

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
April 22, 2015**

The Chairman convened the meeting at 7:53 p.m. at Park Authority Headquarters, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035.

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:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Jill Latham
Deborah Babcock-Daley
Judy Pedersen
David Bowden
Todd Johnson
Barbara Nugent
Cindy Walsh

Absent*

PUBLIC COMMENT: No speakers were present.

PRESENTATION

P-1 Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Report
Staff presented the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Report for 2014. No action was necessary.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ADMIN-1 Resolution Honoring Ed Busenlehner upon His Retirement from the Fairfax County Park Authority
Mr. Vajda made a motion to approve of the resolution honoring Mr. Busenlehner; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried. Messrs. Gorham and Batten were absent.
- ADMIN-2 Adoption of Minutes – April 8, 2015, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Quincy made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2015, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Vajda. The motion carried. Messrs. Gorham and Batten were absent.

APPROVED AND SIGNED MAY 13, 2015

ACTION ITEMS

- A-1 Scope Approval – Riverbend Park Picnic Shelter (Dranesville District)
Ms. Wolf made a motion to approve the project scope to design, permit, and construct a picnic shelter at Riverbend Park; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried. Messrs. Gorham and Batten were absent.
- A-2 Scope Approval – Greendale Golf Course Irrigation System Replacement (Lee District)
Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the project scope to install a replacement irrigation system at Greendale Golf Course; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried. Messrs. Gorham and Batten were absent.
- A-3 Scope Approval – Installation of Synthetic Turf on Field #5, Lt. Col. Gary F. Smith Memorial Field, at Grist Mill Park (Mount Vernon District)
Ms. Quintana made a motion to approve the project scope to design, permit, and install synthetic turf at Grist Mill Park Field #5; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried. Messrs. Gorham and Batten were absent.
- A-4 Scope Approval – Installation of Synthetic Turf on Fields #1 and #3 at Arrowhead Park (Sully District)
Mr. Strickland made a motion to approve the project scope to design, permit, and convert fields #1 and #3 to synthetic turf at Arrowhead Park; seconded by Messrs. Vajda and Thompson. The motion carried. Messrs. Gorham and Batten were absent.
- A-5 Scope Approval – Riverbend Park Key House Demolition (Dranesville District)
Ms. Wolf made a motion to approve the project scope to demolish the Key House residential property at Riverbend Park; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried. Messrs. Gorham and Batten were absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 Scotts Run Trail
No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS:

- Mr. Bouie extended condolences on behalf of the Board to Supervisor Hudgins and her family on the loss of her husband, Willie Hudgins, who passed away last week. The memorial service will take place on Saturday, April 25, at 1 p.m. at St. Thomas a Becket Church in Reston. Willie was a friend of the county and was a great guy that participated in a lot of things in the Reston area. He was a great friend of Bill's and he will be missed.

- Noting some of the issue the Board discussed surrounding the standing committees. Mr. Bouie indicated that he made adjustments to ensure the Board stays in compliance with the VAFOIA requirements. They will be sent to the Board in the next few days.
- Mr. Bouie reported that he spoke before the Board of Supervisors during the budget hearings and extended the Board's heartfelt appreciation to Supervisors Gerry Hyland and Michael Frey for the support that they have given the Park Authority throughout the years, since this was going to be their last rodeo as far as the budget was concerned. They will continue to support Parks going forward.
- Mr. Bouie looked at the budget markup that is going to approval and it appears that they are taking all of Parks' cuts, and nothing was restored, \$720,356 as taken. He added that he feels good about some of the feedback he has received with regard to the position of the Park Authority in working with the Board of Supervisors in some very tough conditions and working in a cooperative spirit.
- Mr. Quincy will chair the May 13 Board meeting. Mr. Bouie will participate in the Virginia Senior Olympics with his partner to try to defend their title on the way to the National Senior Games in July in Minneapolis.
- Staff has been working on the Board Rules and Protocol Manual. He distributed copies of the draft outline and timeline for comment. Mr. Bouie asked that the Board members return their comments to him and staff will compile them and they will be reviewed by the Committee of the Whole.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS:

- Mr. Kincannon indicated that it was great to be back following his eight days on the west coast of Florida.
- Elizabeth Brown Pryor, biographer of Robert E. Lee and Clara Barton, recently passed away. She worked for the National Park Service as a historian but did some work for the Park Authority in partnership with the Fairfax County Historical Society. Specifically she researched the Eleanor C. Lawrence Park and Louis Machen who farmed Walney in the mid-19th Century. Elizabeth interviewed the last remaining granddaughter and found that she had over 20 years of letters written to and from Machen while he was Clerk of the Senate from 1841 to 1861.

Machen believed in scientific farming and wrote daily to his sons who were doing the farming. They in turn wrote to him with details of the farm activities. Machen also included comments on the public activities of the Senate at the time. There were about 60,000

APPROVED AND SIGNED MAY 13, 2015

documents that were turned over to the Library of Congress or National Archives for preservation and cataloguing.

Carol McDonnell was at Sully when Elizabeth did her research.

- The Park Authority made the top 50 U.S. playground list from the Early Childhood Education Zone and it is Clemyjontri Park coming in at #4. Ms. Pedersen has provided the information in the press clippings. Mr. Kincannon encouraged the Board members to take a look at the website <http://www.earlychildhoodeducationzone.com/>.

A number of staff received a Director's Leadership Award on Monday, April 20, related to the Clemyjontri Park resurfacing and renovation project, and specifically related to the Park Authority's Value of Providing Quality and Value which says, "We are committed to providing high quality facilities and services that offer superior value and prompt efficient service to our customers and the community."

The following staff received the Director's Leadership Award: Mark Holsteen, Tim Scott, David Hicks, Ed Busenlehner, Paul Hagerman, Beth Borostovik, Charlie Norman, Reginald Thompson, Ben Corbin, Thomas Payne, David Harris, Darin Patterson, Donald Shepherd, Osmin Ventura, Darnell Sibert, Michael Harris, Duston Meyers, and Miguel Flores.

Mr. Kincannon congratulated the team for its great work.

- Mr. Bouie added that the Board may have heard that there is a group in the county asking about the crumb rubber used for synthetic turf fields. Staff has been working with the Health Department and Risk Management and those that put together the first statement. More research work is being done by the Health Department and Parks is hoping that the Health Department will release any new updated statement soon, some of the places that had put a moratorium on its use are now lifted or are about to lift those moratoriums.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Khan reported that the cricket program at Luther Jackson Middle School is taking place every Thursday and participation is picking up. With the help of Mr. Quincy, the guidance of the after school specialist, and the Park Board support the program has had a good start and is generating a lot of interest. They have begun receiving calls from other places as well.

There are other opportunities at the school as well that are under discussion.

Mr. Khan wished Mr. Bouie well in his efforts at the Senior Olympics.

- Ms. Cortina thanked Ric and Jean Edelman, the founders of Edelman Financial of Fairfax, for their personal contribution of \$75,000 toward Observatory Park at Turner Farm Park in

APPROVED AND SIGNED MAY 13, 2015

Great Falls. This very generous donation will fund two telescopes for the roll-top observatory and was made through the friends group, the Analemma Society; our partners in making this park a reality. The Edelmans are great advocates of giving back to the community and Mr. Edelman has a particular interest in astronomy and STEM education. We thank them both for this generous contribution. This is the United Nations' International Year of Light 2015. This donation was in support of that.

She acknowledged the Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting earned by the Financial Management team. As a Board member, she has an extra measure of confidence in the financial management of the Park Authority when the staff receives this award. She thanked everyone in the finance group for their hard work over the past many years, especially with the financial challenges of the organization.

Ms. Cortina thanked all the volunteers who participated in the Braddock districtwide stream cleanup on April 11. She and her family picked up trash with the Friends of Audrey Moore RECenter and in a few short hours we accumulated a truck-load of trash, including wood pallets, a sink, tires, a mattress and many bags full of trash, plastic shopping bags and water bottles.

Also on April 11 they visited Riverbend Park for their 3rd Annual Bluebell Festival. It was well-attended with hundreds of children. There was music, crafts, a raptor presentation and activity stations for children. The bluebells were not out yet, so she returned today to see the most splendid display of bluebells along the Potomac River. The flowers are still in peak bloom, so if you have not been yet, she recommends a visit.

It was a perfect way to spend Earth Day, celebrating the environment and natural places in our county parks. We are blessed and fortunate that people like Mr. Strickland, who has served on this Board for over 20 years, and others before him and our Board of Supervisors have recognized the value in these natural spaces and set them aside for us and future generations. These are magnificent public lands and a major appeal for people who live here.

On this Earth Day, she also thanked the people who work for this park system, who devote their careers and lives to taking care of the places we enjoy.

Ms. Cortina also appealed to her fellow board members to work with her to find a way to fund the continued preservation, protection and conservation of our natural resources. It is a false choice to say we can fund either our children's education or conserve the land upon which life depends and is their natural inheritance.

This is a basic duty of government and we need to help this organization find a solution, whether that is a portion of the storm water tax or another funding mechanism, to ensure we perform this responsibility.

APPROVED AND SIGNED MAY 13, 2015

- Mr. Vajda reported that he enjoyed kicking off the festivities at Culmore with Supervisor Gross on April 18. It's becoming quite the annual event and one that Parks has contributed to and has made a mark there with Baileys Park and in cooperation with Schools has turf fields, and a renovation of the Wilson Library was just completed. It's a vibrant community and he thoroughly enjoyed kicking off the festivities.
- Ms. Wolf thanked everyone that came out to the Colvin Run Mill reopening. A number of staff was there. She thanked Judy for the event and noted that there was a nice article in the *Connection*. The mill is grinding again and will be grinding on Sunday, so anyone that has not gotten their stoneground grits should get out to Colvin Run.
- Mr. Vellucci thanked Ms. Cortina for showing up for the Braddock District cleanup on April 11. There were seven friends groups and over 120 volunteers from one end of the district to the other. The event was very successful.

He thanked Barbara Nugent for attending the FLAP meeting on April 16 and sharing her thoughts.

He also thanked Tim Scott and Bill Boston for attending a meeting on April 21 at Danbury Forest to talk about the switch back for the new trail there.

He thanked Dave Bowden and Barbara Nugent who are going to attend the Friends of Audrey Moore RECenter meeting on April 30.

On behalf of Mr. Batten, Mr. Vellucci reminded everyone that the Park Foundation is still looking for new members.

He noted that the Board members should have received memos from him regarding the Elly Doyle Awards and asked them to think about nominations and to get them in early.

As people begin doing yard work and mowing their lawns those that are adjacent to park land are going to find it easier to dump it on park property. Mr. Vellucci stated that he didn't know what Parks could do to encourage these individuals to not encroach on park property, but somehow Parks needs to do something to show the residents that Parks is serious about this.

- Mr. Thompson thanked staff for having a good meeting with Supervisor Herrity and his staff on April 21 on a number of projects in the Springfield District. The meeting was very beneficial and Supervisor Herrity continues to be an advocate in the way he could help push transportation and other folks as needed to make some of the plans come together.

- Mr. Strickland reported that the opening day of Little League Baseball has perfect weather and the press coverage was outstanding. Vienna had 1,100 people show up. In Reston a number of high school baseball players showed up to be part of the parade, most of whom had played Little League Baseball. Fairfax Little League has about 85 teams. Supervisor Herrity helped Springfield Little League celebrate their 44th consecutive year in operation.

There are those that say that baseball is in decline. Mr. Strickland knows for a fact that all the Little League Baseball District Leagues in Fairfax County are not in decline. There is still a great demand and a great program.

That reminded him that when Fred Crabtree was on this Board way back in the 70s and the 80s, he established the Vienna Little League Baseball program. Vienna was the leader in Fairfax County with a very aggressive, very well run program. Mr. Crabtree took it upon himself to use that model throughout the county to sell youth sports. Fred is almost the father as he served on this Board and as he served for a long time within the county with Martha Pennino as his Supervisor to establish the youth programs here. He did as much for youth programs as any. He was the first to go before the Board of Supervisors to ask for supplementation for those programs and received \$1,200 for the first year to purchase bats and balls for the Little League program. That now has led to millions of dollars that the Board of Supervisors supports for these programs.

Mr. Strickland wanted to recognize Fred Crabtree for starting the Challenger program in the late 80s. This program is for kids with special needs so they can come play baseball. The good part about that is that the older and regular players and baseball coaches come out and instruct them, nurture them, and provide a positive environment to play. That program continues today. Every league in Northern Virginia now has the program. That is one of the best social programs.

There have been some excellent people in the county that have served on this Board and have done a lot of good things. As a result, the Board named a park in Mr. Crabtree's honor. There have been some outstanding Board members and Mr. Crabtree was one of them.

Mr. Bouie recalled that Mr. Crabtree taught him everything he needed to know about being a young Little League president in Reston. It was Fred and Hal that got lights at the now Fred Crabtree Park. It took ten years to do it, but Fred coached them all the way. Mr. Bouie has told others to find out what the process is; work with the group within the county that they are working with; and let the process work for them. That is one of the most valuable lessons.

Mr. Strickland recalled that Mr. Crabtree got the property for the park by personally visiting the woman who owned it at the time. She would not talk with staff, but entertained a visit by him.

Mr. Bouie stated that Mr. Crabtree was a great man and always had words of wisdom. It was symbolic at his funeral which lasted all of 11 minutes. The entrance song to bring in his body was "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." The exit song was "Centerfield." It was remarkable.

- Ms. Quintana thanked staff for the event at Colvin Run Mill. Ms. Wolf did a wonderful job. Grace is not only her name, but she exhibits grace in all that she does. She did a really nice job at the event.

It was neat to hear that Colvin Run is partnering with four restaurants to market the mill products. It's nice to connect the present with the past.

- Mr. Quincy seconded Ms. Cortina's comments about maintaining our parks and added volunteers because they make up a big part of our efforts and the success of our efforts.

He reported that he attended Ed Busenlehner's retirement party and was virtually a sellout. It was very well represented and again exhibited the camaraderie and dedication that Mr. Quincy sees over and over again in this staff. It's just amazing.

Ed Busenlehner received an email addressed to him and Planning and Development staff from a Ms. Laura Lane, the mother of South Railroad Street Park, a small but very neighborhood park with a very successful partnership with the community. She was so successful that she was acknowledged at an Elly Doyle Awards Ceremony. The email was most complimentary and thanked Mr. Busenlehner as well as Mr. Bowden and his staff about the efforts that were put forth in finishing this park which included a multi-use court in memory of a teenage that had committed suicide. Ms. Lane expressed her appreciation and much thanks to the Park Authority.

- Mr. Bouie inserted that Mr. Strickland mentioned the Challenger program which was started by Fred Crabtree and Mike Womack. If anyone has not seen a Challenger game they typically are held on a Friday night or a Sunday afternoon at one of our parks. The beauty of a Friday night game is they take a major league team and match it up with one of the Challenger teams. Each child on the Challenger team gets a buddy to help with running or whatever. The coolest thing is most of these kids have never played under the lights until now. So they wait until dark to turn the lights on and these kids' eyes get so big when they get to play under the lights for the first time. Right now the oldest kid in Challenger is 31-years-old. It is a great program.
- Messrs. Gorham and Batten were absent.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Kala Leggett Quintana, Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on May 13, 2015

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED AND SIGNED MAY 13, 2015