

Meeting Minutes
Sports Advisory Committee
Thursday, July 19, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Board Members: David Schardt, Doug Remer, Tom Cove, Tina Won Sherman, Trish Heffelfinger, Doug Schuessler, Tony Korson, Christopher Wajda, Amy Lopez, Samantha Griffin, Joe Hooks, Ben Corb, Rick James, Princess Clemente

Absent Board Members: Mary Kate Crawford

Ex-Officio: Steve Solomon, Yuling Mei, Ryan Denner
Staff: Jason Fasteau

Guests:

Montgomery County Parks:

Darren Flusche

Montgomery County Public Schools

Kathy Green

Bryan Walker

6:05 p.m. Welcome and General Announcements – Tom Cove

No meeting in August

Dominique Dawes statue unveiling will take place at SSRAC on July 23

6:08 p.m. Review and Approve Agenda

Motion to approve - Ben – all in favor unanimous

6:14 p.m. Review and Approve June Minutes

Motion to approve – Amy – all in favor unanimous

6:17 p.m. Committee Member Announcements

Kathy Green is stepping down as MCPS Liaison. She introduced Bryan Walker who will be transitioning onto the Committee.

Kathy discussed MCPS's Flag Football initiative, beginning as a varsity sport this fall, the growth of the sport, and that it will be the fastest growing sport in HS sports, especially for girls. This year MCPS is also starting pickleball as a varsity sport at all high schools this fall.

Tom stated that in the next few years deciding which sports to invest in and for what reasons will be major questions to answer.

Jason reported that Nancy Petzold-Earp from CUPF has resigned from her position as ex-officio from CUPF. It is unclear who her replacement will be.

Darren Flusche raised a concern that because so many fields are permitted there is a lack of opportunity for walk-on play on ballfields. Parks will hold three open play sessions:

September 28 at Blair HS; October at MLK Park and November at Laytonia Park. Tom asked Darren to provide updates at future meetings.

Tina shared that she is waiting to hear the status of the CUPF fee study.

6:33 p.m. Draft Annual Report

Tina reported that:

- First cut of the outline is in process. It includes key issues, findings and future issues.
- Plan is to create 2-4 pages that are concise. It may include quotes from user groups.
- A draft was sent to the working groups for review.
- Timeline – continue through July and August and present at September meeting.
- Committee suggestions: include positives and negatives and potentially critical quotes. A suggestion was raised to have the report include a high-level executive summary.
- The Student Leadership Council at MCPS may be a good source for feedback.
- Tom will meet with the Outreach/Liaison Committee to discuss a strategy to present, promote and distribute the report. The budget process may be a good time to distribute the report to elected officials and staff.

6:53 p.m. Discussion of issues posed by Committee Members

Tom listed the following issues:

- CUPF fee study
- Collaboration Council/OST
- Historical Use of Fields
- Synthetic Turf vs. Natural Grass Fields
- MCPS Field Use Policy
- Montgomery Village Recreation Center
- Trends in coaching/officiating
- Sports Tourism

Historical Use – following a discussion, Tom offered a motion for the Committee to support Ben to lead a group to delve into the ongoing issue of historical use of fields. The motion passed unanimously.

MCPS Field Use – Tom requested MCPS provide an update at the September meeting.

Montgomery Village Recreation Center – Joe provided information about a space at the Lakeforest Mall site. Tom will work with Joe to draft a letter to begin the process for site feasibility.

Collaboration Council – Tom recommended a representative of the CC be invited to our September meeting to discuss how we might work together.

Trends in Coaching/Officiating – MCPS has a training program for officials. Seeking to offer it as part of the HS curriculum. Tom requested the Participation Committee follow-up and work with MCPS on their program.

Turf vs. Grass Fields – OLO is completing their report on turf vs. natural grass fields.

7:43 p.m. Officer Elections

- Nominating Committee – Doug, Rick and Princess
- Chair and Vice Chair are up for reelection
- Ben moved and Rick seconded that the floor be open for nominations.
- Nominations for Chair – Tom Cove
- Nominations for Vice Chair – Tina, Mary Kate, Tony and Amy
- No additional nominations
- Trish moved that the floor be closed to nominations; Ben seconded
- Candidates make remarks; committee members may ask questions and then discuss
- Ben moves to open the election voting
- Results: Tom is re-elected Chair; Tina is re-elected Vice Chair.

Next meeting: September 19.

8:06 p.m. Rick moves to adjourn; Chris seconds; unanimous.