

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
March 11, 2015**

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Room 941, Fairfax, Virginia.

Board Members:

William G. Bouie, Chairman
Ken Quincy, Vice Chair
Kala Leggett Quintana, Secretary*
Harold L. Strickland, Treasurer
Edward R. Batten, Sr.
Mary Cortina
Linwood Gorham
Faisal Khan*
Michael Thompson, Jr.
Frank S. Vajda
Anthony J. Vellucci
Grace Han Wolf

Staff Present:

Kirk Kincannon, Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Barbara Gorski
Judy Pedersen, PIO
Deborah Babcock-Daley
Barbara Nugent
Todd Johnson
Cindy Walsh
Brian Williams
John Zeigler

Absent*

PUBLIC COMMENT: No speakers were present.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes, February 25, 2015, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Quincy made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2015, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Strickland. The motion carried; Ms. Quintana and Mr. Khan were absent.

ACTION ITEMS

- A-1 Approval – Fee Adjustments to the Published Fee Schedule for 2015
Mr. Quincy made a motion to approve all proposed fee adjustments as advertised; seconded by Ms. Cortina. The motion carried; Ms. Quintana and Mr. Khan were absent.
- A-2 Park Authority Revenue and Operating Fund – Debt Service Reserve Closure and Reallocation
Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the closing of the Debt Service Reserve in the Revenue and Operating Fund and reallocate those funds to the following:
1. \$370,349 to the Revenue Facilities Capital Sinking Fund (PR-000101)
 2. \$400,000 to the Emergency Project (PR0000057)

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INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 FY 2015 Employee Opinion Survey
Mr. Paul Bragan and Ms. Katie Jordan from Wakefield Research provided a presentation on the results of the Employee Survey and fielded questions from the Board. Ms. Roteman and Ms. Babcock-Daley reported on the next steps. Ms. Cortina commented on the lack of training funds.
- I-2 The FY 2015 Second Quarter Budget Review – Fund 10001, Park Authority General Fund
No action was necessary.
- I-3 FY 2015 Second Quarter Budget Review – Fund 80000, Park Authority Revenue and Operating Fund
No action was necessary.
- I-4 FY 2015 Third Quarter Budget Review – Fund 10001, General Fund
No action was necessary.
- I-5 FY 2015 Third Quarter Budget Review – Fund 80000, Park Authority Revenue and Operating Fund
No action was necessary.
- I-6 FY 2015 Third Quarter Budget Review, Fund 30010, General County Construction Fund
No action was necessary.
- I-7 FY 2015 Third Quarter Budget Review, Fund 30400, Park Authority Bond Construction
No action was necessary.
- I-8 FY 2015 Third Quarter Budget Review, Fund 80300, Park Improvement Fund
No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS:

- Mr. Bouie thanked Mr. Kincannon for attending the Hunter Mill Town Hall meeting at Frying Pan Farm Park on February 28. Chairman Bulova and County Executive Ed Long were there. The entire county was represented, took questions, and provided answers on various topics. Supervisor Hudgins and the Executive Team did a great job. Mr. Long covered the budget along with Ms. Datta. The citizens did get their questions answered. Mr. Bouie expressed his appreciation for all the support in that meeting.
- Mr. Bouie announced that he will not attend the March 25 Board meeting.

- Mr. Bouie again encouraged the members of the Board to get with their Supervisors regarding the budget. He announced that he is signed up to speak on behalf of the Board at the Board of Supervisors' Budget Hearings on April 9 and is speaker #26. He encouraged the Board members to approach their respective Supervisors, citizens, and special interest groups. He has heard from a number of people stating that Parks is getting short changed on money and he encouraged those folks to step up at the hearings to express their opinions.
- The Committee of the Whole meeting held on February 25 resulted in no action being taken. There was no misconduct on anyone's part that was discussed in closed session.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS:

- Since the Employee Survey was discussed earlier, Mr. Kincannon gave a shout out to all staff, the Leadership Team, and Division Directors. They are an incredible staff. They are the best in the nation, if not in the universe. Mr. Kincannon stated that he appreciates their great work.

Mr. Kincannon added that the Trust for Public Land (TPL) came out with its analysis of park spending per capita and Fairfax County is very low. It's like on the very bottom of the dial related to how much the county spends overall for park and recreation. He is not sure what data was collected, but compared to other parts of the country where they are spending hundreds of dollars per capita. It makes Mr. Kincannon appreciate the staff because they do much more and because they have taken it on the chin with budget cuts over the last several years. They have done a phenomenal job keeping things moving forward and providing top-notch services to the community.

- Parks is getting ready to embark on the economic value study with the NRPA. Mr. Kincannon received word earlier in the day from Dr. Travis Smith that NRPA is getting ready to sign the contract with George Mason University, Drs. Fuller and Clower. Mr. Kincannon believes that this will likely be a multiple-month study as they look at national trends and values and do a case study of the national data.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Vajda had no comments.
- Ms. Wolf thanked everyone who came out to the ribbon cutting at the Great Falls Grange on March 7. Ms. Baldwin and Mr. Kincannon were there as well as Ms. Pedersen. Staff put together a great program. The Grange is now ADA accessible and has a wheelchair elevator. She encouraged everyone to come out and take a look.
- Mr. Vellucci announced that the Friends of Audrey Moore RECenter held a kick-off meeting on February 5 and have had several meetings since. They are doing incredible. They put out

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a March newsletter and have a website. Tony was surprised at the number of patrons from the Springfield and Mason Districts so he asked that they be included along with the district Supervisors and Park representatives on all future newsletters. He is also including the Members-At-large from the Braddock District. The next meeting is on March 26 and has been added to the Board Calendar.

They are looking to understand the Park Authority Policy process and procedures and to play an active part in future renovations to AMRC. Their enthusiasm is contagious. He told them there is a whole park division that will worry about that and that they needed to look at some other things.

They are planning field trips to Spring Hill, Oak Marr, and South Run RECenters over the next couple of months to gather some information. He thanked Ms. Cortina for providing input already. Mr. Cadwallader has been very supportive of the group. He believes that it is befitting that Audrey Moore, being the first RECenter, has the first RECenter Friends Group.

Watershed clean-up will take place on April 11 for the Accotink and Pohick Stream Valleys. Seven Friends Groups are now participating across the Braddock District: Friends of Audrey Moore RECenter, Friends of Accotink Creek, Friends of Lake Accotink Park, Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley, Friends of Royal Lake, Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley, and Friends of Woodglen Lake. Over 25 communities will be involved in clean-up; they will be working with a Clean Fairfax and the Alison Ferguson Foundation. George Mason is also going to participate.

Mr. Vellucci thanked the Committee of the Whole for the work it did on February 25. He asked, "that the record show that there was no misconduct on the part of the Braddock District representative, so that is clear in the record. And I also wanted to state that I didn't believe that Ms. Lepold did anything that was improper either. I think that she saw to redress what she perceived as a, an onerous fee burden process and she availed herself of the tools that were available to her, a Board member, her friends, the public comment process, social media, and the press. And so, what I am looking forward to here is that as we develop protocols and operating procedures that will bring clarity to situations like this for the future. To that end, a lot of times, the world I came out of had a thing called the hot wash up where we sought to gather lessons learned and so I think this is an opportunity that we could take a lot of lessons learned and determine which of them should feed into the protocols and operating procedures that we want to establish."

Mr. Vellucci received a constituent concern in the past week from his state senator. It was for a constituent that felt he had not been heard by the Park Authority. He checked into and understands that the Park Authority receives about a hundred concerns, issues, and requests each week from Parkmail and other sources. Most of them are operational and are addressed by staff very expeditiously, but this one took about six months to handle.

Mr. Vellucci had another issue that he feels that Board may want to talk about. The constituent requested action by the Board, but action was addressed at the committee level and that was directed by staff and not by the Board. So Mr. Vellucci had a lot of questions to ask regarding protocol and standard operating procedures. Does the citizen have the right to have an issue addressed by the Board, or can it be addressed by a committee? Can staff make that determination or should the Board make that determination? Can the Board delegate decision making authority to a committee or does the decision making authority have to be vested in the Board because the Board of Supervisors has vested that authority in the Board? There are a bunch of questions, and he is looking forward to developing these protocols and standard operating procedures because he feels there is a lot of ambiguity right now and the Board needs to bring clarity to this.

Mr. Vellucci concluded by telling everyone to beware of the ides of March and wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

- Mr. Thompson wanted to keep track of the Boy Scouts' suggestions for the multi-use passes for miniature golf, and disk rental for disk golf that he received following a recent Board meeting.

He thanked Mr. Bowden and staff for the work they are doing to bring Rolling Valley on with as little impact as possible for the spring season, although the weather has not been working in Parks' favor.

He also thanked Mr. Johnson for looking for ways to be more flexible with groups to use the fields with moving goals.

As a result of the interactions over the driving range at Burke Lake Park some steps have begun for forming a Friends of Burke Lake group. They are working with staff to make that come together, but it will take some time. There are looking at a model that leverages the Foundation and other things to take the incredible amount energy that wants to protect Burke Lake and turn it into a Friends group.

- Mr. Strickland commented that plans for Sully Woodlands were reviewed by the Planning and Development Committee and he wanted to remind the Board that about 80% of the land will remain undisturbed. He heard the Columbia Gas Pipeline Company wants to put a new gas line in the western part of Fairfax County. They have done some preliminary surveys and are unable to miss park land. Mr. Strickland asked Supervisor Frey if he would call a meeting, which he did, and he and Ms. McNeal met last week with Columbia's representatives. Since this is an interstate pipeline they are basically regulated by federal requirements and do not have to abide by any state or county requirements. They didn't want to make an issue out of that and want to finish their surveys and permits and right-of-ways in the next 12-15 months. They want to begin construction in early 2017. The construction will be a clearing of about 55' wide. They will need access roads into their construction sites and

storage areas for their pipe. Ms. McNeal and Mr. Strickland tried to make it very clear that what they were asking for in some of the areas was very sensitive from an environmental standpoint and to what citizens have agreed to what they want there. They recognized that and said that they would work with us.

He expressed his concern that Parks has a major impact. Supervisor Frey made it clear that even though they are controlled by someone other than the county he would be the first to step up. Even though he may no longer be on the Board of Supervisors, he would not support intrusions on park land or that they would be destructive to park land. Supervisor Frey also felt that would be the position of the county.

Mr. Strickland recalled that there were two other disruptions to park land some years ago, one was a sewer line near Cub Run and a water line. He is hoping they can be kept out of this area and can go where they have already been.

Mr. Strickland concluded by stating that this will be problematic and Parks will have to deal with it and see what leverage Parks can make with Columbia. He wants to be on top of this early on to make sure they understand what Parks has there they won't come through there.

Mr. Bouie added that he has received some communication on this topic and he has engaged a friend who is the past chairman who will work on Parks behalf with Columbia Gas.

Mr. Strickland thanked staff for the work they did for the Sully District Council meeting on February 26. The presentation was very much appreciated by the group and thought it was very information. A new approach recommended by staff was to use a CD, which were distributed at the meeting. The Sully District Council president contacted Hal and told him that there was a storehouse of information on the CD that wasn't covered at the meeting.

Mr. Strickland asked that the following email that he sent to staff be included in the minutes.

-----Original Message-----

From: Harold Strickland [REDACTED]
To: Kirk.Kincannon <Kirk.Kincannon@fairfaxcounty.gov>
Cc: David.Bowden <David.Bowden@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Cynthia.Walsh <Cynthia.Walsh@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Sara.Baldwin <Sara.Baldwin@fairfaxcounty.gov>; bill.bouie [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, Feb 27, 2015 2:24 pm
Subject: Re: Invitation to the Sully Park Authority Board Member to Address the Sully District Council

Mr. Director,

I arrive bearing accolades. The presentation last night by you and staff were right on point and elegant.

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I got feed back today from Jeff (SDC) thanking Parks for an outstanding and informative briefing. The recognition is well-deserved.

You and your staff were very responsive in supporting my request for this briefing. And done a wonderful job in its' preparation.

All presenting staff were strong through-out and frequently superb just at the right moment.

Parks staff continue to absolutely convince me they are our "heart and soul", something quite wonderful.

Kirk, please feel free to share this with others as you wish, I'm not sure of all that may have contributed to this outstanding effort.

With Warmest Regards,
Hal
Harold Strickland

- Mr. Quincy stated that in Mr. Khan's absence he wanted to report on the cricket venture which is going very well. On March 19 a cricket open house will be held at Luther Jackson Middle School. Mr. Khan and Mr. Quincy have been working with Ms. Evans, the School Board Liaison. It will be at 2:30 p.m. in the gym. They are welcoming all the middle school folks, the students, and anyone else that would like to attend to see a cricket demonstration. There will be some good presentations about the sport. They received a very positive response from the School Board folks about this venture. Mr. Quincy thinks it's a good cooperative venture between Parks and Schools. Mr. Khan has done a lot of work on the event and has lined up some quality folks to head up this pilot program at Luther Jackson.

Mr. Quincy announced that he has also been signed up to speak at the Budget Hearings. He is #45 on April 8, so he may not be able to attend the Board meeting.

Mr. Quincy also heard about a very small portion of the budget the Park Authority makes up and why the big deal was the way one person put it to him; they should be spending more on parks, not less. He is sure that others have heard the same as well.

- Mr. Gorham thanked Ms. Vosper and Mr. Kincannon for attending the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen Association on March 4. They did a really excellent job.

Mr. Gorham reiterated how important it is for the Park Board to speak with their Supervisors about these budgets and lobby for Parks and looking out for its interests.

He reminded everyone to talk about the pennies for Parks. Parks is .65 of 1% in the county budget; Parks is not even a penny. What could Parks do with a penny?

In addition, it is easy to say that Parks' entire budget is often less than the adjustment of some other county agency. The population moving into the county right now is moving into

more dense housing than ever before and will get denser and denser because open lands are pretty much gone. Most of the county is now past primary development. The denser the county becomes the more it needs parks. A park near his home attracts many people who line up outside the gate for at least half a mile in the summer time because people want to do something socially. They live in apartments or townhouses, or places where they can't get together. There is more need for parks today than there has ever been in Fairfax. Other things such as newspaper aren't in need because of technology, but that is not the case for parks.

Therefore, we all need to sell, sell, sell to the people that make up the budgets and hold Parks' purse strings. Parks has really good legitimate arguments.

- Mr. Batten reported that he had the opportunity to say a few words the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, March 4, at Huntley Meadows Park to celebrate the completion of the Telegraph Road widening project, which provides congestion relief to one of the worst bottlenecks in the county at the intersection of South Van Dorn Street; Telegraph Road, and South Kings Highway.

He thanked Ms. McNeal who apparently had significant activity working with both the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT). Not only did she do exceptional work, but at the same time got Parks an improved and enhanced parking lot and entrance way for Huntley Meadows. Supervisor McKay, who was interviewed by Channel 4 and a number of others who represented FCDOT and VDOT, had a tremendous amount of positive things to say about Cindy and about her activities and coordination. Mr. Batten was extremely proud of the work she had done and the results that came from that. The people who also handled the project also told him how great it was to work with Ms. McNeal and how much her being there meant to doing the things that they were able to do to help the Park Authority. Mr. Batten said that they greatly appreciate all of Ms. McNeal's efforts and Parks has benefitted significantly by her participation in that very significant project.

Those that drive through that area will see how much effort was done. There is even an aquatic type bridge.

Mr. Batten was happy to know that so much was accomplished and everyone had something positive to say. Supervisor McKay was extremely proud of what Parks was able to get and to what he looks forward to happening for the Park Authority going forward. Ms. Ledec, Chair of the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, was also on the program, and had some extremely positive things to say about the Park Authority and about Cindy's efforts.

He encouraged everyone, as they drive down that road, to realize that someone in this organization had a significant impact on it becoming what it is now.

Mr. Batten thanked Ms. Pedersen for providing comments for him, even though he didn't learn until the day before that they wanted someone from Parks to speak.

He also thanked Ms. Gorski for doing some research for information for him to provide to the Park Foundation Board on Tuesday, March 17.

Mr. Batten reminded the Board that the Park Foundation Board wants to be enhanced. Some Park Board members have not shared the names of potential candidates for the Park Foundation Board.

- Ms. Cortina commended the Colchester Archaeological Research Team (CART) for their blog updates and e-mails (<https://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com/>). She enjoys receiving them and makes sure to read them because they are always interesting and educational. This is a great example of using technology and social media, such as GIS mapping, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter in the Park Authority and she encourages everyone who has not done so to sign up for the blog.

She commented on the many improvements to the Park Authority's website <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/> -- the golf pages and the camps and classes are more engaging, and the personality of the Park Authority is coming through with more quotes and writings from employees. It makes the site more friendly and personable. Good job to the Web team. It was noted by Ms. Pederson that her team does a great job, but also all the people who provide content throughout the organization deserve credit too.

Ms. Cortina said that we may not fully appreciate the extent of leadership we have in the organization. For instance, the Friends of Huntley Meadows tell her that the Park Manager, Mr. Munroe, is frequently sought-after both in the United States and internationally for the wetlands restoration project. We have many leaders throughout the organization that might not necessarily have the job title, but practice leadership in their areas every day. They innovate, they solve problems, they have the direct connection to the customer and we need to let them lead. The saying, "If the people will lead, the leaders will follow" is one she's fond of, and we need to get out of the way and let them lead.

- Mr. Bouie stated that in the interest of the Park Foundation he is going to have breakfast on Thursday, with Mr. Fay and following that up he will have lunch with the Park Foundation Chairman, Bruce McLeod, to discuss the Foundation and Friends Groups.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m. without objection.

[SIGNATURES APPEAR ON FOLLOWING PAGE]

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Ken Quincy, Vice Chairman

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on March 25, 2015

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant