Boat House. The county also continues to work toward a goal of acquiring 30 acres of land over 10 years
    - **Natural Grass Fields:** These are managed through the operating budget rather than the CIP. The commission noted the difficulty in maintaining these fields and identified potential for advocacy regarding their upkeep and infrastructure

- Bike Committee Discussion with representatives, Cynthia Palmer and David Ancel
    - The Sports Commission is looking to integrate individual sports like cycling into their planning and understand how bike infrastructure overlaps with park access
    - BAC members emphasized the need for safer intersection design and consistent connectivity to public facilities.
        - The committee expressed challenges in communicating with the Department of Environmental Services (DES) regarding road safety and projects
    - Future collaboration will include sharing priority lists of trouble spots and coordinating on infrastructure planning, such as access to the new Boat House

- Proposed Changes to Joint Meeting with PRC
    - The commission discussed moving the joint meeting with the Parks and Recreation Commission from February to the fall. This would allow for better focus on annual goals and enable the commissions to discuss the budget separately after receiving the initial presentation

- PSMP Refresh Meeting Update
    - An update was provided on the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) refresh engagement. Survey data shows high engagement in Arlington parks, with paved multi-use trails consistently identified as a high priority
- 2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan Drafts
    - Members are to review the drafts and provide feedback to the chairs for finalization at the next meeting

Commission Member Reports

- Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Update
- Chair updates
- Open Sports Commission Seats
    - There are currently four open seats on the commission. The commission discussed potential outreach to specific sports communities, such as local swim families, to fill these vacancies

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- **June 25th (In-person)**

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- **August 27th (Field Trip)**
- **September 24th (In-Person)**
- **October 22nd (Virtual)**
- **November 19th (Third Thursday) (In-person)**
- **December 17th (Third Thursday) (Virtual)**

Adjourn: 8:38PM

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FY 2026 Field Fund Update
Sports Commission Meeting

Department of Parks & Recreation

Athletic and Facility Services Division

Iggy Rodriguez - Manager of Sports Leagues and Athletic Field Management

June 25th, 2026







NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL AWARD 2025 FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE FIELD OF PARK AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

Parks & Recreation

Field Fund History

- In FY 2011, the Field Fund was first introduced as part of the County budget process to aid with “athletic field maintenance and replacement capital projects and/or scholarships for youth sports”.
- In FY 2014, an adult team fee was added to the Field Fund along with the creation of a Diamond Field Fund.
- In FY 2021, the Field Fund Working Group (FFWG) was established by the Sports Commission.
- In FY 2022, the County Board adopted the five recommendations from the FFWG as part of the budget approval process for FY 2023.

Field Fund History (continued)

In FY 2022, the Board adopted the five recommendations from the FFWG:

1. Approve a new fee structure.
2. Eliminate the existing Diamond Field Fund and Diamond Field Fund Committee and establish one account to hold all field funds contributed by youth and adult sports leagues.
3. Use the new funds collected through the Field Fund in two ways:
    1. Fund two new permanent full-time athletic field maintenance employees
    2. Fund synthetic field conversions
4. Use the Public Spaces Master Plan to identify the athletic fields to be converted to synthetic fields using the Field Fund with an eye towards creating multi-use athletic facilities.
5. DPR should annually brief the Sports Commission about Field Fund revenues and implementation.

Projects and Revenues from the Field Fund

Fiscal year when funds were allocated	Amount allocated	Project
FY 2015	$7,494	Westover Park – Minor maintenance projects (batting cage, nets & fence)
FY 2017	$25,000	Tuckahoe Batting Cages – Addition to Capital Project
FY 2018	$29,995	Greenbrier Park Storage Shed
FY 2019	$190,000	Gunston Diamond Field Synthetic Turf Conversion
FY 2021 – 2023	$1,061,000	Thomas Jefferson Upper Field Synthetic Turf Conversion
FY 2025	$1,000,000	Kenmore Synthetic Turf Conversion

Ongoing Uses: Salaries of 2 full-time athletic field maintenance personnel, which was $148,000 for FY 2026.

Current Status of Revenues in Field Fund

- There is approximately a $700k balance in the Field Fund.
- There is additional revenue from FY 2026 estimated at $280k-$290k that will be added to the balance for FY 2027.
- Under 2022 Board guidance, it was recommended that future Field Fund revenue be used to support the salaries of two athletic field maintenance personnel and turf conversion projects. DPR targets projects that will create multi-use fields for both rectangular and diamond leagues.

FY 2027 Field Fund Fees

YOUTH SPORTS LEAGUES	FEE UNIT(S)	Current Fee	FY 2027 Fee
Recreational Youth 8 and Under **Field Fund Fee** **Charged per participant to those playing recreation seasons on diamond and rectangle fields Resident/Non-Resident**	Seasonal	10/25	10/30
Recreational Youth 9 and Up **Field Fund Fee** **Charged per participant to those playing recreation seasons on diamond and rectangle fields Resident/Non-Resident**	Seasonal	15/30	20/35
Youth Travel Player **Field Fund Fee** **Charged per participant to those playing travel seasons on diamond and rectangle fields Resident/Non-Resident**	Annual	40/65	45/75

ADULT SPORTS LEAGUES	FEE UNIT(S)	Current Fee	FY 2027 Fee
Adult Field Fund Fee **Charged to affiliate teams playing seasons on diamond and rectangle fields per team**	Seasonal	200	200

Relevant Documents

- FY 2014 Field Fund County Board Report
- Field Fund Working Group Charter
- Field Fund Working Group Final Report
- CY 2022 County Board Report as part of FY 2023 Budget Process
- Public Spaces Master Plan


Questions?

Thank You!



ARLINGTON COUNTY SPORTS COMMISSION
2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 414
Arlington, Virginia 22201

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Matt de Ferranti
Chair Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. De Ferranti,

I am pleased to provide the 2025 annual report on the activities of the Sports Commission.
If you or the other Board members have any feedback or questions about this report, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Stell, Chair
Sports Commission

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Summary

The Commission met 11 times (skipped July). Our activities have continued to be guided by four priorities: (1) examining the capacity and use of recreational facilities; (2) understanding and supporting underserved groups and communities; (3) increasing our engagement with advisory Commissions and key stakeholders; and (4) participating in County projects and processes as warranted. We made progress in each area and adapted our agendas to discuss pressing issues.

Structure, Operations, and Membership

The Commission, which is authorized to have 15 members, was not fully staffed throughout most of 2025. Commission members included: John Mingus (term ended in July), Hamilton Humes, David Lansing, Khal Monaro (resigned in December 2025), Deb Ryan, Nancy Sharkey (term ended in July), Lizzy Stell (Vice Chair), Megan Sullivan, George Thompson, Bryan Eckle (term ended in June) Preston Redd, Sam Watzman (joined in June), Joseph Dunn (joined in June), Peter O'Shanick (joined in September 2025) and Meredith Wearing. John Mingus was Chair through July 2025 and then Lizzy Stell (Vice Chair) took over Chair in August 2025. Hamilton Humes became Vice Chair in August. Deb Ryan was the APS liaison left the commission in June and was replaced by Chris Willmore.

The Commission had identified over 40 sports, constituent groups, and advisory bodies that the Commission represents. In 2025, we continued our efforts to learn about these groups and represent their interests as needed.

The Commission was an official member of 2 County workgroups: the Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC);[1] and the Greenbrier Park Operations Committee.[2] The activities of the first are addressed in this report.

Issues Addressed in 2025

- Budget – The Commission strongly supported the FY25 budget which eliminated the personal training program that did not cover its costs and impacted a small number of individuals. We supported reducing the budget transfer to APS schools for shared pool operations and maintenance given the change in the relationship between DPR and APS. The Sports Commission also supported the change in league fees.
- PSMP IAC – In 2025, the Commission continued to be a member of the PSMP IAC. Members attended the working session and open house in September 2025 to provide feedback and understand the scope of the PSMP refresh.
- Kenmore- The Commission continued to follow the progress of the Kenmore project. Reviewing the designs on several occasions and providing additional feedback. The Commission strongly supports this Kenmore project to improve facilities for users in Arlington.
- Field Utilization - The Commission continued to advise DPR staff as they began their efforts to measure field utilization.

[1] This group provides input and feedback to the county on the implementation of the PSMP. Focus areas include the Integrated Forestry & Natural Resources Master Plan; field utilization/lighting/turf; Zoning Regulation review; and casual use spaces.

[2] The Committee facilitates dialogue among Greenbrier Park users and the surrounding neighborhood.

Underserved Groups and Communities
In June of 2022, the Commission received the initial report of the Combating Hate in Sports Working Group (CHWG). In 2023, we renamed this group the PROMISE working group (PROMISE comes from the elements of the pledges and the final report included). In 2024, we tasked this group with reporting back on best practices from other leagues and organizations with a final report due in 2025.

Improving Commission Networks
The Commission improved its networks in 2025 through:

- Continued investment in its relationship with the Parks and Rec Committee with active liaisons.
- We have two Sports Commission members active in the PSMP IAC and have been strongly encouraging other Sports Commission members to attend open house meetings for the PSMP.
- We have strong connections to many sports groups through the current Sports Commission members.

The continued expansion of our networks in 2026 will help the Commission build and leverage partnerships to improve its advisory and advocacy activities. We are seeking to fill open Commission seats with members from non-represented sports and casual user groups.

Participating in County Projects and Processes

- Boathouse– We received a briefing from the Arlington Boathouse foundation about this project in January 2025 to familiarize the Committee with the project scope.
- Kenmore Project - Commission strongly supports projects to improve facilities
- The Heights - Took our August field trip to see the turf field at HB Woodlawn to view the innovative design of a field on top of parking garage in an urban area
- Long Bridge Park Aquatics Center - held our November meeting at this center and toured the facility to familiarize the Committee on everything offered at the facility.
- Field Presentations - DPR provided two separate presentations to the Commission. The first was about Turf fields and the second about grass fields. This was helpful to the Commission to understand the challenges and work involved in maintaining fields.
- DPR Offerings - DPR presented to the Commission a presentation about all their camps, classes and facility offerings. This was helpful to the commission to fully understand all that is offered in the scope of commissions charge.

In 2026 and 2027 the Sports Commission aims to continue working with the County to improve residents' access to and enjoyment of individual and team sports services in the County.

The Sports Commission will endeavor to analyze, review and provide advice to the County about improvement projects, coordinate with related County Commissions, examine the sports-related issues

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of proposed projects and explore ideas to better serve all members of the public and advise on ways to communicate all the opportunities to the citizens of Arlington.

2026 Annual Plan

- Analyze usage patterns and County facilities to look for ways to continue to expand, offering available to the public.
- Review the Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) to identify sports-related issues and opportunities
- Coordinate reviews with related commissions, including the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Bicycle Committee.
- Follow the progress of the Kenmore fields improvement project
- Follow the health of the gymnastics program at the new fee structure to ensure it is meeting community needs while not being a net drain on County resources.
- Review Arlington County annual and other budget proposals
- Assess proposed increases in user fees needed to manage Arlington's now more limited resources to maintain access by those who can afford them and support those who cannot.
- Work with DPR to help communicate with sports leagues and other groups on how to responsibly use the fields the County maintains.
- Aim to recruit members who can represent as broad a spectrum as possible of sports and communities.
- Examine how best to improve opportunities for both individual and team sports, recognizing that facilitating safe bike, pedestrian and other transportation options to County Facilities can help the County residents' health and safety.
- Provide sports perspectives on County Park, recreational and other proposals.
- Continue to look for ways to increase the usage availability of fields while balancing the needs of the surrounding community, particularly options for lighting fields.
- Stay actively involved and engaged in the PSMP Refresh
- Provide support as needed as athletic groups pursue the lighting of turf fields in Arlington (specifically Williamsburg Middle School)
- Work with sports groups to develop an understanding of the participation rates and challenges of providing access to underprivileged youth and/or different parts of Arlington County.
- Other issues that may arise that are consistent with the Commission's role and charter.

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Should we copy the Dutch idea of 4-day evening walk (Avondvierdaagse) in Arlington?

Quick summary – In late June Netherlands towns sponsor 3,5-, 7-, 10-or 15-kilometer walks open to all ages, (mainly aimed at children and elderly) to encourage people to get to know and celebrate their neighborhoods.

Local planners scope out courses linking different parts of town to get people accustomed to walking around. Many towns also add lots of mini festivals to the route, such as art expositions, sporting demonstrations, restaurant stops, etc. children get participation medals, and some towns add those little find-things-along-the-way books.

Few notes –

- Since it stays light until 11 pm, the "evening" walk is normally well-lit.
- Schools in Netherlands are more-or-less year-round with holidays scattered across the calendar, so these walks are coordinated with schools.
- Originally walks were mainly aimed at children but more emphasis is now on getting all ages (with a prominent calling out of grandmas and grandpas) to participate
- More organizations are looking at how to include those with disabilities

So – would doing something similar in Arlington be worthwhile?

If we did it, we could:

- Start out with just one day.
- Plan out a few routes such as W&L or Long Bridge to Iwo Jima or Rosslyn Metro to Lubber Run (almost 3 miles) (Yorktown or Wakefield would be 5 miles).
    - What would some more creative and maybe safe routes be?
- Would some businesses want to be involved (and maybe use those businesses as stopping points.
- Add a bike route?

Links –

Guardian article - https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2026/jun/16/dutch-children-unusually-happy-healthy-avondvierdaagse-walking-festival

Dutch organizational site - https://www.avond4daagse.nl/