

Sports Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 25, 2018
Langston-Brown CC, Room 109
Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Commission Members Present:

Shirley Brothwell, Chair
Jessica Paska
David Tornquist
Sherry Kohan
Drew Murray

Justin Wilt
John Bacon
Steve Severn
Patricia Trapanese
Janet Eichers

Commission Members Absent:

County/APS Staff:

Josh Colman, SC Liaison

Deb DeFranco, APS Liaison

Please note: Agenda items may not be in chronological order.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

[7:03-7:09pm]

Review and motion to approve amended December and January 11 meeting minutes, seconded, approved.

Commission Member Reports

[7:09-7:11pm]

JFAC meeting was cancelled for January- nothing to report.

Old Business

Annual Report/Plan Discussion

[7:11-7:40 pm]

Updates on the annual plan.

- Discussion on Underserved Populations Themes.
 - Recent meeting of Out of School Time Commission- group is interested and wants to work on underserved issue.
 - Middle School Options- recommendation to work with middle school extended day on options. Kids are already there- easier to work with and identify population.
 - Plan is to start with a pilot program, then prepare report. Hoping to begin pilot programs immediately. Will work with extended day and see what can move forward.
 - Also brainstorming on different partnership ideas. Could work with other schools to offer programs.
- Discussion on Improving the Commission Network
 - What commissions/work are a priority to focus on?
 - Planning Commission
 - E2C2- very important for field development, particularly lighting.
 - APS Strategic Plan
- Discussion on indoor facilities and field activities.

Annual Report Review

- Focus on putting message up front and at the beginning of the document.
- Added information on collaboration and opportunity to reach out to Sports Commission if help/assistance is needed.
- Aquatics Committee section is included.
- AYBA- discussion needed on viability of this group. Do they still need to be a group or is there another mission they should be focused on?
- A few issues need additional information- various members to provide.

Committee votes in favor of moving forward with Annual Plan submission.

New Business

Safe Whistles Coalition and Introduction of Legislation

[7:40-8:26pm]

Jesse Rosenthal from the Safe Whistles Coalition presented to the Sports Commission.

- Overview and background on Jesse Rosenthal
- Statistics/information on abuse towards officials
 - 86% report verbal abuse while officiating (beyond basic insults).
 - Officials often scared for their safety, particularly when leaving facilities/parks.
 - Youth competitive sports are the worst offenders- particularly sports where college scholarships are on the line.

- 50% of baseball umpires retire after their first year. 35% soccer referees do not renew certifications.
- 80% of all high school officials quit after two years.
- What can be done?
 - A preference for deterrence via visible enforcement.
 - Signage at facilities
 - Empowering rovers/monitors
 - Condition permits based on coach/spectator behavior
 - Encourage new ideas- ASA has Silent Saturdays- idea is for kids to develop their skills and think for themselves.
 - Introduce sportsmanship into permit process. Get data on incidents with different groups.
- Legislative Option
 - Proposal was to make official abuse a class 1 misdemeanor- to get people to understand this is a serious problem.
 - Bill is dead in session. Members of the committee focused on the part of the bill about cursing- Jesse's focus was on violent threats- not cursing.
 - General Assembly was focused on speech, not the behavior.
 - 23 states have some variation of legislation protecting officials- they have increased penalties for sports official assault. In Delaware and New Mexico the perpetrator doesn't get to go to sports activities for a certain period of time.
- Enforcement Discussion
 - Discussion of current laws and enforcement practices. Since it's a lower level crime, enforcement is an issue- not treated as a serious problem.
 - Signage as an additional fix to enforcement problems?
- Sportsmanship Discussion
 - Discussion on coaches or programs have sportsmanship stipulations. Should each group have language stating up front policies?
 - Policies/education should be a big component of this. Unfortunately, it's often not a priority. Additionally, no one reports incidents/issues to anyone- no requirements here.
 - Discussion of different sport environments- a field sport vs. gymnastics. In gymnastics you have to keep your distance and stay silent (very strict penalties/disqualification if not).
- Signage Discussion
 - Indicate prosecution if abuse occurs.
 - Better empower rovers/monitors to clear sidelines and take more action.
 - Won't work by itself, but should be considered/included with other actions.
- Actions/Consequences
 - Important to have these discussions with other leagues and continue to discuss in the future.
 - Possible agenda items for the future.

Approval Process of Commission Letters

[8:26-8:43pm]

Discussion of the commission letter approval process.

- Park and Recreation Commission process- very detailed, try to get to consensus on a complete and thorough review of every version of draft prior to submission. Can be a very slow process.
- Sports Commission has typically been view a draft, discussion of edits, agreement, and submission.
- Recent letter had time implications and discussion of likely key points. Sports Commission voted to send the letter, but had no final review of letter contents.
- How would group like to handle this in the future?
- Overall preference- discussion, review draft of letter, move forward with submission. Don't have to see absolute final version of letter.

Joint-Meeting Discussion

[8:43-8:52pm]

Discussion on the upcoming joint-meeting with the Park and Recreation Commission.

- Overview of topics to be covered: budget update, field classification changes, 4MRV.
- Discussion on objectives for the year for both commissions. Park and Recreation Commission focused on 4MRV, Open Space, Land Acquisition, Planning processes, consideration of open space in site plan reviews.

APS Strategic Planning

[8:52-8:55pm]

Discussion of upcoming letters and areas to focus on in the future.

- Reed- discussion on the design options for the school and how it affects fields/facilities.
- APS Strategic Plan- currently have a values and mission statement, moving on to objectives. May be a spot to write a letter reminding them of the impact of sport, play, etc.

County Board Work Session

[8:55-8:58pm]

Two members will attend upcoming budget work session. Good idea for all commission members to review information and send thoughts to Shirley.

Meeting ends 8:59pm

Christian Dorsey, County Board Liaison

Attest:

Josh Colman

Josh Colman, Staff Liaison