



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Fairfax County Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee

July 12, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Room 8, Fairfax County Government Center

12000 Government Center Pkwy

Fairfax, VA 22035

Website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/trails>

Note Taker: Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District Representative and Vice-chair)

Members Present:

Ken Comer (At-Large/Chair), Bob Cosgriff (Braddock District/Vice-Chair), Brooks Stephens (Providence District), Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville District), Erin Partlan (Franconia District), Tyler Schiefelbein (Springfield District), Karen Ampeh (Sully District), Howard Albers (Washington Area Bicyclists Association) Shawn Newman (Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling), Mark Tipton (Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association), Maria Lashinger (Northern Virginia Building Industry Association)

Members Absent:

Jim Klein (Mount Vernon District), Alex Rough (Hunter Mill District), James Albright (Mason District), Diane Monnig (Fairfax Area Disability Services Board), Mike DePue (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority), Kathryn McDaniel (Clifton Horse Society); FCPA (vacant)

Others in Attendance: Ryan-Paul Johnson (FCDOT), Brendon Hanafin (FCPA Planning and Development Division Director), Stephanie Cornejo (FCPA Long-range Planning Section Supervisor), Jim Corcoran (FCPA Trail Planning Manager) (prospective FCPA representative)

Call to Order: Ken Comer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Due to the complexity of the topics discussed at the June meeting, approval of the May and June minutes was deferred to the next meeting by consent.

Introduction of New Members and Staff: Chair Ken Comer introduced Maria Lashinger, who replaces Soledad Portillo as the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association representative. Brendon Hanafin (FCPA) introduced Jim Corcoran who will replace Beth Iannetta as the FCPA representative upon confirmation by the Board of Supervisors in September. Ryan-Paul Johnson (FCDOT) introduced himself as the newest member of the Active Transportation Branch.

Presentation: Stephanie Cornejo (FCPA Long-range Planning Section Supervisor) briefed the committee on the Fairfax County Park Authority's Parks, Open Space, and Access (PROSA) Strategy. This presentation is a follows-up to the introduction to PROSA provided in April by Jai

Fairfax County Department of Transportation

4050 Legato Road, Suite 400

Fairfax, VA 22033-2895

Phone: (703) 877-5600 TTY: 711

Fax: (703) 877-5723



Cole, Executive Director, FCPA. PROSA is a data-driven methodology to assist FCPA in developing and maintaining its 420 parks comprising over 20,000 acres and 335 miles of trails. It supports the Parks and Recreation Major Master Plan Goals and the FCPA Strategic Plan (2023). It has four main objectives:

- 1) All citizens will be within a 10-minute walk to a park
- 2) Ensure a complete park experience
- 3) Create habitat connectivity and improve the park environment
- 4) Analyze/prioritize FCPA decisions through an equity lens

Stephanie then provided details of each objective. Presently, 48% of the county's population is not within a 10-minute walk of a park entrance. PROSA will help identify areas where attention needs to be focused to work towards achieving objective #1 by identifying gaps, obstacles, land for future park sites, and other factors. Under the heading of "complete park experience" there are four types of experiences, namely, active recreation, social interaction, passive/contemplative activities, and natural/cultural activities and learning. Parks will be scored to understand balances between and among the four types of experiences. Habitat connectivity includes efforts to increase tree canopy, control invasive species, implement other environmental improvements in accordance with the FCPA Natural Resources Management Plan. Finally, U.S. Census demographic data will be used to identify underserved areas and understand the factors in play in these "opportunity areas."

Stephanie then used the new North Hill Park in the Route 1 corridor as a real-world example of how PROSA methodology was used to achieve the objectives.

Presently, development of PROSA is in the second round of public engagement. This will include at least one event in each magisterial district and the development of a PROSA website. The next step is to develop the final draft strategy to present to the FCPA Board for approval later this year.

A robust Q & A session followed. One issue raised was the apparent focus on pedestrian access with no mention of cycling to a park. The answer was that for now, the focus is on foot-traffic but bicycling as a means of accessing parks will be addressed in the future. The Park Authority is installing more bike racks in parks at present.

Discussion: Vice-chair Bob Cosgriff led a discussion on the strategic focus point paper discussed in previous meetings. He asked the committee if the seven focus areas were appropriate or whether some should be deleted and/or any new ones added. There was a general consensus that for the sake of discussion, the seven areas were appropriate. Bob clarified one area: "Create Alliances, Build Capacity." Some committee members interpreted "create" to mean that we should be helping other organizations to come into existence or build their membership. The wording was changed to "Identify Allies, Build Capacity." In other words, the committee needs to know what organizations exist whose goals are in alignment with the committees and work with them in mutually-beneficial ways.

Bob then proposed that the next step in the process should be to develop actionable steps to flesh out the top-level focus area descriptions. He suggested that members volunteer choose one area and develop ways to implement it, to include information requirements, milestones, metrics and a

POA&M. He provided a couple of examples. Lydia Lawrence (Dranesville) outlined a way that the committee could schedule its presentations and deliberations to better align with the County's budget process. The end product would be a letter of recommended priorities to the Board of Supervisors as it prepares to adopt the annual budget.

Bob asked that committee members look at the seven focus areas, pick one, and be ready to discuss their ideas and action steps at the September meeting, which will be devoted to moving the strategic focus process forward.

Committee Member Reports:

- Chair Ken Comer reviewed the proposed letter to the Board of Supervisors on the topic of the Braddock Road Multi-modal Improvements Project. This is a follow-up to the briefing on the by VDOT/FCDOT project managers at the June meeting. He also reported that he and the vice-chair met with Braddock District Supervisor, James Walkinshaw, at the latter's request, to discuss the committee's view of the project. The letter was provided as a read-ahead and was read aloud by Shawn Newman (FABB). A few typos were found. Howard Albers (WABA) moved to approve the letter as corrected; Shawn Newman seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.
- A proposed letter drafted by Erin Partlan (Franconia) on the topic of "Parking Reimagined" proposals was discussed. The adoption of "maximum" (as opposed to "minimum") vehicle parking requirements based on different types of developments has an effect on bicycle parking, in some cases a negative effect. One member (Mark Tipton) opined that the letter addressed some areas outside the committee's charter. The committee chose to take no further action on the draft letter.
- Vice-chair Bob Cosgriff briefed the committee on a meeting he attended at Fort Belvoir on 12 July involving the garrison commander (COL Joseph Messina) and staff members, Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and staff members, Bill Niedringhaus (President Potomac Heritage Trail Association), Karen Jones (PHTA), and the Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives liaison with Fort Belvoir. The purpose of the meeting was to determine what is possible/what is not possible for routing a segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail through Fort Belvoir to get it off Route 1. This segment would fill a gap between other segments already in place or planned. It would facilitate connection with the Cross-County Trail among other Fairfax County trail assets. The attendees hiked to the area proposed by PHTA. Some areas cannot be used due to security concerns. However, a potential route was tentatively identified. A follow-up meeting was scheduled with the commandant at Fort Belvoir for 2 p.m., Thursday, 27 July.

Citizen Inputs/Comments: During the PROSA presentation, Levi Newman (son of member Shawn Newman) discussed his volunteer work in the parks removing invasive species. There was no other citizen input at this meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.