

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
January 25, 2017**

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 Chair
Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary
Mary Cortina, Treasurer
Walter Alcorn*
Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter
Mary Cortina
Maggie Godbold
Linwood Gorham
Timothy Hackman
Faisal Khan
Frank S. Vajda
Anthony J. Vellucci

Staff Present:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Judy Pedersen, PIO
David Bowden
Barbara Nugent
Cindy Walsh

Absent*

PUBLIC COMMENT

No speakers were present.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes of the January 11, 2017 Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Quincy made a motion to adopt the minutes of the January 11, 2017, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried by all members present. Mr. Alcorn was absent.

ACTION ITEMS

A-1 Sully Historic Site – Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program Request – The Sully Foundation
Ms. Godbold made a motion to approve the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program request from the Sully Foundation in the amount of \$18,350 to replace the sidewalk and edging in the gardens at Sully Historic Site; seconded by Messrs. Quincy and Thompson. The motion carried by all members present. Mr. Alcorn was absent.

APPROVED AND SIGNED FEBRUARY 8, 2017

A-2 Scope Approval – Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail Improvements at Wakefield Park (Braddock District)

Mr. Vellucci made a motion to approve the project scope to improve an existing section of the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail at Wakefield Park; seconded by Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Vellucci asked that the record reflect that P&D held a meeting on October 15 that was well-attended. Staff noted in the meeting that there are a good 13 miles of mountain bike trails in Wakefield Park and only one mile would be paved. Representatives from MORE were in attendance and were heard. This portion of the trail extends from Americana Park to Wakefield Park and is very flat. This is an area where families could bring their children on small bikes and use it. He suggested that Parks consider family-friendly zones on the Gerry Connolly Trail.

The motion carried by all members present. Mr. Alcorn was absent.

INFORMATION ITEM

- I-1 Mount Vernon District RECenter Renewal Project Update (Mount Vernon District)
No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- Mr. Bouie reported that the Synthetic Turf Program reports are coming out. The county has received a report from the State of Washington that performed an environmental study based on the soccer goalies. The study has been released to the public by Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Health Department. The conclusion is that there are no inherent risks shown. The cancer levels associated with synthetic turf fields were well under what the stated normalization would be, but ongoing studies will continue. The report did not come up with a conclusion in terms of the toxicology of the material itself; that is still sitting with the EPA. EPA will continue to study this for the next couple of years; however, with the new administration it is uncertain where that will fall. If anyone is asked about the report they should be directed to the Health Department's website to view the report in its entirety.
- The Chairman congratulated Messrs. Khan and Quincy on their reappointments by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, January 24. Mr. Gorham noted that Mr. Bouie was also reappointed.
- The Urban Land Institute working with the county and the National Rose Center for Public Leadership asked the county to nominate three people to work on this very special fellowship

program. Kirk Kincannon, Barbara Byron, and Fred Seldon were selected to serve on the team. Bill congratulated Kirk on his appointment.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

- As Mr. Bouie noted, Chairman Bouie, Vice Chair Quincy, and Mr. Khan were all reappointed, as well as Tim Hackman prior to the New Year, for four-year terms. Kirk congratulated them and thanked them for their continued service to the community and the residents of Fairfax County and to our team in the Park Authority.
- Scott Diffenderfer, Park Authority Forestry Manager, was selected to speak at the International conference for the International Society of Arboriculture Annual International Conference and Trade Show, *One World Under One Canopy*, which will be held July 28 through August 2, in Washington, DC.

Mr. Diffenderfer will address the development of the Urban Forestry Plan for Fairfax, which was developed through coordination with county planning, zoning, urban forestry, and the leadership team to provide a plan that adequately deals with a diverse ecosystem as well as a diverse community. This plan heightened awareness of the value of the County's tree population and will lead to development of outreach and educational programs for county citizens and employees. As a result, Fairfax County now has a program focusing on proactive tree management and enhancement of a valuable community resource. His presentation will explore how we developed our plan from a small struggling operation to a fully functioning program and how the plan was implemented and the internal process required getting Fairfax County Park Authority and Board of Supervisors onboard with our Urban Forestry Plan. This presentation will essentially be a case study or story about our process and the continuing work implement the plan.

- The County Executive presents the budget to the Board of Supervisors on February 14. Until that time, it is unclear of the impacts of any reductions that may impact the Park Authority budget. However, because of the continued challenges surrounding county revenues, it is safe to assume that some or all of the reduction submissions for the Park Authority General Fund will be taken by the county.
- Mr. Kincannon announced that Golf Enterprises launched the Park Authority's 2nd Twitter account on January 16.
- Park Foundation Director John Osborn has been elected to the position of Vice Chair on the Park Foundation's Board of Directors. This officer position was vacated by Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter who has joined the Park Authority Board. Mr. Kincannon remarked that he is looking forward to working with Dr. Carter on the Park Board and with John Osborn and the Foundation Board.

BOARD MATTERS

- Mr. Vajda had nothing to report.
- Mr. Hackman had nothing to report.
- Mr. Vellucci thanked Liz Cronauer and Laura Finks for walking part of the Long Branch Stream Valley on January 12 and meeting with a couple of homeowners who are looking at potentially selling their property or providing easements and/or looking at alternate passage to complete Long Branch Stream Valley along Olley Lane.

Mr. Vellucci commented that he had discussed bylaws and term limits in a previous board meeting and that he was going to reach out to each board member; however, he did not. He distributed a paper on other boards and committees in the county that have term limits in their bylaws and asked the Park Board to look at them. He stated that he still intends to bring a resolution to the board for a vote. He feels that term limits are important and that the board should seriously look at amending the bylaws to include term limits.

On January 11, Robert Lamond addressed the board regarding the use of drones in county parks. Following the distribution of Mr. Lamond's comments to the board, Tony was advised by staff that Mr. Lamond had been contacted and that the Park Authority is developing a drone policy that should be in place by September.

Mr. Vellucci stated that he is unhappy with the timeline and recommended that Parks should have something in place sooner. His target would be March 31 to coincide with good weather and that fact that people are getting into the parks. Drones are available at various locations including department stores and the Park Authority should be working at the speed of the people and not the other way around.

Mr. Vellucci said Mr. Kincannon told him that he is putting together a multi-disciplinary team and it is going to take time. Mr. Vellucci feels it's a long time to address constituent concerns.

Mr. Vellucci remarked that the bylaws do not contain roles and responsibilities so he is advocating for his constituents to the Park Authority board.

Mr. Bouie reminded Mr. Vellucci that he does not have constituents, the board has constituents.

Mr. Vellucci was also approached by two (sic) residents in the Dranesville District, Andrew Roesell and Beverly Bradford, to discuss transparency in Park Authority Board meetings. They believe the meetings should be taped, screened, or broadcast on the county's cable channel as are other boards that make policy and spend county funds. He directed them to speak with Mr. Hackman, but they still want to meet with him, so he will meet with them on

February 1. Mr. Vellucci will report back on the meetings with Mr. Lamond, Mr. Roesell, and Ms. Bradford.

Ms. Cortina indicated that she was also contacted about the transparency and public access of the meetings. To attend these meetings one has to go through the security guard and it's very difficult and not the same access that other public bodies enjoy.

Mr. Hackman indicated that Mr. Roesell and/or Ms. Bradford may attend the Federation meeting on January 28.

- Mr. Alcorn was absent.
- Ms. Cortina thanked Mr. Hackman for participating in a meeting with Georgetown Pike Association's President, John Adams, at the Madeira School to see the cliff area that abuts the Potomac River on the Potomac Heritage Trail to see the dangerous conditions there that are not suitable for a trail. She explained that It is outside of the Park Authority's bailiwick, but they still wanted Parks to see it because we have Scotts Run and Great Falls Park because there have been calls over the years to link them.

Thanked Aimee Vosper, Cindy Messinger, and Lizzie for meeting with her and Harry Glasgow with the Foundation to prepare for the Federation of Friends meeting on January 28 at 8:30 a.m. at Twin Lakes.

Ms. Vosper added that the topics of the meeting will be insurance and where we are with the Friends' Handbook, an update from The Park Foundation from Bobbi and short update from Kirk. Most of the meeting is going to be centered on some of the questions the friends groups have had. Len Clark, Risk Management, and Ms. Henri Stein McCartney, Cable and Consumer Affairs, will be there as well to talk with the Friends. They have indicated that they would be willing to talk with the individual friends groups as well.

Ms. Cortina thanked Judy Pedersen and all the Park Authority staff--Nick Duray, Barbara Nugent, and all those that came out to the public comment meeting on fees. The Park Authority was well-represented. A number of board members were present as well. One citizen attended to observe, so there were no comments taken at the meeting. Chairman Bulova did receive a number of letters about affordability of the RECenters and Ms. Pedersen will see that they are forwarded to Parks.

Ms. Cortina passed out a Save the Date card for Fairfax County's 275th Anniversary. Chairman Bulova's office would like Parks to participate as fully as possible and support Park staff that is working on the event for the county. She asked that the Park staff on the team provide a briefing to the board. The director noted that Parks is primarily playing logistical support and from a financial perspective are a go-through for a lot of the funding

and bill paying. Janet Burns and her fiscal staff and RMD, Park Services, and Park Operations will be involved.

- Mr. Thompson reported that drones came up again at the Athletic Council meeting and he reported that someone had also testified before the Park Authority Board. Drones are being used in a variety of ways including races. One thing he was not aware that there are some restrictions in terms of airports, military bases, certain types of buildings that are government buildings, and how incredibly difficult Fairfax County specifically is because of the incredible number of these types of structures.

Mr. Thompson commented that he recognizes Mr. Vellucci's desire to get it done quickly; however, his bet is that Parks may have to work beyond its own government. Mr. Thompson would hope that Parks could get it done as quickly as it can while getting it right.

Mr. Kincannon noted that NACo has formed a subcommittee to look at the drone issues on public lands and that the FAA regulates all airspace in the U.S. Parks has to be concerned with safety, but recognizes that this is a trend and is here to stay.

Mr. Thompson added that indoor drone racing is also popular and he hopes that Parks takes that into consideration as well.

On behalf of the Springfield Little League, Mr. Thompson expressed appreciation for approving the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program request. The scoreboards are up, the fence work has been done, and now SLL is beginning work on the dugouts. Everything should be ready for the spring season.

- Mr. Quincy remarked that there are significant privacy issues concerning drones.

Following up on Ms. Cortina's comments about the Potomac Heritage Trail he noted that he has been there and it is dangerous.

Mr. Quincy reported that there was a piece in the Sun Gazette about Parks' fee meeting that was fairly accurate.

- Ms. Godbold had nothing to report.
- Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter had nothing to report.
- Mr. Gorham had nothing to report.
- Mr. Khan had nothing to report.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on February 8, 2017

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant