

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
September 14, 2016**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Room 941, Fairfax, Virginia.

Board Members:

William G. Bouie, Chairman
Ken Quincy, Vice Chair
Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary
Walter Alcorn*
Mary Cortina
Maggie Godbold
Linwood Gorham
Timothy B. Hackman
Faisal Khan
Frank S. Vajda
Anthony J. Vellucci

Staff Present:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Judy Pedersen, PIO
David Bowden
Todd Brown
Barbara Nugent
Cindy Walsh
Janet Burns
Don Sweeney

Absent*

Guests: John Finegan
Jim Lear

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Speakers: Andrew Roselle
Randy Griffin

Topic: Land Acquisition in the Bond
Cell Tower at Fred Crabtree Park

PRESENTATION

P-1 Recognition of Staff Responsible for Boardroom Renovations

Mr. Kincannon presented John Finegan and Jim Lear with a Director's Leadership Award for spearheading the boardroom renovations team. Kirk stated that he will be headed out to the sites to present the Awards to Park Operations staff that were part of the team: Bobbie Smither, Steve Royle, Jason Doyle, Brian Snodgrass, and Jose Bonnin.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes of the July 27, 2016, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Quincy made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2016, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously by all members present. Mr. Alcorn was absent.

APPROVED AND SIGNED SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

ACTION ITEMS

- A-1 Approval – Nominee for the 2016 Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award
Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the nominee for the 2016 Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried unanimously by all members present. Mr. Alcorn was absent.
- A-2 The Fairfax County Park Authority Operation and Management of the Lorton Workhouse Event Center
Ms. Cortina made a motion that the Park Authority explore the operation and management of the Lorton Workhouse Event Center and to add it to the work plan; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried by all members present. Mr. Alcorn was absent.

Chairman's Matters:

- Mr. Bouie welcomed the board back following the August break.

He announced that Mr. Batten tendered his resignation effective August 28. Mr. Bouie received a phone call from Mr. Batten indicating that he had put his house on the market, sold his house, packed up, and moved to New Jersey.

The Board of Supervisors is going to recognize Mr. Batten on October 18. He asked the board members to put it on their calendars and to try to attend if possible.

- Mr. Bouie congratulated his fellow Northern Virginia Senior Olympians, Mr. Quincy and Ms. Vosper, both having earned medals in their events. Mr. Bouie also participated in the racquetball area and won a gold medal.
- The 4-H Fair held at Frying Pan Farm Park was great.
- Frying Pan Farm Park is doing a great job with the announcement last week that it is inviting little kids to assist in putting the baby animals to bed at night, which is an unbelievable program.
- Mr. Bouie has spent the last six weeks trying to visit at least three new parks that he had never been to before. He has gone to all of the RECenters, except for Cub Run. He noted that they are all different in the communities that they serve and the things that they do. He's has an extraordinary appreciation for Audrey Moore where he has been on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of this week because it is its own city. He has become part of the pickleball group which plays from 8-10 a.m. on Wednesdays. It has a robust group that plays regularly.

He suggested that the board members take the opportunity to go out and explore the parks that they have not had the opportunity participate in. They are all completely different and gives him a different perspective going into the discussion around the RECenters and what the RECenters of the future should look like.

Director's Matters:

- The auditor to the Board of Supervisors conducted an audit to:
 - Assess the nature, extent, allowability, and reasonableness of consulting and contractor costs to the Fairfax County (County).
 - Review consultant costs charged directly to contracts, and those charged through indirect pools such as overhead and general and administrative expenses.
 - Determine staff relationships, if any, to the contracts/contractors.
 - Analyze timely payment of invoices to ensure the county fully participates in any payment discounts.

The Park Authority responded on time to multiple information and data requests for a random sample of invoices and contracts. No FCPA findings were uncovered by the Auditor to the Board of Supervisors.

- **Kylie Starck** of Huntley Meadows Park is the recipient of the prestigious 2016 Outstanding New Interpreter Award from the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). Starck is the Senior Interpreter at Huntley Meadows.

The award is presented annually to one person who demonstrates a recognized potential in interpretation, assumption of leadership roles, creativity in programming or facility development, and a commitment to the profession of interpretation.

Kylie joined the Park Authority in 2012 as one of the agency's few roving interpreters to double in both cultural and natural resources, working both at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site and for the Meaningful Watershed Environmental Education program. She has earned certification as a merit badge counselor and as a Certified Interpretive Guide. At Huntley Meadows, she has:

- Pioneered, created, and led nature birthday parties, tot programs, and week-long nature camps;
- Raised the park's involvement in designated national day events, such as Kids to Parks Day;
- Is involved in Teachers in Parks, a training program designed to give teachers tools they need to safely and actively engage students in nature;
- Has worked with the Friends of Huntley Meadows Park to create a financial assistance program that has aided more than 300 students in Title 1 schools; and,

- Helped create a ‘Kids to Camp’ program that provides financial assistance for children of in-need families to attend camps.
- For the first time in nearly a decade, Parktakes subscriptions have exceeded 200,000 households. With the fall issue, total Parktakes subscriptions are at 201,197 households, up from 162,980 five years ago.

This achievement represents a 26% increase in subscriptions since July 2011 when the Promotional Services staff first developed and began implementing a comprehensive subscriber growth plan.

Some of the more recent strategic outreach opportunities include communications through:

- Board of Supervisors newsletters;
- Chamber of Commerce newsletters and websites;
- Fairfax County and Falls Church City new teacher orientation programs to introduce thousands of new teachers to parks and Parktakes;
- Cardiology practices, to introduce patients to Park Authority fitness opportunities once they’re released from cardiac rehab;
- Realtors who help us introduce new Fairfax County families to parks;
- Interior Fairfax Connector bus signs.

A key component of the long-term subscriber growth strategy is to add subscribers at no cost by encouraging electronic subscriptions. While the number of print subscribers has held steady at around 138,000 per quarter, the number of electronic subscribers has steadily increased from 25,423 in July 2011 (when they represented 16% of the subscription base) to 62,387 this past July (representing 31% of all subscribers).

In the last year, E-subscribers have represented nearly 100% of net subscription growth, enabling the Park Authority to avoid nearly \$236,000 in printing and postage costs.

- The Verband Region Stuttgart, a sister region to Northern Virginia, has invited Ms. Vosper to speak at their September 2016 “Expert Conference” in Stuttgart, Germany. The conference is next week.

The Verband Region Stuttgart is the political entity for the Stuttgart Region and is tasked with creating sustainable development. Its mission is to warrant diversity, high quality of life, mobility and economic strength in the long term. It is a regional government that includes planning on all levels, much like a combination of COG, NVRC and NVTA.

This conference is to show the importance of Green Infrastructure in the quality of life in metropolitan areas as well as to present international planning and governance approaches, and project ideas as best practice examples for the Stuttgart Region Landscape Park.

There will be presentations from colleagues from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Aimee, and the keynote speaker, Tom Wild, from VALUE. VALUE (Valuing Attractive Landscapes in the Urban Economy) is a European partnership project aiming to demonstrate the economic value of Green Infrastructure in cities and regions.

Ms. Vosper will be giving a presentation on The Challenges and Opportunities in Creating and Maintaining Vibrant Recreation and Green Infrastructure in the Northern Virginia Metropolitan Area, specifically focusing on land preservation/open space operation and development including parks, trails, golf courses, classes, and programs; funding opportunities and challenges; fundraising and public/private partnerships; and what we do to create an inclusive, vibrant system for all our citizens. She will be representing the Park Authority and Fairfax County.

- It's time again to start the review of our policy manual as we prepare for reaccreditation in 2018. As you are aware the accreditation standards require the review of policies every five years. The first step in the review process is for each of the board members to review and provide input any revisions needed. By the end of the week you will receive an email with directions on accessing the policy manual with a survey for you to enter your feedback on-line. Staff will review the feedback from the board during our review of the policies and then bring the revised policies back to the Administration and Board Management Committee and then finally to the full Board for approval. Our goal is to complete the review and approval process by December 2017.

Board Matters:

- Mr. Khan commented that it has been a long time since they were last in the boardroom and noted that it is completely different.

He congratulated Messrs. Bouie and Quincy, and Ms. Vosper on the medals they earned at the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics.

He also congratulated staff on the audit.

- Mr. Gorham noted that he had gotten together with staff and School Board staff, and Supervisor Storck's staff to discuss the trails around South County schools. As a result, the Park Authority has done quite a bit of work to increase the visibility near one of the schools in the vicinity. Park staff did a timely, bang up job about a month before school began for the fall session. He expressed his gratitude for the collaboration between Schools, the Park Authority and the Supervisor's office for a safer and nicer walk for those children that do walk to school. He thanked all staff members that were involved in getting this done.

- Ms. Godbold said it was good to be back and to see everyone again. She echoed Mr. Khan's comments regarding the boardroom renovations, the audit and Messrs. Bouie and Quincy and Ms. Vosper's participation in the Senior Olympics.
- Mr. Vajda thanked his wife for the bourbons balls and extended regrets to Mr. Batten that he was not there to enjoy them.
- Mr. Hackman offered a shout out to Beverly Bradford, in the gallery, who is very active in Great Falls on the Citizens' Association Environmental, Parks, and Trails Committee; Turner Farm, Marmota, and just about everything having to do with things concerning Parks. She and others in Great Falls work very hard around those activities.

With respect to some recent fun things at Riverbend Park, a couple of weeks ago he and Mr. Kincannon were helping with the dedication of the new sign to recognize Madison's crossing, or as Mr. Hackman likes to say, Madison's re-crossing of the Potomac, at Conn's Ferry at Riverbend Park where the board ramp is. Madison had actually crossed on the Georgetown Ferry out of town and this was going back to join up with American troops to go back to Washington for continuity of government and to lead the reconstruction.

The Virginia Indian Festival was held on September 6, which was fantastic. Chris Sperling and one of his folks was there with a booth on archaeology. In terms of attendance, there was a bumper crop. There were no traffic issues primarily due to the somewhat hot day. There were no traffic backups. The police were there doing a wonderful job. In all it was a fun day.

Turner Farm is getting very close to being announced for the resident curator program. Folks in the area are anxious to see that happen. A renovations assessment is being done to put together the terms and conditions for that program.

- Mr. Vellucci thanked John Berlin and Sousan Frankeberger and the rest of the staff who made the summer entertainment series a success throughout the county. Patrons had a lot of positive statements about the mix of music and the quality of performers, locally, from other parts of the country, and internal. One performer was from Prince Edward Island, Canada.

He recognized Mike McCaffrey and Kyle Hughes-Segroves of Hidden Pond Nature Center and the many volunteers who supported them. They came out and built a campfire, the kids had marshmallows, and brought out the snakes and reptiles to let kids of all ages learn about wildlife.

On August 24 Tony attended a bank shot presentation in Supervisor Cook's office. This made him aware that Parks needs to address another demographic group – the adult handicapped and infirmed. Parks has Clemyjontri, but nothing for folks that are a little older. Bank shots provides a means for individual to play by themselves, with family members, and

with others. Competition is against one's self or the course. Pickup games are easily facilitated by others. Mr. Vellucci asked the director to have Planning and Development look into this. He suggested that with Monticello Park coming up next year it may be a good test site.

On September 8 he attended the RECenter Study provided to Supervisor Cook's office. He feels it will provide a lot of great input for RECenter stability. His only concern is the timeline and number of meetings, and survey timeline, in that there is sufficient time for folks to respond because this a very busy time of year.

On September 10 Mr. Vellucci attended the Royal Lake outdoor fitness equipment ribbon cutting ceremony. That equipment replaced the Wells Fargo grant equipment that was installed back in the 1980s and was never maintained. He mentioned Paul Hardy and Ted Togashi who were the champions of that effort. He thanked staff that supported that effort. He thanked those that helped out that day – Judy Pedersen, Ann Cissel, Chrissy Mead, Ed Richardson, Walter Wesley, Margaret Thaxton, Don Sweeney, and a special thanks to the cook – Judy Pedersen's husband, Dave.

Following Mr. Bouie's comment about getting out to our different parks, Tony recommended that everyone try to get out to Royal Lake. DPWES is now spending \$6.57M. The dredging operations are in full swing, resulting a lake that was approximately six inches to one of nearly eight feet in many parts. The trucks are making about 120 trips a day and he is concerned about the damage to the park driveways and roadways. He believes there is a cause in the contract to replace the roadways; however, the roadways are four inches and they only have to replace two inches. He asked if someone could look into that.

Mr. Vellucci reported that there is a beaver that has taken up residence at Royal Lake and has constructed four dams since the dredging operation began and his habitat keeps getting disrupted. He has now relocated about one-half mile upstream away from dredging operations. He therefore learned that harassment works if you are persistent.

There is also a beaver at Carney Park. VDOT and USDA have asked that the beaver be removed due to flooding and potential road damage. You cannot relocate beavers in Virginia, so if you take them out you are basically signing their death sentence. USDA has decided that removal was the only viable alternative and recommended it. Mr. Vellucci has asked the Park Authority to take a closer look at that. He has pointed this out because Parks needs to take its role of stewardship very seriously, both of the land and of the creatures that inhabit that land.

The roadway is at least 20-25 feet above the creek level; there are no visible debris lines or high water marks on the trees to indicate flooding, therefore he could not conclude that the beaver was the sole cause of flooding which would prompt USDA and VDOT to make that request. Based on his one experience with the beaver with Royal Lake persistent harassment

efforts do work and he cannot support the beaver's death sentence at Carney Park until VDOT does a lot more there.

The last chicken coop in the Braddock District has been demolished. Neighbors say that it has been there since the late 1950s or early 1960s and hasn't been used for chickens for a very long time. This important because it has been an encroachment at Oak Hill Park since the 1970s. The new owner has taken it down after being approached and demolished everything that he thought was on his property, savings Parks some money.

If it takes more than 40 years to remove something from Park property, don't you think Parks needs an Encroachment Management Plan? He doesn't know why this went on so long, but he thinks the board should reconsider an Encroachment Management Plan.

There is a Braddock District constituent who has made more than 50 FOIA requests over the past year regarding the Accotink watershed. One question which Mr. Vellucci believes had some merit concerned was whether the Park Authority had a formal complaint system. He suggested that if there wasn't one, it might be something that might be worthwhile looking into. This would help with continuous improvement opportunities to be made to Parks policies, processes, and procedures and also to provide trend data as to where Parks is improving and needs more attention.

Lastly, he thanked Mr. Bouie for bringing the Lorton Workhouse Events Center to the Committee of the Whole rather than to the Executive Committee or any other committee.

Mr. Vellucci shared with Aimee Vosper that Stuttgart has a 60-kilometer bike path that goes around the city.

- Ms. Cortina reported that the Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling (FABB) is holding a bid fund-raising on Friday, September 16, at the Reston Town Center. She encouraged folks to get out and support FABB as they support Parks and its trails.

With regard to the year-end financial results, Ms. Cortina acknowledged the work of the Park Authority since summers are its busy season. It has served 35,000 children in programs and camps, including Rec-PAC. That does not included all the other programs or the Water Mine.

Over the Labor Day weekend, she and her family stayed at the Lake Fairfax camp grounds which was pristine. Everything about that place was wonderful. Hats off to Lake Fairfax and all the other lakefront parks, which she loves to visit.

The Park Authority is the largest employer of young people over the summer in Fairfax County.

Ms. Cortina expressed her condolences to the Johns family over her death over an incident in one of our parks.

- Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Batten for serving on the Park Board and everything he did. Mr. Thompson will miss him, his comradery, and what was always a smile even when he disagreed, he disagreed joyfully.

He will miss Mr. Batten, but will take up his baton and remind everyone that the Park Foundation is always looking for people that would like to join and help the Foundation. Mr. Thompson is sure that Mr. Batten would enjoy it if we could all remember that.

He also thanked the all the staff and staff at Burke Lake. He has received a number of compliments over the course of the summer including Supervisor Herrity's office for a lot of little repairs and procedural things that made it better.

Supervisor Herrity and Mr. Thompson met with the director, staff, and the consultant earlier in the day regarding the RECenter Sustainability Study. The meeting was very insightful and he looks forward to learn the end result.

Mr. Thompson extended congratulations to Todd Brown on his appointment to Park Operations Director and also thank him for the outreach to the athletic community and Athletic Council. He is grateful for Mr. Brown being proactive and looks forward to working with him as they attend their first Athletic Council meeting next week.

- Mr. Quincy seconded Mr. Vellucci's comments regarding the summer concert series. Nottoway was another great example of a true success. Sousan Frankeberger and John Berlin are to be complimented.

On Saturday, September 6, Mr. Quincy represented the Park Authority at the opening ceremonies of the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics along with other entities that provided services and facilities for the Olympics. A registration record was set this year with well over 900 registrants. It's a gratifying experience.

Not only did Ms. Vosper win a gold medal, but she set a record for her age group. This was her first time as a competitor in the Olympics. She won the rowing event for her age group.

Mr. Bouie added that it is a fantastic event every year. It costs a total of \$12 for all the events you want to enter. He again offered to pay the entrance fee for any board member that wants to participate. There is a guy that Bill plays pickleball with that entered 11 events, noting that he wanted to get his \$12 worth.

Ms. Vosper noted that Mr. Quincy never talks about it, but he has two gold medals.

Mr. Quincy commented that there were two woman over 100 years old and three that were 90 years old that race walked. It's very inspiring.

At last year's Senior Olympics in the 100-year-old division in the 100-meter finals there were seven runners. The guy that won it in 18 seconds and was 101 years old.

Mr. Bouie's parting words were, "Think about it."

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie called the meeting to a close at 8:23 p.m.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on September 28, 2016

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant