Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, November 19th, 2026

Virtual Meeting

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Public Comment

- Nancy Sharkey

Approval of Minutes

- October 22nd Meeting Minutes

Old Business

- Dutch Walking Event in Arlington Update

New Business

- Bicycle/Dirt Bicycle Considerations and Infrastructure needs on County Trails presentation by Arlington Trails Founder Matthew Levine
- Discussion and Next Steps on Arlington Pickleball Club Presentation
- Discussion and Next Steps Arlington Soccer Presentation

Commission Member Reports

- Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Update
- Chair updates
    - Updates from Chair and Vice Chair regarding meeting with Susan Cunnigham
- Open Sports Commission Seats

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- December 8th (Tuesday, 6:30pm) (In Person Meeting at Long Bridge Aquatics Center)

Sports Commission Meeting Agenda

Thursday, October 22nd, 2026

Virtual Meeting

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Time: 7:00pm to 8:45pm

Commission Members Present:

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

Commission Members Absent:

Member, Megan Sullivan
Member, Meredith Wearing
Member, Preston Redd
Member, Joseph Dunn

County/APS Staff:

Ignacio Rodriguez, DPR
Mariah Leonard, DPR

Start: 7:00PM

Public Comment

- None

Approval of Minutes

- September 24th Meeting Minutes
  - Correction to Minutes: Dave Lansing was noted as attending virtually in the September minutes, but he was actually in-person.
  - Action: Motion to approve the September minutes with the correction was made by David Lansing, seconded by Lizzy Stell, and passed unanimously.

Old Business

- Dutch Walking Event in Arlington Update
  - Vice Chair, Hamilton Humes will provide an update during the November Meeting.

New Business

- Pickleball Presentation by Arlington Pickleball Club, Tim Dellinger
  - Tim Dellinger presented on behalf of Arlington pickleball, noting this was his third appearance before the commission (previous ones in April 2018 and October 2022)
    - Pickleball has historically lacked a target level of service (courts per 10,000 residents) in Arlington, unlike tennis and basketball, making it difficult to secure resources or avoid being blocked by strict master plan designations (e.g., Bluemont Park being designated tennis-only)
    - Tennis currently boasts 56 dedicated courts, plus shared courts and a flagship facility at Bluemont Park (capable of holding 36 pickle ball courts worth of space

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        - Pickleball currently has only 6 dedicated courts countywide, which face restrictive operating hours (closing at 5:00 PM on Saturdays and not opening until 1:00 PM on Sundays) and lack a flagship facility
        - Comparative peer data shows Arlington is underserved in pickleball compared to peer median benchmarks, while tennis is significantly over-served relative to peer medians.
        - Drop-in play is the heartbeat of the Pickleball community (paddle racks, rotation games to 11, high socialization), meaning clusters of courts (6–8+ together) are vastly superior to single isolated courts
        - Arlington Pickleball Requests the Sports Commission Write a letter to the County Board asking:
            - Treat pickleball equitably with tennis under the PSMP refresh
            - Increase the number of dedicated and shared pickleball courts (e.g., striping existing tennis/basketball courts where feasible, such as Fort Scott, Old Glebe, and Walter Reed)
            - Establish a flagship facility for pickleball within the FY 2030–2034 CIP.
            - Urge timely action to prevent kicking the can down the road.

- Lights at Williamsburg Presentation by Arlington Soccer Executive Director, Frank DeMarco
    - Frank Demarco (25-year Arlington resident and Arlington Soccer Association representative) presented on field lighting capacity.
        - Youth outdoor sports demand continues to outpace inventory. Adding lighting capacity to existing fields (like Williamsburg Middle School) is the most cost-effective way to expand play hours across multiple rectangular sports (soccer, ultimate frisbee, field hockey, lacrosse) without acquiring scarce new land
        - Only 2 of the county's 37 lighted fields are located in North Arlington, creating a major travel burden. Approximately 45% of ASA's Arlington families (approx. 1,500 recreational families) live within one mile of Williamsburg Middle School.
        - S3A zoning caps pole heights at 64 feet, whereas modern low-spillage light designs require 80+ feet poles to keep light focused strictly on the field
            - The PSMP and CPHD's FY 2026 work plan called for a zoning standards review regarding athletic lighting, but no action has been taken due to prioritization shifts
        - Arlington Soccer Requests the Sports Commission to write a Letter to the County Board to:
            - Formally urge CPHD to prioritize and initiate the athletic lighting zoning study.

- PSMP Refresh-IAC meeting update by SC Chair, Lizzy Stell and Member Peter O'Shanick
    - The refresh is in the fall/winter phase, analyzing survey results, land acquisition needs, and updating level-of-service (LOS) methodologies.
        - Arlington's population is projected to increase by ~19% over the next 20 years, necessitating systematic, incremental expansions in public space amenities.
        - Multi-use paved trails, playground access, tree canopy/shade equity, and casual-use spaces rank very high in community feedback and needs assessments.
        - Across nearly all amenity categories, projected community needs outstrip what is practically feasible to deliver given space and financial constraints.

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- 2027 Sports Commission Proposed Meeting Dates
  - Regular monthly meetings were reviewed and confirmed. The July 2027 meeting will be a recess (no meeting held) based on commissioner consensus.
- Proposed Agenda Items for November Meeting
  - SC Members discussed potential topics for upcoming meeting agenda.

Commission Member Reports

- Parks and Recreation Commission Liaison Update
  - Joint Meeting with PRC Tentatively targeted for December 8, 2026 (in-person) pending final confirmation from DPR leadership
- Chair updates
- Open Sports Commission Seats
  - SC Member, George Thompson will help drive the recruitment process for vacant commission seats (with a specific eye toward representation, such as lacrosse)

Upcoming Sports Commission Meetings

- **December 8th (Tuesday) (In-Person Joint Meeting with PRC)**

Adjourn: 8:56 PM

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Pickleball Court Availability

Analysis of Court Reservations November 1 Through November 14, 2026

Nancy Sharkey, Arlington County resident and former Sports Commission member

nsharkey@mac.com

The Claim

- There are not enough pickleball courts in Arlington County
- Wait times for drop-in play are long

Is This Claim Accurate?

The Data

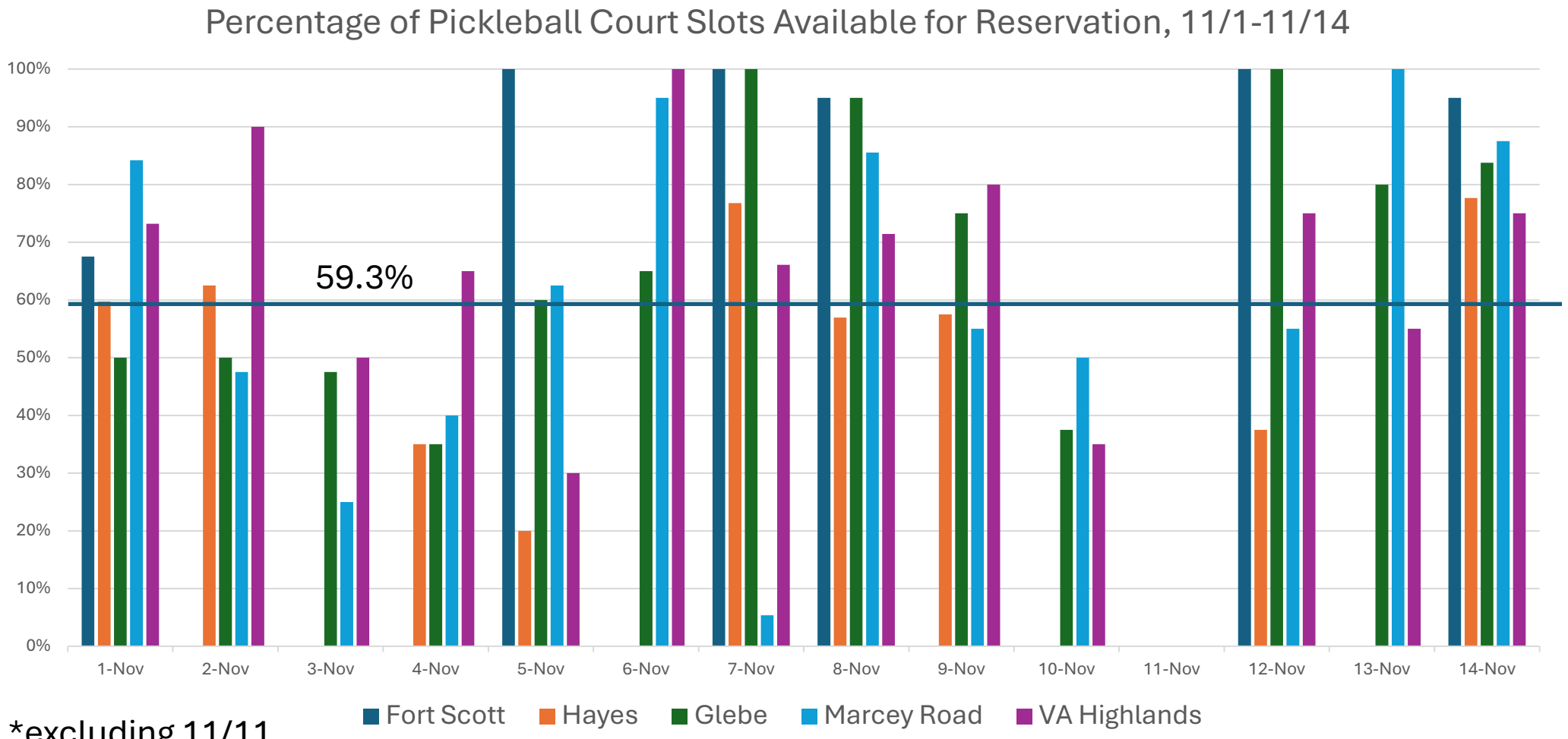
- There is an online reservation system for dual use pickleball and tennis courts, located at Fort Scott, Old Glebe Road, Marcey Road, Hayes, and Virginia Highlands Parks
- The reservation system shows which courts have been reserved and when on a daily basis

Sample Data Day

Sample of Court Availability Tracking																								
	Date		Checked		available																			
	2-Nov	Mon	1-Nov	2:25pm	72																			
	Fort Scott					Glebe					Hayes					Marcey Road					Virginia Highlands		
	1A	2A	2B	1B		1A	2A	1B	2B		1A	1B	2A	2B		2A	2B	3A	3B		A	B		
5-530												x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		
530-6	drop in pickleball										x	x	x	x			x				x	x		
6-6:30											x		x	x			x				x			
6:30-7							x		x					x			x				x			
7-7:30									x					x							x	x		
7:30-8									x					x							x	x		
8-8:30							x						x	x							x	x		
8:30-9							x						x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		
9-9:30							x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		
9:30-10							x		x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		
							5		5		4	4	7	10		4	7	4	4		10		8	

“x” indicates that a court was available to be be reserved. Fort Scott is reserved for pickleball drop-in on Mondays from 5-10PM and had no courts available to be reserved. Glebe 1A and 1B are also pickle-ball drop-in on Mondays from 5-10.

Nearly 60 Percent of the Reservation Slots for November 1 through November 14* Were Not Reserved



*excluding 11/11

Potential Explanations

- Weather
  - There were only two days with rain in this time frame (November 5: .05 inch; November 6: .48 inch and little during court tracking hours)*
  - The average daily high temperature in this period was 65 degrees*
  - Courts were never closed for weather
- Time
  - I only looked from 5PM-10PM on weekdays and all day on weekends, recognizing that people work
- People are using courts but not reserving them

*Source: Weather Underground (wunderground.com)

Just Over One-third of For-reservation Courts Are Still Available, Even Accounting for People Using For-reservation Courts for Drop-in Play

Sunday 11/8 12-1:30 looking at courts available for reservation									
	Time	Capacity	Signed out	In use	waiting		% signed out	% in use	Waiting
Fort Scott	1:08	4	0	2	0		0%	50%	0
Glebe	12:26	4	1	1	0		25%	25%	0
Hayes	12:39	4	2	3	0		50%	75%	0
Marcey Road	12:18	2	0	2	0		0%	100%	0
VA Highlands	12:57	2	1	2	1		50%	100%	1
		16	4	10	1		25%	63%	

Most surprising was that there was just one person practicing by himself on Walter Reed's 6 drop-in courts at 1:23PM

Takeaways

- These data contradict the claim that there is a dramatic pickleball court shortage
- Arlington County should verify such claims before expending any resources to expand pickleball court availability
- For a more systematic data collection, consider tracking reservation data for a longer period of time and using QR code scans, as is required for rectangular and diamond fields, to determine usage
  - Use scans for both drop-in and reserved courts to ascertain needs
- If demand at some drop-in locations is high, consider encouraging pickleball players to use other less in-demand courts and at less in-demand times.

Reservation URL

- https://vaarlingtonweb.myvscloud.com/webtrac/web/search.html?Action=Start&SubAction=&_csrf_token=pU6O6U620L6Q3Q2S394L3B4D5G4N6Q580Q5J5S4M5G725R4F6K6C0R6U4I58591H504N5049095G616B4Z08574F516D1F5P3W6K686F5Y4G6M4V065O5B586B1E5Q4Q5T&type=PICKLE&primarycode=&date=10%2F03%2F2023&begintime=08%3A00AM&frheadcount=2&blockstodisplay=8&features1=&features2=&features3=&features4=&features5=&features6=&features7=&features8=&display=Detail&module=FR&multiselectlist_value=&frwebsearch_buttonsearch=yes

Walter Reed Pickleball Courts 11/8 at 1:23PM



