

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
April 8, 2015**

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Rooms 106/107, 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:

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Barbara Gorski
Judy Pedersen, PIO
Barbara Nugent
David Bowden
Todd Johnson
Cindy Walsh
Brian Williams
John Zeigler

Absent*

PUBLIC HEARING – Conveyance of Reston Towne Green Property

Mr. Bouie welcomed all and asked Ms. Pedersen to conduct the Public Hearing. Staff provided comments received during the public comment period and entertained three speakers at the Public Hearing.

A-1 Approval of the Conveyance of the Reston Towne Green Property to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (Hunter Mill District)

Upon closure of the Public Hearing Mr. Bouie made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the conveyance of the Reston Towne Green property in the Hunter Mill District to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and, to that end, the execution of the proposed Contract of Sale; seconded by Ms. Quintana. The motion carried, Mr. Khan was absent.

At 7:50 p.m. Mr. Bouie called the meeting to recess and noted that the meeting would resume in room 941 of the Herrity Building.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

At 8 p.m. Mr. Bouie called the meeting order in room 941 of the Herrity Building. He noted that while a public comment session was not on the agenda for the meeting, the Board would entertain any speakers that may be present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Speaker: Pamela Lepold Topic: Photography Fees

APPROVED AND SIGNED APRIL 22, 2015

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM**ADMIN-1** Adoption of Minutes, March 25, 2015, Park Authority Board Meeting

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2015, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Quincy.

Mr. Vellucci asked for correction his Board Matters noted on page 7. He asked that the following changes be made:

“On March 18 DPWES had a ~~partners~~ *pardon our dust* meeting and have started the ~~dredging~~ *draining* of Woodglen Lake. They began to drain the lake on March 12 and hope to have the ~~dredge~~ *draining* completed by the ~~middle~~ *end* of April. The contractor will then do the dry dredge and hopes to have that completed sometime in October. A number of members of the Friends of Woodglen Lake . . .”

Mr. Vajda made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried. Mr. Khan was absent. Having not attended the March 25 meeting, Mr. Bouie, Mr. Strickland, Ms. Quintana, and Ms. Wolf abstained.

ACTION ITEMS**A-2** Reappointment of Harrison A. Glasgow to the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board

Mr. Quincy made a motion to reappoint Harrison A. Glasgow to the Park Foundation’s Board of Directors; seconded by Mr. Batten. The motion carried; Mr. Khan was absent.

A-3 Reappointment of Tim Eakin Walsh to the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board

Mr. Batten made a motion to reappoint Tim Eakin Walsh to the Park Foundation’s Board of Directors; seconded by Ms. Quintana. The motion carried, Mr. Khan was absent.

A-4 Approval – Revisions to commercial Photography Fee (Business Activity Fee) and Abatement of Existing Fee (with Permit Retention) until July 2, 2015, Implementation

Mr. Vajda made a motion to approve the revisions to the Photography Fee and suspend current fees for photographers while maintaining the requirement for permitting of these activities. The fee abatement would remain in effect until the new fee structure/permitting process is implemented by July 1, 2015; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried, Mr. Khan was absent.

A-5 Surrey Square Park – Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program Request – Old Forge – Surrey Square Civic Association (Braddock District)

Mr. Vellucci made a motion to approve the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program request from the Old Forge – Surrey Square Civic Association in the amount of \$20,000 to replace the playground in Surrey Square Park; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried, Mr. Khan was absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 Infrastructure Overview – Outdoor Lighting
No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS:

- Mr. Bouie thanked Mr. Quincy for testifying before the Board of Supervisors during the Budget Hearings earlier in the day on behalf of the Park Authority Board. Mr. Bouie indicated that he will speak before the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, April 9. Since the budget will not be adopted for some time, Mr. Bouie asked that any input that Park Board members can provide to their respective Supervisors, as well as anyone else that may have influence, to please do so.

While he will tell the story as it is, he will also recognize the support Parks has received by the Board of Supervisors. Times will get better and that has been reflected in the expanded bond capabilities the Board has given Parks in 2016 and 2020. Parks will do better but needs to define what the bottom line is in order for the Financial Sustainability Plan to really kick in and have meaning.

- Mr. Bouie extended his heartfelt wishes to Supervisor Hudgins and to her husband who suffered a fall and is at INVOA Hospital. Mr. Bouie asked everyone to keep Willie Hudgins in their thoughts and prayers.
- Mr. Bouie also thanked the Board for its approval of the conveyance of the Reston Towne Green.

DIRECTOR’S MATTERS: (In Kirk Kincannon’s absence Sara Baldwin presented Director’s Matters.)

- Laurel Hill Golf Club has earned the No. 10 ranking in Virginia among GolfWeek’s 2015 “Best Courses You Can Play.”

To build GolfWeek’s list, a very prestigious honor among golf facilities, an experienced team of more than 700 evaluators rate courses across the country on the basis of 10 different criteria. These include routing, conditioning, variety, and memorability of holes. Laurel Hill, since opening in 2005, has continued to receive accolades for its outstanding condition and layout over the last several years. In addition to hosting the 2013 US Amateur Public Championship in 2013, Laurel Hill along with two other area golf courses will be hosting the World Police and Fire games this June. This event will bring police and firefighters, worldwide, to Fairfax County to compete in a variety of different events.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Gorham announced that he will not attend the meetings on April 22, but will celebrate his 25th wedding anniversary with his wife.

Mr. Gorham indicated that installation of synthetic turf on Field #5 at Lt. Col. Gary Smith Memorial Field will come up for Board approval on April 22 and encouraged everyone to vote for it. He stated that if anyone had any questions or concerns to please contact him.

- Mr. Batten thanked the Board members for their enthusiastic reappointment of Mr. Harry Glasgow and Mr. Tim Eakin Walsh to the Park Foundation Board. He reminded the Park Board that the Park Foundation is still looking to increase its membership and is still asking the Park Board for the names of potential candidates.
- Ms. Cortina, thanked the Messrs. Vajda, Thompson, Vellucci, and Quincy and Mr. Kincannon, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Vosper, and Ms. Nugent for attending the Federation of Friends meeting on March 28 at Frying Pan Farm Park. Ms. Cortina thanked the Park Foundation for providing the refreshments and Ms. Yvonne Johnson, Frying Pan Farm Park manager.

Ms. Cortina encouraged the Board members to take the time to read the PowerPoint presentation that Mr. Kincannon provided during the meeting and to send it on to their Supervisor's office and to the park liaison if one exists. The presentation lays out the entire situation and includes all the data that the Park Board has asked for is in the presentation. She again recommended that everyone read through the presentation and send any questions to Ms. Vosper.

Ms. Cortina said she would be remiss if she didn't mention that while having discussion with her family about where to go for spring break, whether it was Philadelphia or New York, they preferred to go to Huntley Meadows Park. The frogs are in full song. She gave a shout out to the Friends and all the staff at Huntley.

- Mr. Quincy seconded Ms. Cortina's comments about Mr. Kincannon's presentation. Mr. Quincy has shared it with a couple of other Friends Groups and received good feedback.

A very successful Easter Egg Hunt was held at Nottoway Park on April 4 in spite of the winds. The kids had a great time. He and Supervisor Smyth were handing out prizes.

A workshop was held on the proposed Ruckstahl Park on Idylwood Drive that the Park Authority received from the Northern Virginia Trust for Public Land. It was a very successful workshop in thanks largely to Ms. Stallman and Mr. Galusha. It was evident that the citizens want to keep that park as natural as possible.

Mr. Quincy met with Supervisor Smyth and a constituent of hers on April 6 on park matters and other issues. One issue was about dumping at three different parks and the extent of the dumping. Another concern was about maintenance; however, they are aware of budget concerns.

Mr. Quincy noted that he did speak at the Board of Supervisors' Budget hearings earlier in the day and he thanked Judy Pedersen for the great comments. He arrived early so he had the opportunity to hear a number of other concerns expressed. His primary mission was to give an overview of some of Parks concerns and pave the way for Mr. Bouie's remarks on April 9.

- Ms. Quintana apologized for missing the last two meetings due to family and work commitments.
- She visited Frying Pan Farm Park for an Easter Egg Hunt. It was great to see all the kids. Staff did a good job. It was good to introduce them to farm animals and what they are like and what their needs are.

She also visited Clemyjontri Park and the surface still looks fantastic. Families were out enjoying all the amenities.

Ms. Quintana is sorry she missed all the discussion about the commercial photography fees and is glad that the issue came to a resolution. She noted that Ms. Lepold mentioned all the resources she had gathered to lobby for this effort and hopes that the same amount of energy and enthusiasm goes out to help people understand the compromises and making sure they are 100% compliant. There was a significant negative social media campaign that was launched which brought a one star rating for the Park Authority. Ms. Quintana hopes that there will be the same level of enthusiasm from the community and photographers, noting that a compromise has been made and the image of the entire Park Authority should not suffer on social media because of one particular issue. She encouraged Ms. Lepold to encourage the same people that gave Parks one star to go back and rethink what their rating of the Park Authority is based on the resolution that was achieved through this process. She looks forward to seeing that change over the next few weeks.

Ms. Quintana stated that she is looking forward the upcoming events on the calendar.

She was pleased to see the process for the Reston Towne Green property exchange. It will be a whole new amenity fitting in with Parks' urban feel.

Ms. Quintana noticed that Tysons had received some notoriety recently with regard to the changes that are taking place and how they are similar to Reston; how things are being done there and how a suburban landscape is being changed into an urban landscape. The park piece was missing in that coverage--the open space Parks is trying to preserve, where people can play and work and live.

Ms. Quintana hoped that Ms. Pedersen could try to build on some of that coverage to talk about the Park Authority angle since it is serving as an example for other communities that may be making the same change or are considering it in the future. The Park Authority is a great model and she would love to see Parks get more credit and staff get more credit for their work in that regard because they are doing outstanding work.

- Mr. Strickland expressed his appreciation and recognition to two site managers who put on an excellent Easter program for the young folks – Mr. Shafer at E.C. Lawrence and Ms. McDonnell at Sully Historic Site. Both programs were well attended and he just marvels at how the site managers can reach out and touch the young folks, and they do that so well.
- Mr. Thompson also enjoyed the Federation of Friends meeting. Kirk's presentation was good, but it also showed that the Board of Supervisors supports Parks in a lot of ways beyond the General Fund. The presentation did help to show some of the things the Board of Supervisors does to help Parks and it can help groups and individuals to better understand how the Park Authority works. He wondered if it would be possible to make this information available in some other format for the general public. Perhaps a one-page PDF that adds a dashboard.

Mr. Bouie noted that the Board had asked for the dashboard to be reissued. Ms. Pedersen commented that there are some graphics that are in the works that express those numbers as well as others. She recalled having sent an email to the Board for its input but did not receive a lot of response. Mr. Bouie asked Ms. Pedersen to resend the email to the Board.

Mr. Thompson thanked Frying Pan Farm Park for not just hosting the meeting, but he and his family visited the farm to see the new animals, and it was wonderful to have an opportunity to see them. Frying Pan is special in that kids can actually touch and feel the animals. Staff was great and there were numerous families there.

He thanked Mr. Bowden as the work through Lincoln-Lewis-Vannoy to try to make it a premier facility for the sports community.

- Mr. Vellucci thanked Ms. Cortina for attending the Friends of Audrey Moore RECenter meeting on March 26. She came up with the idea to advertise the cleanup in Spanish. The president of the friends group who is Hispanic had the flyer translated and it is now posted at the RECenter.

The Braddock District cleanup will be held on April 11. He invited everyone to join in picking up trash.

The Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) will hold its meeting on April 16. He thanked Ms. Nugent in advance for agreeing to be the guest speaker. FLAP will be taking on Flagg Run Stream Valley for the cleanup on Saturday.

Woodglen Lake is almost dredged. The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services is doing a dry dredge and he did not realize how many fresh water clams are in that lake. Sea gulls and raccoons have probably had a wonderful time. With the water gone one can see just how much silt has accumulated in the lake. There will be about 34,000 cubic yards. Next year Royal Lake will be dredged and it is estimated to be over 100,000 cubic yards of silt.

Mr. Vellucci thanked everyone involved with the photography fee. The process is just beginning but there is a lot more to be done with the potential newsletter and the Ambassador's Program. While those are at the operational level, he offered his assistance. He thanked everyone for making it happen.

- Ms. Wolf reminded everyone that Colvin Run Mill will hold a restoration ceremony on Sunday, April 19, at 1 o'clock. The grinding apparatus will be operational and will be demonstrated that day. She recently met with the park manager and Friends there. It's a great facility. You can get stoneground corn at the mill that you can cook with and which is sold to restaurants in the area. Interesting enough, the corn is imported from a different state because it has to be at a certain grade. Ms. Wolf invited everyone to come out to the ceremony and demonstration.

Ms. Wolf reported that she toured the Marie Leven Preserve to catch up on where Parks is with that property.

While it was mentioned at the last Board meeting, Ms. Wolf noted that the Korean-American Festival will be coming to Herndon the weekend of June 19, 20, and 21. With the Board's permission, she would be happy to invite the committee to make a presentation to let the Board understand what will take place the weekend before the World Police and Fire Games. Mr. Bouie indicated that he would have a conversation with Grace on that topic.

- Mr. Vajda extended kudos to Mr. Cortina for an excellent Federation of Friends meeting. Mary redirected the kudos to staff. Frank also endorsed getting Mr. Kincannon's PowerPoint presentation to the Board of Supervisors any anybody else that may benefit from it. It included a lot of facts.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Mr. Vellucci asked if it were possible for Colvin Run Mill to use the corn grown at Ox Hill Battlefield. Grace noted that it is not about the plant, but the process used afterward that determines the grade.
- Mr. Bouie encouraged the Board to take the opportunity to read the e-newsletter issued once a week by the National Recreation and Park Association. There are numerous great articles in those newsletters that are similar but perhaps on a smaller scale about some of the things

the Park Authority is discussing, doing, or proposing to do at some time. The articles also speak about pending legislation and some legislation that may be coming up across the country. They provide a lot of very good information that our Board members and professionals should pay attention to.

- Reston is having a Founder's Day celebration on Saturday, April 11, from noon to 4 p.m. at Lake Anna Plaza. Bob Simon turns 101 on Saturday. He will be the headliner again only after he leads the Little League Parade at 9 o'clock that morning on Little League Opening Day.
- Mr. Bouie wished all the Little Leagues that are opening this weekend the best of luck in their pursuit of Williamsport and other championships.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Kala Leggett Quintana, Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on April 22, 2015

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant