

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
Minutes
November 16, 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
Cynthia Jacobs Carter
Maggie Godbold
Linwood Gorham*
Timothy Hackman
Faisal Khan
Frank S. Vajda
Anthony J. Vellucci

Staff Present:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Judy Pedersen, PIO
Barbara Gorski
David Bowden
Todd Brown
Barbara Nugent
Cindy Walsh
Janet Burns
Mike Baird
Shashi Dua
Dolores Claytor
Susan Tavallai

Absent*

Guest(s): Rob Churchman, Cherry Bekaert

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speakers:

- #1. Catherine Ledec
- #2. Carolyn Gamble
- #3. Todi Carnes

Topic:

Dominion Virginia Power Project on Huntley Meadows Park Property
Dominion Transmission Line Rebuild SCC Application process
Viewshed of Historic Huntley

PRESENTATION

P-1 Rob Churchman, partner at Cherry Bekaert, presented the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2016. Mr. Churchman reported that there were no findings.

DRAFT

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

- ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes – October 26, 2016, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Quincy made a motion to adopt the minutes of the October 26, 2016, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Ms. Cortina. The motion carried by all members present; Mr. Gorham was absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 Overview of 2016 Park Bond Election Results, Green Team Efforts
Judy Pedersen presented the election results, an update on the Green Team efforts, and plans for future bonds. No action was necessary.
- I-2 The Resident Curator Program Update
No action was necessary.
- I-3 The American Alliance of Museums Accreditation Update
No action was necessary.
- I-4 The Cultural Resource Management Plan FY 2016 Accomplishments and FY 2017 Implementation Plan
No action was necessary.
- I-5 The Natural Resource Management Plan FY 2016 Accomplishments and FY 2017 Implementation Plan
No action was necessary.
- I-6 The Infrastructure Overview
No action was necessary.
- I-7 The Richmond Highway Initiatives Briefing – EMBARK, North Hill and Mount Vernon High School Reuse Study
No action was necessary.
- I-8 The Trail Development Update
No action was necessary.
- I-9 Planning and Development Division's Quarterly Project Status Report
No action was necessary.
- I-10 FY 2017 First Quarter Budget Review, Fund 10001, General Fund
No action was necessary.

I-11 FY 2017 First Quarter Budget Review for Fund 80000, Park Revenue and Operating Fund

No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- Mr. Bouie reminded everyone that the Elly Doyle Park Services Awards ceremony will take place on Friday, November 18, and the Park Authority/Park Foundation holiday reception at Twin Lakes on Friday, December 9.
- The Park Authority Board and Park Foundation Board retreat is being held on Saturday, December 3, at Spring Hill RECenter.
- He congratulated Parks on the CAFR report.
- He also congratulated Parks on the Annual Report. Parks received kudos from Chairman Bulova, who immediately put it on her Facebook page.
- Mr. Bouie announced that he has a television interview schedule for Friday, November 18, to discuss one of his favorite topics – the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. The Office for Aging is putting the program together which will be aired on Channel 16. He asked people to please get involved and noted that they are trying to expand this program next year.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

- Mr. Kincannon acknowledged Parks' awesome team, board, and the support that everyone has put together. Parks was recognized by the Virginia Recreation and Park Society Annual Conference winning several awards.
 - Volunteer Cathy Ledec won Distinguished Volunteer of the Year – 100,001 & Up
 - Best New Program – 100,001 & Up – Footgolf at Pinecrest
 - Best New Renovation/Addition – Bricks and Mortar – 100,001 & Up–Spring Hill RECenter
 - Best New Renovation/Addition – PPGT – 100,001 & Up – Family Swimmin' Hole
 - Best Promotional Effort -Traditional–100,001 & Up – 2015 Strategic Plan Report
 - Best Promotional Effort-Specialty–100,001 & Up–15 Second Video Promotion for Annual RECenter Membership Sale

He congratulated the suite of teams that are represented by these projects.

- Mr. Kincannon provided an update on one of the strategic project, the Friends Handbook/MOU/Policy work.

The staff review team made up of Aimee Vosper, Sara Baldwin, Lizzie Ehrreich, Bobbi Longworth, Judy Pedersen, Todd Brown, Emilie Shumate, John Callow, Debbie Lodato, Tammy Schwab, Dan Sutherland, and Cindy Messinger met for the first time on November 2 and work is now underway.

Following the August survey, Parks received input from 11 different Friends Groups on what they would like to see included.

With input from Friends and the staff team and reviewing other handbooks on line a Table of Contents was developed to guide and organize the project's development.

Friends Groups will be sent a monthly email update and their input will be encouraged and welcomed throughout the process.

Mr. Kincannon will provide periodic updates to the Park Authority Board and the Foundation on the projects progress. Periodic meetings with Mary Cortina and Harry Glasgow will be held to keep them updated and help ensure Parks are on track in meeting expectations and dealing with any issues that may arise.

The general project schedule entails:

- November, December and January – develop drafts of a Handbook, MOU and a Friends Groups Board Policy.
- January and February – Incorporation of input from various groups.
- March - Finalization of Handbook language. Once approved by the Director's office, the text will be provided to a graphic artist to develop the on-line version.
- Mid April – Announcement and unveiling of a centralized 'Friends' Park Authority web portal that will house information about all of our Friends Groups, the new Handbook, provide downloadable forms, resources, FAQs, and contacts for various ways our citizens can support their parks.

A Federation meeting is being planned for Saturday, January 28, 2017, from 9 a.m. – noon at Twin Lakes Golf Course. The meeting will provide a Handbook/MOU/Policy update and possible work session, will host several speakers from the county to provide information related to county, state, and federal code, and provide guidance on insurance. In addition, we plan to provide an update on the upcoming budget.

A second Federation meeting is also being considered for the beginning of March.

Mr. Bouie welcomed Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter to the board. Dr. Carter is filling the seat vacated by Mr. Batten.

BOARD MATTERS

- Mr. Khan extended kudos to staff and the board for the CAFR and Annual Report.

He welcomed Dr. Carter and stated that he looks forward to doing some great work together.

- Dr. Carter stated that it was a great pleasure to spend the first night of her tenure on the board with the members of the board; everyone has been so friendly. She knows many from past meetings and associations, and is looking forward to working with everyone. She thanked everyone for being so welcoming.
- Ms. Godbold said that she was very glad that Dr. Carter was on the board.

She emphasized how some things so little can mean so much to some. She has been working with some people on this little playground at Horsepen Park. They wanted changes to the park, and then a new bench appeared. They were very excited about the bench, such a small thing, but they were very appreciative. Never forget that a small thing can make a huge difference in the community.

Ms. Godbold met with Bill Niedringhaus on Thursday, November 10, who has a number of ideas about small little areas that Parks can connect to trails to make big trails. She and Mr. Niedringhaus will start walking these trails once she can leave her cane behind and put on her hiking boots.

- Mr. Vajda extended a warm welcome from the Mason District to Dr. Carter and wished her well in her tenure.

He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

- Mr. Hackman welcomed Dr. Carter adding that he is delighted that having her onboard and having her share her knowledge across many areas with the rest of the board.

A meeting is scheduled with the Great Falls folks to discuss the future of the Grange in the context of potentially getting them more actively involved in the scheduling for community groups and other activities, as well as picking up or sharing the operational cost of that facility. This would be a win-win in Parks' view. It helps to avoid cost and gives the community more flexibility in terms of its use. It will be interesting to see how that progresses. Thanks to Mr. Kincannon and Ms. Vosper and others on the staff, there is a great framework for which to proceed with those discussions.

- Mr. Vellucci thanked Judy Pedersen for the Lake Accotink Park dedication. He thanked Mr. Kincannon for being the MC at the event. Chairman Bulova attended and had gone around the lake several times before it had gotten fixed. Kudos to the Planning and Development team. Liz Cronauer and Bill Boston did an incredible job. Parks hit a grand slam with that

project. The community loves it as well as everyone that has walked around the park loves it. It was small dollar wise, but one that was needed. This is something Mr. Kincannon has wanted to do since he was the manager at Lake Accotink. It is done now, and is reaping dividends.

Kudos to Gayle Hooper for the Lake Accotink Park workshop that was held on October 27, not only to Ms. Hooper but also to Liz Cronauer, Andy Galusha, Chris Goldbecker, Samantha Hudson, Ed Richardson, John Rutherford, Sandy Stallman, Ryan Stewart, Julie Tahan, and Sajan Pokharel (Stormwater Planning). Ms. Hooper did an incredible job and Parks received some incredible input.

Mr. Vellucci welcomed Dr. Carter, adding that she is about to learn a lot about Lake Accotink Park.

He thanked Supervisor Herrity, Mr. Thompson, and Ms. Cortina, for attending the workshop.

The next Lake Accotink workshop is being held on November 5 at Crestview Elementary School.

Mr. Vellucci asked where Parks stands with regard to an MOU with DPWES. Mr. Kincannon indicated that it is still under process. DPWES is in the midst of so many changes that it has not had time to sit down and work on the Capital Facilities which is a significant of the MOU. Parks is hoping to have the MOU by the first of the year.

Mr. Vellucci added that Don Sweeney has some serious competition from Anne Cissel, Public Information Office, who took pictures at the Danbury Forest loop dedication. Anne is really, really good.

- Walter Alcorn and Dave Bowden attended a meeting of the Planning Commission's Telecommunications Committee recently. The Committee wanted to talk to Parks and Schools about cell phone towers and telecommunication towers. It was a good conversation. He learned some things. First, there some changes in the General Assembly and some things the county had to do. Towers going in onto public land now will require a special exception. Instead of just going to the Planning Commission for approval, they will have to go to the Board of Supervisors. That is drawing additional scrutiny to the process. Mr. Bowden is looking at some things in terms of additional documentation about communication about tower locations. The market is changing for these things, so it is somewhat of a moving target. The Planning Commission is very interested in working with Parks.

Mr. Alcorn welcomed Dr. Carter to the board, adding that he still feels like a rookie on this board.

- Ms. Cortina welcomed Dr. Carter adding that she is thrilled that Dr. Carter is on the board and that she will represent the Lee District very well. Lee District has one of the greatest parks in the system in Huntley Meadows Park. She added that if Dr. Carter is not inspired by what the Friends have been able to do for the Park Authority and the citizens of Fairfax County, just listen to Cathy Ledec. The amount of time research and effort the Friends put in is invaluable. Parks cannot do that without them. She is so glad that Cathy Ledec, Todi Carnes, and others came to address the board about the power of using the residents to help in that cause.

Ms. Cortina thanked the voters of Fairfax County for voting for these bonds. They do love their parks and that was shown with their pencils.

She mentioned that the Lines of Business (LOBs) review materials are online. The county conducted an informal survey to make comments, state what they liked or didn't like in all of those lines of business. There is a graph in which Parks, Libraries, Human Services are lumped together and those were the ones that people wanted to expand services and other areas they may want to curtail. That was the highest number of expands as well as the most number of comments. The citizens really do love and value their parks and find that they are very important to their lives in Fairfax County. Mary thanks them.

Ms. Cortina attended the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax which is a coalition of groups across the county that are focused on a healthier Fairfax. The focus of this meeting was all the data that is out there and available. There were at least 12 if not more studies. The Park Authority was there presenting the Needs Assessment data. INOVA has its data out and has a focus area for each of its hospitals. They have surveyed the community as required by the Affordable Healthcare Act. The number one priority identified by Fair Oaks is to attack diabetes. As a result they are going to reach out to the community to see how they can partner. She thinks this is an opportunity for Parks to partner with INOVA. The list is long of all the initiatives going on and the ways that Parks can affect change through that partnership.

The Elly Doyle Awards are very inspirational and if anyone has not been, they should make the time to go because it really rejuvenates and inspires one and makes one want to do even more for this system, which is incredible. The people that make the system incredible including the people who come, our voters and citizens, and the people who volunteer, it's really the staff. They are great staff and they do wonderful things. She thanked them for everything they do and thanked Janet Burns and her team for the CAFR.

The presentations and briefings to the board lately have been phenomenal.

- Mr. Thompson welcomed Dr. Carter and stated that he is looking forward to working with her.

He thanked Judy Pedersen's staff and all of the Green Team for all their efforts on the bond program.

He echoed Mr. Vellucci's comments about the Lake Accotink meeting. They continue to do well and draw a lot of people, and get a lot of important feedback.

Mr. Thompson thanked John Berlin and folks from the Foundation and others for the meeting earlier in the week with Supervisor Herrity about the summer entertainment program that will roll out in Springfield. It looks like there will be some music opportunities as well as movie opportunities. He is looking forward to getting that underway.

Mr. Thompson also thanked the following

- Staff for continuing to push the GoApe project. The project will hopefully get underway this spring.
- Dave Bowden for his help on the track project, helping to show how tracks can potentially be in Parks' facilities.
- Todd Brown, Dan Sutherland, and Ed Richardson for the report on the portable goal policy as Parks tries to be a better partner with the athletic organizations that wants to use Parks' fields as efficiently as possible.

As in the past, Mr. Thompson will miss or be late to the Elly Doyle Awards as he once again reprises his award winning role for the sixth year in Burke Center's Nutcracker as a party guest, Act 1, Scene 1, and stage hand. Friday night is final rehearsal before shows on the weekend. If he is allowed out early, he will try to make the awards ceremony.

- Mr. Quincy reported that a public hearing was held on November 15 with the Department of Transportation on the pedestrian improvements project for Scott's Run Trail. This trail is in high demand and will form part of the pedestrian transportation system for the Metro and other areas. It was very well attended. Liz Cronauer and her colleagues at FCDOT did a superb job of handling the presentation as well as comments. Nearly all the comments were positive; however, there are some issues regarding the bike versus the pedestrian trail, but that is true in probably all of Parks' trails.

Mr. Quincy welcomed Dr. Carter and looks forward to working with her.

He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

- Mr. Bouie added that he is looking forward to Monday, November 21, and the meeting with Chairman Bulova on the RECenter Study.

He stated that we live in a crazy world and recommended that everyone go out and do something nice for someone between now and Thanksgiving. He wished everyone, their loved ones, and their families a Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on December 14, 2016

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant