

TASK FORCE ON THE FUTURE OF LAKE ACCOTINK

Monday, August 14, 2023
7:00 p.m.

Government Center
Conference Room 11

Meeting Minutes

Members Present:

Sharon Bulova, Individual (Chair)
Ken Balbuena, North Springfield Civic Association
Annie Ball, Sierra Club – Great Falls
Bryan Campbell, Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley
Karen Campblin, Fairfax NAACP
Sandy Collins, Friends of Accotink Creek
John Cook, Individual
Mary Cortina, Planning Commission
Renee Grebe, Environmental Quality Advisory Council (ALTERNATE)
Charlotte Hannagan, Kings Park Civic Association
James Heo, Mount Vernon Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Diane Hoffman, Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee
Chris Jones, GMU – Potomac Environmental Research and Education Center
David Kepley, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
Chris Landgraf, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
Marta Morrissey, Franconia District Land Use Committee
Gail Nittle, Springfield Civic Association
Allan Robertson, Save Lake Accotink
Hasan Shah, Individual
Martin Shepherd, Ravensworth Farm Civic Association
Evelyn Spain, Planning Commission
Kiel Stone, Park Authority Board
Meghan Walker, Danbury Forest Civic Association

County Representatives Present:

Christopher Herrington, Director, Public Works and Environmental Services
Laura Grape, Director, Resource Management Division, Fairfax County Park Authority
Christopher King, Manager, Huntley Meadows Park Natural Resources, Fairfax County Park Authority
Marcia Pape, Senior Legislative Assistant, Braddock District Office
Charles Smith, Project Coordinator & Branch Chief, Public Works and Environmental Services
Adam Wynn, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority

Members Absent:

Matt Bright, Earth Sangha
Michael Deloose, West Springfield Civic Association
Cathy Field, North Springfield Civic Association
Mary Keeser, Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)
Stella Koch, Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Jakelin Lake, Individual
Ernest Rodriguez, Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE)

Call to Order and Introductory Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sharon Bulova at 7:03 p.m. Attendance was taken, and a quorum was present.

John Cook shared a newspaper clipping from the April 30, 2010 edition of the *Springfield Connection* that celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Lake Accotink.

Approval of Minutes from July 24, 2023 Meeting

Chris Landgraf made a motion to approve the minutes. Bryan Campbell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment

Sandy Frieswyk recognized the efforts of the Task Force and shared her concerns about Fairfax County staff choosing to craft the Scoping Questions for WSP/LimnoTech before consulting with the Task Force.

Chairman Bulova clarified that County staff drafted the Scoping Questions based on questions and comments received from the public during the February 2023 Lake Accotink dredging project meetings and community survey that followed. The document was intended to be a starting point for the Task Force. It has been revised based on comments made by Task Force members.

Finalization of Scoping Questions for WSP/LimnoTech

Task Force members provided further edits to the list of Scoping Questions for the consultant, WSP/LimnoTech, that was generated by Fairfax County staff using questions and concerns raised by County residents.

Additional questions the Task Force requested the consulting group to explore included:

- What would be the cost to maintain a managed wetland?
- What are the various downstream impacts of changing the current status of Lake Accotink?
- Can the recreational aspects of Lake Accotink Park be preserved if the lake is transformed into a managed wetland?
- Would it be more beneficial to the community if the lake is dredged versus transformed into a wetland?

Some questions posed by Task Force members were broader than the consultant's scope of work. Hasan Shah volunteered to maintain a list of these "parking lot" questions.

Presentation on Overview of Lake Barcroft Dredging Program

A presentation was given by Davis Grant, the General Manager of the Lake Barcroft Watershed Improvement District (WID). He described the location and size of Lake Barcroft and the surrounding community and the creation of the WID in 1973, which currently has an annual budget of approximately \$1.5 million. The presentation focused on the dredging program, which implements mechanical dredging. It has evolved from a large-scale operation, conducted approximately every two years, to a smaller scale in-house and on-going operation, which incorporates information from bathymetric surveys. The presentation also covered their on-site decanting basins and dredged spoils disposal. Dam maintenance and debris removal are also part of the WID operation.

A discussion and question-and-answer period followed the presentation. Mr. Grant noted that while sedimentation has caused Lake Barcroft to become shallower, redevelopment and better stormwater management in the watershed above the lake holds promise for a reduction of sedimentation in the future.

Presentation on Managed Wetlands

In the interest of time, the presentation by the Fairfax County Park Authority on Managed Wetlands was rescheduled for the next full Task Force meeting on September 11.

Closing Comments

Before adjourning to break into subcommittees, Chairman Bulova reminded Task Force members that subcommittee meetings are subject to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA). Chairman Bulova reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings, noting that the full Task Force will meet again on September 11.

Questions/comments for Chairman Bulova and/or the Task Force may be submitted to BOSLakeAccotinkTaskForce@fairfaxcounty.gov or LATF@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.