

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
Minutes
October 26, 2016**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Room 941, Fairfax, Virginia.

Board Members:

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

Staff Present:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Judy Pedersen, PIO
Barbara Gorski
David Bowden
Todd Johnson
Todd Brown
Barbara Nugent
Cindy Walsh
Janet Burns
Roberta Longworth

Absent*

Guest(s): Kimberly Baucom, Assistant
County Attorney

PUBLIC COMMENT

No speakers were present.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:33 p.m. Mr. Thompson made a motion to convene in closed session for

- a. consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2- 3711(A)(7)

Seconded by Mr. Alcorn and approved by all members present; Mr. Quincy was absent.

APPROVED AND SIGNED NOVEMBER 16, 2016

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Thompson made a motion to certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia Code 2.2-3712 and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Board; seconded by Mr. Alcorn and approved by all members present; Mr. Quincy was absent.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes – October 13, 2016, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Thompson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 13, 2016, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Alcorn. The motion carried by all members present; Mr. Quincy was absent.

ACTION ITEMS

- A-1 Reappointment of William Won K. Kwang to the Park Foundation Board of Directors
Mr. Thompson made a motion to reappointment of William Won K. Hwang to the Foundation's Board of Directors; seconded by Mr. Alcorn. The motion carried by all members present; Mr. Quincy was absent.
- A-2 Approval of Annual Review and Distribution of Telecommunications Revenues
Ms. Cortina made a motion to approve the annual distribution of telecommunications revenues as follows: 20%, excluding Mason District, for Natural Resource Management Plan and Cultural Resource Management Plan projects; 80% for projects within the district; and, 100% of Mason District telecommunications revenues to be used for Mason District Park projects; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried by all members present; Mr. Quincy was absent.
- A-3 Scope Approval – Chessie's Trail at the Family Recreation Area in Lee District Park (Lee District)
Mr. Gorham made a motion to approve the project scope to construct Chessie's Trail in the Family Recreation Area of Lee District Park; seconded by Mr. Khan. The motion carried by all members present; Mr. Quincy was absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 Fairfax County Park Foundation Audited Financial Statements
No action was necessary.
- I-2 Annual Fee Review Calendar – FY 2017
No action was necessary.

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- I-3 FY 2017 – FY 2019 Financial Management Plan Park Revenue Funds 8000 and 80300
No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- Mr. Bouie advised the observers that the items presented in the meeting had been discussed at length in the committee meetings, sometimes at several meetings before they are presented for action by the board; the real work is done in committee. There are 10-12 committees that review all the items and make recommendations to the board. In addition, there is a Committee of the Whole that reviews specific items at length that would then be moved to the full board for action.

Members of the board are all volunteers. In fact, in Fairfax County there are about 93 various boards, authorities, and commissions that help run the county as a supplement to the Board of Supervisors. It is a unique situation that the citizens of Fairfax County are so involved in their governing process. In addition to sitting on the Park Authority Board a number of its members sit on other boards for various other organizations, either county or community related.

- While he did not attend the opening of Trailside Park, Mr. Bouie did receive some phone calls from the Little League circle about how cool it was, and from the Challenger Division how well done it was.

Parks is looking forward to continuing its relationship with the Nationals. A park in the Mason District has been identified and hopefully there will be another ribbon cutting ceremony next year at Mason District Park.

- Mr. Bouie congratulated Sara Baldwin on the new addition to her family. The board's thoughts and prayers go out to her as she goes through her blessed event.
- Congratulations were also extended to Faisal Khan and the Fairfax Cricket League. Mr. Bouie, Mr. Quincy, and Ms. Cortina had the opportunity to go out and award the Fairfax Cup on October 16.

Mr. Bouie thanked Mr. Khan for his organization. The captain retired with the championship, but at the same time, the funds that were raised by the Fairfax Cup are being given to the Park Foundation.

- Mr. Bouie reminded everyone to get out and vote 'yes' for the Park Bond.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS:

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- Ms. Burns and her awesome staff are winding down the production of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Mr. Kincannon then pointed out the number of awards received over the years. This is a tremendous amount of work that happens on an annual basis. Parks has received an initial indication that there are no findings.
- The Park Authority has been named the winner of the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) 2016 Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award, which recognizes a parks and recreation agency that has achieved excellence in environmental stewardship. The award was presented at the national congress. This represents cumulative work by staff over the past year. Mr. Kincannon congratulated the awesome staff team adding that Parks couldn't do it without the support of the board.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Vajda reported that on the 15th of October there was a dedication of a historical marker at Pine Ridge, which is entitled The Pines. This marker honors the legacy of a close-knit African-American community who were owners of the land. During the era of segregation the School Board purchased the land through eminent domain to provide property for a school. This was to honor the original families that were ousted from their land and to honor the original name of The Pines.

He thanked Judy Pedersen for great job. It was a handled with tact and care. He also thanked Mark Plourde for getting the area ready for the ceremony.

Mr. Vajda extended his appreciation to Supervisor Gross for saying a few words; and to Ms. Cortina and Mr. Vellucci for attending.

- Mr. Hackman reported that an open house was held at the Turner Farm House in Great Falls on October 15. Cindy Walsh and David Buchta did a wonderful job. There was a terrific turnout, including discussions about many potential proposals. In fact, the cut-off time of the open house was extended to accommodate the interested parties.

On Monday night, the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) established a Turner Farm Task Force. Sara Baldwin, Dave Bowden, Cindy Walsh, and members of their staff attended the meeting and answered various questions about the resident curator program and the process, and the interaction with the master plan for the observatory. He thanked them for helping with the questions. The members of GFCA also appreciated their participation.

Mr. Hackman provided a Green Team presentation at Lake Barcroft. He thanked Mr. Vajda. It was a well-attended meeting. There were multiple comments on various topics. The Lake Barcroft folks did a wonderful job.

Mr. Hackman met with Marcellous Cooper and his team at Spring Hill RECenter. Marcellous is a wonderful man and role model for his team and the RECenters in general. His projections are to break the \$4M barrier this year. Beyond that, the thing that impressed Mr. Hackman most about the team was the customer facing attitude that they all have. They are very much user oriented. It was a marvelous site to see. It is a wonderful facility.

The board will all get to see Spring Hill RECenter on December 3 when the board has its retreat with the Park Foundation Board.

Mr. Hackman expressed regrets that due to a family emergency he was unable to be at the board meeting to recognize the stellar accomplishments of Mr. Batten for his years of service on behalf of the agency, on behalf of the citizens of Fairfax County and his district. Mr. Hackman was pleased that the Park Board and the Board of Supervisors were able to do that.

- Mr. Vellucci stated that October 15 was a very busy day. The Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley had over 60 volunteers to help clean up.

Lake Accotink Park also had a clean-up on the 15th.

In the afternoon he attended the dedication of the historical marker for The Pines. Mr. Vellucci commented that Frank Vajda and Judy Pedersen did an incredible job. He wholeheartedly agrees that closing the park was the best decision to give the families an opportunity to have it for the day because they deserved it. There were easily over 100 descendants of the families there. It was very emotional for them and very frustrating as to how they were treated many years ago. Hopefully that will never happen again.

Mr. Vellucci thanked John Berlin and Margaret Thaxton for briefing Supervisor Cook on October 20 about the Summer Entertainment Series and what Braddock Nights is going to look like. While he had always thought that Braddock Nights was the poor cousin in the Summer Entertainment Series he learned that the Braddock District has a lot of company.

Mr. Vellucci floated an idea for staff consideration. He stated that basically the ground rules have changed since Supervisors can no longer solicit funds, which has made a significant impact on the Park Foundation's goal to raise funds for the Summer Entertainment Series. He feels that staff needs to look at some of the agreements that were put in place years ago and come up with an enterprise-wide approach to address how Parks is going to address funding the series with using Chairman Bulova's desire of not using tax dollars.

Mason District is the only healthy district. Burke Lake has an incredible venue but has no Summer Entertainment Series.

Mr. Bouie suggested that he and Mr. Vellucci talk about that outside of the meeting.

There is a Lake Accotink workshop on Thursday, October 27, at Kings Park Elementary School in Springfield at 7 p.m. Staff will be addressing park amenities.

There will be a Lake Accotink Community Trails Workshop at Crestwood Elementary School Cafeteria in Springfield on December 15 @ 7 p.m.

Mr. Vellucci commended staff for all the work that was done on the Financial Management Plan. He had a number of comments on the plan. He sat down with Ms. Cortina and he shared his vision for the plan with Kirk Kincannon and whether it meets where the board wants to take the Park Authority.

Mr. Vellucci noted that he once again brought up term limits for officers of the board because the culture and background that he comes from is one where leadership changes very two years or every 18 months. He is concerned about leadership changes in the Park Authority and wants to be sure that it has a healthy organization and the ability to bring up new leaders as old leaders move on or move into other positions. Term limits is something that he looked at what could be appropriate for the Park Board. He understands that the Administration and Board Management Committee was not that hot on it so he intends to table it for the time being but would like the board members to look at different organizations in the county, such as the School Board which has term limits in its bylaws. He recommended Googling many committees to learn what others have regarding term limits and addressing district representatives as well as At-large members. He believes they should both be in the bylaws but will not address it at this time. He will in the meantime contact each board member to address those issues.

- Mr. Alcorn said that while the board is not addressing the meals tax, he is personally working toward passage of the meals tax. He attended a homecoming parade and handed out literature and encouraged everyone to understand how important it is for all parks in the community.
- Ms. Cortina, At-large, stated that the roll-top observatory at Observatory Park at The Turner Farm ribbon cutting was wonderful. She thanked staff who put the program together including Judy Pedersen's group, Park Services, the Analemma Society, and Charles Olin in particular. Mr. Olin has been in the county for a very long time. She is so inspired by the plans that he had has come to fruition as well as all the future projects that he was planning. She is personally inspired to think that no matter what age one is you have lots of plans ahead of you.

Ric and Jean Edelman of Edelman Financial made contributions through the Park Foundation to make the facility happen.

Through the observatory we have another way to teach children in the community in a facility Parks did not have before and she looks forward to seeing what the agency does with it.

Ms. Cortina thanked Mr. Hackman for presiding over the ceremony.

The dedication of the historical marker for The Pines was probably the most moving ceremony she has ever been to at the Park Authority. These people and this community were displaced and the fact that the History Commission and the Park Authority worked to recognize them. This was the 10th generation that attended the ceremony, families that had been there since reconstruction. During a period of school desegregation and population growth, the public school system purchased land through eminent domain, which displaced numerous families living in The Pines. A school was never built. The fact that the families were there again to celebrate and receive some sort of justice and healing was really profound.

Ms. Cortina thanked all the people in the Park Authority that were part of that. She especially thanked Mike Henry who inspired, mentored, and guided Marion Dobbins who remembered her family from her youth being on this property. As a result of Mike Henry's help she was able to realize this marker.

Ms. Cortina congratulated Mr. Khan for his successful cricket season and championship, and also the leadership he has provided to the Park Authority in establishing cricket in Fairfax County. Aimee Vosper was also at the award ceremony. It was great to be there and see the enthusiasm of the players as well as their gratitude to Parks for its support of that sport, and the high quality that staff maintains those fields and how adaptable they have been in learning the new markings and what is required.

Ms. Cortina congratulated Parks on the Stewardship Award at the national level.

- Mr. Thompson indicated that Mr. Vellucci had mentioned the Lake Accotink meeting on December 15. He noted that he did not believe it was on the public calendar.

Mr. Thompson noted that he had received a call from a constituent that was upset because the Park Authority was not maintaining its facilities, that a fence was broken; how dare Parks not fix the fence. As it turns out, the fence was not built by the Park Authority, was not on Park property by the Park Authority, is not maintained by the Park Authority, and should probably not even be there. Parks is now looking into the possibility of some sort of partnership with the community association to try to note that we can allow the fence, but they can maintain it or otherwise it's gone.

Mr. Vellucci added that he wanted to give Mark Plourde some credit because the Friends of Oak Hill Park identified another encroachment issue and Mark moved to resolve it very quickly.

Mr. Thompson gave the Park Board members notice that the Athletic Council (AC) used to have meetings with the local clubs and involved Park Authority members. The magisterial representatives on the AC are being encouraged to on an annual basis to have Park Staff, NCS staff, and the Park Board member to talk through what is going on in Parks, what the organization is interested in doing, and so on. He hopes that as NCS and Park staff discusses this a little further. Park Board members may be hearing from AC members about the desire to do that.

Mr. Thompson had the honor of presenting some of the awards at the Champions of Character Awards from the Athletic Council which honors youth, coaches, and parents for extraordinary service in pursuing victory with honor in various athletics programs throughout Fairfax County in every magisterial district. Mr. Thompson stated that he would forward the information about what these kids and parents have done so the board could see the kind of things that they do to receive this prestigious honor.

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/athletics/character_awards.htm

Mr. Bouie commented that he and Chris Leonard, NCS, have spoken some things in Hunter Mill in collaboration about the Y and the teen center and the things they are doing there. One of the things Bill discussed was the fact that NCS has not provided the Park Board with a presentation on the walk-on field use in some time. So, the question is did the walk-on problem go away. Chris indicated that the problem had not gone away but that NCS has been pretty successful. NCS is paying the Police to monitor the parks that have synthetic turf fields. Mr. Bouie asked that Mr. Leonard provide some dates that NCS could come to the Park Board and provide an update. None of the new board members are even away of the situation.

Mr. Thompson said that as Todd Brown has stepped into Todd Johnson's role with the AC a number of issues have come up and has jumped on those issues very quickly and has been very responsive with regard to those concerns. One of the issues is with lighting at school fields. Schools do not have on and off buttons for its practice fields.

- Mr. Khan reported that on October 16 the Fairfax Cricket League held its award ceremony for the Fairfax Cup. He thanked Messrs. Bouie and Quincy and Ms. Cortina for being there. Judy Pedersen did a great job and especially thanked Aimee Vosper who helped a great deal and made it very easy. It was a successful evening and he looks forward to seeing many more. Everyone was very excited and pleased with the way things were running. He also thanked Park Ops staff for doing a great job. Faisal cannot say enough about Michael Harris. He learned quickly and runs everything smoothly.

Mr. Khan congratulated staff on the Environmental Stewardship Award.

- Mr. Gorham said that Mr. Batten is with the board in spirit. With that he reminded everyone that if they know anybody that would be interested in serving on the Park Foundation Board to please let Bobbi Longworth know.

There have been a couple of issues that have come up in the Mount Vernon District that have taken up staff time. He wanted to let Todd Brown, Sara Baldwin, Dave Bowden, and Kirk Kincannon know that he appreciates their efforts. He thanked Mr. Kincannon for giving him the time to take a walk around the Nike site. Dave Bowden and Todd Brown have already approached him regarding the things he and Kirk Kincannon discussed.

Mr. Gorham said that he and Mr. Bouie could have an offline discussion regarding his opinion that the board has room to improve its committee participation in allowing the chair to invite a person into the committee if they have a question as long as they don't cause a quorum. He noted that during one of the committee meetings Ms. Cortina and Mr. Thompson could have participated in the meeting. (Mr. Thompson commented that it would have to be in a legal way.)

Sadly, the comment that Mr. Vellucci made regarding The Pines and the families, wasn't that many years ago. Mr. Gorham grew up two blocks from site and he remembers the people that lived in those houses and he remembers when they were moved off. They were moved off by our parents' generation. That was not that long ago. We have come a long way and have a long way to go. But it is sad how it actually was. That was about in 1964.

Lastly, on a positive note, he wished Sara Baldwin the best.

- Ms. Godbold congratulated the Park Authority on another award.

On the 15th of October Ms. Godbold attended Centreville Days and handed out a lot of vote yes stickers for the Park Bond. Everyone was very excited about parks.

She thanked whoever did the beautiful map of the Sully District with all the parks and streets. She now has a map to go and explore.

Ms. Godbold congratulated Sara Bladwin, wished her luck, and stated that she would be missed.

- Mr. Alcorn added that the World Series score was Cubs 2; Cleveland 0.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on November 16, 2016

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant