



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

FROM: Judy Pedersen
Public Information Office

DATE: September 8, 2016

Agenda

Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, September 14, 2016 – 6:45 p.m.
Boardroom – Herrity Building
Chairman: William G. Bouie
Vice Chair: Ken Quincy

1. Approval – Nominee for the Harold L. Strickland Collaboration and Partnership Award – Action* (*This item is going to the board on September 14, 2016.*)
2. The Fairfax County Park Authority Operation and Management of the Lorton Workhouse Event Center – Action* (*This item is going to the Board on September 14, 2016*)

*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

This page intentionally left blank.

Board Agenda Item
September 14, 2016

ACTION – 1

Approval – Nominee for the 2016 Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award

ISSUE:

Seeking approval of the Committee of the Whole's nominee for the 2016 Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award, which honors teamwork and partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval of the nominee, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES).

TIMING:

Board action is requested on September 14, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

Established in 2015, the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award recognizes the value and importance of the teamwork and cooperation necessary to provide varied constituencies with state-of-the-art facilities in Fairfax County parks, often at limited or reduced capital expense to the taxpayer. Strickland nominees should demonstrate significant long-term accomplishments that illustrate tangible benefits from partnerships and collaborations.

DPWES was nominated for the long list of storm water projects it has planned and completed in conjunction with the Fairfax County Park Authority. Through this partnership, thousands of pounds of pollutants and sediment are removed annually while saving taxpayer dollars.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Attachment 1: Award Nomination

STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Board Agenda Item
September 14, 2016

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

2016 Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award Nominee

DPWES

The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) has worked collaboratively on a long list of storm water projects with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) that have benefitted the community and make the agency worthy of consideration for the 2016 Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award.

Storm water runoff from rain and melting snow can create flooding problems and contribute to pollution in our lakes and streams. Uncontrolled runoff ultimately degrades our water quality and threatens our most sensitive stream valley areas. By working with the FCPA, DPWES has helped solve past storm water problems and addressed problems in the future.

FCPA owns many of the impaired waterways in Fairfax County that DPWES Stormwater Management seeks to improve. This fact made for a natural partnership that overcomes burdensome hurdles of gaining private land rights needed for projects. In addition, FCPA had capital projects planned which offered opportunities for storm water enhancements that would help achieve needed county water quality improvements. DPWES now actively seeks mutual opportunities with FCPA to achieve the countywide mandate of enhancing storm water management and water quality. To date the partnership has provided over \$29 million dollars of leveraged funding that improves parks and county water quality.

For example, the agencies combined their efforts at Kings West Swim Club/Rabbit Branch Park to remove impervious areas, such as the parking lot, most walkways, pools and surrounding concrete decks, the bath house, tennis and basketball courts. The 8.9-acre property was then returned to a natural vegetated state, better able to absorb rain and snow and prevent excess runoff. In this effort a community nuisance and eyesore was removed and the environment benefitted as well.

The agencies worked together again at Brookfield Park on the reconstruction of the dam embankment. Work involved installation of a new riser structure with an observation deck, a wetland forebay system, grasscrete access road, vegetated floating wetlands, and an accessible trail connection from the existing asphalt trail to the observation deck, as well as the replacement of the asphalt parking lot with permeable pavers.

A stream restoration project was incorporated into the park master planning effort at Olander and Margaret Banks Park in the Lee District Park and allowed for a future restoration of an on-site piped stream. The project included daylighting the stream, creating a new stream channel, working in conjunction with the adjacent home owners association, Kingstowne Residential Owners Corporation (KROC), and restoration of native plantings and meadows. It improved water quality, provided additional flood control for downstream properties, and made significant environmental improvements to the park.

Parking lot improvements at the Spring Hill and South Run RECenters included innovative storm water management such as rain gardens, tree wheels, an upgrade to an existing storm pond and underground vaults to improve water quality.

Some of the many other collaborative projects include:

- Rabbit Run/DeQuincy Park Stream Restoration -- Stream restoration improved water quality and park stream conditions

- Sandy Creek Stream Restoration -- Stream restoration improved water quality and park stream conditions
- Mason Neck West Park Pond Retrofit – Retrofitting of an existing dry pond with wetlands and forebay structures allowed for enhanced filtration and improved water quality, and also improved park conditions
- Big Rocky Run Phase II Stream Restoration -- Stream restoration project involved a segment of Big Rocky Run west of Route 28 and included areas adjacent to fragile civil war remnants
- Great Falls Nike Field Upgrade – Upgrading of an existing grass rectangle field to synthetic turf helped capture additional stormwater for quantity and quality

With each new project, teams evaluated working relationships and used lessons learned to develop a streamlined process, key milestones, roles and responsibilities, project tracking and better communication. Continual review and communication resulted in an established process that results in clearer expectations, smoother project management, efficiencies and improved outcomes.

Today, more than 2,500 pounds of pollutants and 110,000 pounds of sediment are removed annually through this partnership approach. In addition to improving water quality in county waterways, the projects significantly enhance park environmental habitats, streams and ecosystems, and create an improved park experience for county residents. These projects have allowed for stewardship education related to water and ecological functions and resources. This successful team effort has also been successful in leveraging millions of county taxpayer dollars.

Between FY09 and FY14, the partnership DPWES forged with FCPA resulted in 23 completed projects and included 3.9 miles of stream restoration at a total cost of more than \$13 million. An additional 14 projects, representing 5.2 miles of stream restoration estimated at approximately \$29 million, are ongoing.

The partnership that brought these projects to fruition is a prime example of the importance of teamwork and cooperation that is honored annually in the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award. These storm water projects help to further Mr. Strickland's desire to provide constituencies with state-of-the-art facilities in Fairfax County parks, to care for our natural and cultural resources, and to demonstrate significant long-term accomplishments benefitting the residents of Fairfax County.

Board Agenda Item
September 14, 2016

ACTION

The Fairfax County Park Authority Operation and Management of the Lorton Workhouse Event Center

ISSUE:

The County Executive requested that the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) manage and operate the Lorton Workhouse Events Center. The County Executive has also asked the Park Authority to develop a partnership and revenue sharing program with the Workhouse Arts Foundation (WAF) related to the programmatic use of the Event Center. The financial operational goal of the event center is to be 100%+ cost neutral to Fairfax County and the Fairfax County Park Authority. Future and next steps include the development of an Event Center Business Plan, outlining the fiduciary responsibility of Fairfax County and the Park Authority, and WAF, for specific components, functions and operations of the Event Center expenses, development of partnership guidelines with the WAF, development of a marketing plan and program plan for the Event Center, which may include conducting research on similar operations nationwide and benchmark best practices related to operations and program design.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Park Authority Director recommends approval so that staff can begin formal discussions and negotiations with Fairfax County and the WAF to determine the operational requirements and specific FCPA goals related to the Event Center as a Park Authority managed facility and development of related programmatic goals for Fairfax County, the Fairfax County Park Authority, and the WAF.

TIMING:

Board concurrence is requested on September 14, 2016, so that staff may begin the work required to proceed to next steps and participate in a design and functional charette, coordinated by Fairfax County Department of Public Works – Capital Facilities Division scheduled for September 15, 2016.

BACKGROUND:

The building designated as W-1 at the Lorton Workhouse Complex is planned as a premier Events Center attraction for Fairfax County. The Workhouse Arts Center is a 56-acre, historical landmark owned by Fairfax County, that is situated on the site of the former Lorton Prison. The county's non-profit tenant, presently the Workhouse Arts Foundation, implemented the adaptive reuse plan on the Workhouse portion of the

Board Agenda Item
September 14, 2016

property, restoring ten historic buildings, as well as identifying future uses on the campus. Potential uses included a conference center and entertainment venue. In 2011, plans and permits were developed by WAF (formerly the Lorton Arts Foundation) for W-1 to be used as an Events Center.

At the end of fiscal year 2016, the Fairfax County Executive requested support from the Park Authority Director to manage and operate the Workhouse Event Center. Given the Authority's long history of success in managing, operating and programming facilities and events across the county, the County Executive believes the goal of establishing a successful Event Center is best served with the facility under the management and operation of the FCPA. The County Executive requested the FCPA work with the WAF and develop a programming partnership related to the successful events and activities at the Event Center. Operational support will be provided by Fairfax County and revenue generated by the facility.

The design and construction management of the Event Center is being managed by the Department of Public Works – Capital Facilities Division and funding for the full program is funded through the county bonds.

FISCAL IMPACT:

General Fund support from Fairfax County will be provided and required for this facility operation to proceed. Long-term operational impacts will be explored and determined as part of the collaborative efforts with Fairfax County and WAF.

STAFF:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Dave Bowden, Director, Planning and Development
Barbara Nugent, Director, Park Services Division