

**Fairfax County Park Authority  
Board Meeting  
March 8, 2017**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Room 941, Fairfax, Virginia.

**Board Members:**

William G. Bouie, Chairman  
Mary Cortina, Vice Chair  
Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary  
Linwood Gorham, Treasurer  
Walter Alcorn\*  
Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter  
Mary Cortina  
Maggie Godbold\*  
Timothy Hackman  
Ronald Kendall  
Faisal Khan\*  
Ken Quincy  
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  
Andi Dorlester  
Ryan Stewart  
Cindy McNeal  
Laura Finks  
Michelle Meadows

**Absent\***

Chairman Bouie welcomed Mohamed El Karim to the meeting and invited him to return to any meeting. Mr. El Karim was attending the meeting as part of a college course requirement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No speakers were present.

**PRESENTATION**

P-1 Original Mount Vernon High School Planning Study

This item was deferred to March 22, 2017.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

ADMIN-1 Resolution Honoring Frank S. Vajda's Service on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board

Ms. Corina made a motion to approve the resolution honoring Frank S. Vajda's service on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously; Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan being absent.

**APPROVED AND SIGNED MARCH 22, 2017**

- ADMIN-2 Adoption of Minutes – February 22, 2017, Park Authority Board Meeting  
Ms. Cortina and Mr. Quincy made a motion to adopt the minutes of the February 22, 2017, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously; Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan were absent.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- A-1 Approval of Fee Adjustments to the Published Fee Schedule for 2017  
Ms. Cortina made a motion to approve all proposed fee adjustments as advertised; seconded by Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Vellucci noted that he was concerned that the Cost of Living increase and the fee increases are not in concert with each other. A number of comments Parks received expressed concern. He wants to be sure that the fees increases are as close to the Cost of Living increase.

The motion carried unanimously; Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan were absent.

- A-2 FY 2017 Third Quarter Budget Review, Fund 30400, Park Authority Bond Construction Fund  
Ms. Cortina made a motion to approve of the FY 2017 Third Quarter Budget Review for Fund 30400, Park Authority Bond Construction Fund, seconded by Mr. Hackman. The motion carried unanimously; Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan were absent.

- A-3 Scope Approval - Old Colchester Park and Preserve Archaeological Investigations (Mount Vernon District)  
Mr. Gorham made a motion to approve the project scope for archaeological investigations at Old Colchester Park and Preserve; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously; Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan were absent.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

- I-1 Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS/Drones) Use within County Parkland  
At the request of the board, Ryan Stewart, Senior Planner, provided a presentation on the use of drones within county parkland and the regulations currently governing their use in county parks and the Washington, DC area.

Mr. Stewart discussed the next steps which include reaching out to stakeholders, preparation of a draft policy and guidance, and review by the director's leadership team before returning to the board in June.

Mr. Bouie asked if this was something Parks should get out ahead of with the public and to coordinate with NOVA Parks, Arlington, Fairfax, and Alexandria to let them know so there could be a uniform standard to eliminate confusion.

Mr. Vellucci mentioned that he would expect a number of folks from Arlington and Alexandria to want to use Fairfax County parks because their entire jurisdictions are in the no fly zone.

No action was necessary at this time.

The detailed presentation can be found online at  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/archives/030817-board-pkg.pdf>

I-2 FY 2017 Mid-Year Budget Review, Fund 10001, General Fund

No action was necessary.

I-3 FY 2017 Mid-Year Budget Review, Fund 80000, Park Authority Revenue and Operating Fund

No action was necessary.

### **CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS**

- Mr. Bouie stated that the Park Authority lost a legend with the departure of Frank Vajda. Frank is the gold standard – he stayed quiet and tenacious Frank for the last 16 years. He was one of the last members of which Mr. Bouie referred to as the old Politburo. It was not a matter of one being told no, it was how quickly they would tell you know. Mr. Vajda was the beginning to change that around. He has been a great board member and a great help to Mr. Bouie throughout the years. If you ever had a question or ever wanted to run something by somebody as a sounding board Mr. Vajda was the guy. He would always keep you level-headed and bring sense to you when needed.

Mr. Vajda and his wife, Judie, will be missed. Hopefully they will come to all of the special events as some of the other past members do.

- Mr. Bouie welcomed Mr. Kendall to the board and said that he looks forward to working with him.
- Mr. Bouie noted that with the recent changes to the board membership he had distributed an update to Committee Assignments. Mr. Bouie made a motion to ratify the changes to the Committee Assignments; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously; Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan were absent.

- The board members were asked to get involved with the budget discussion with their respective Supervisor's public outreach. There has been a lot of conversation about the desire for more dog parks.

Some Supervisors have announced their bark fests. Supervisor Hudgins is holding a Wag Fest on April 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Hunter Mill Governmental Center. It's a fantastic opportunity to bring your pet and join in.

Mr. Gorham noted that the Mount Vernon District will hold the Ides of Bark on March 26 at Grist Mill Park from 1-5 p.m.

Mr. Bouie commented that there is tons of stuff going on and staff is managing to stay ahead of it.

#### **DIRECTOR'S MATTERS**

- Mr. Kincannon wished Mr. Vajda congratulations on his 16-year service on the board, his tremendous skills and abilities and extended best wishes on his next adventure.
- Mr. Kincannon also welcomed Mr. Kendall to the board noting that he is looking forward to his orientation and hopefully with Dr. Carter.
- Ms. Pedersen provided a quick video on the Park Operations Showcase that took place at Lorton on March 8. The segment highlights the Park Authority's "all hands on deck" approach to the cleanup of the former Nike Missile site. The overall goal was to get the area in shape so that maintenance crews can perform perfunctory maintenance on a regular schedule in the future.

Mr. Kincannon thanked the board for its support of the incredible staff. He also thanked Todd Brown and his team, the division directors, the section managers, and line staff that were out there that day. It was a quite impressive event. Over 100 staff members participated in the event to turn the facility around.

- The Fairfax County Park Authority and SPIRIT Open Equestrian Program, Inc. have established an agreement that will ensure the continuation of equestrian therapy services for the community. Spirit Equestrian is currently under contract with the Park Authority to offer therapeutic riding lessons for the public at Frying Pan Farm Park. When they were informed that the property they are currently leasing adjacent to the park was being sold and that they would need to vacate the property in early 2017, staff began working with their organization to develop a means for accommodating their operation on site. Staff have worked diligently with them to develop the best means for allowing them use of the park through an agreement and have moved their operation onto the site. This will allow this therapeutic riding program that serves over 100 individuals with disabilities to continue.

He thanked Cindy Walsh and Todd Brown who have been working on this for months, Cindy McNeal for the lease issues, and Janet Burns for handling the procurement issues.

Mr. Bouie noted that there is a full demonstration day from SPIRIT on April 1 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. He suggested that if given the opportunity everyone should get out to see the great community work these folks do.

- The agency was recently notified of the status of the request for re-accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums. Though they said that we are a well-managed, high functioning system, the Accreditation Committee decided to “table” the final decision to address the following:
  - Diversity: The agency will need to develop a brief assessment of how our workforce and audience reflects the face of the community and how we will work towards improving diversity
  - Collections Stewardship: The agency will need to develop a written plan of how we will use the \$2.3 in bond funds to address the need for safe and secure storage facilities for museum and archaeological collections
  - Agreements with Partner Organizations: The agency will need to have written agreements in place with the accredited museum sites

The agency has until August 18, 2017, to complete these tasks and then the final decision will come in June 2018.

AAM stated that 30% of organizations that apply are tabled and the majority end up accredited (96%). They also reminded us that we are still an accredited organization throughout this process.

#### **BOARD MATTERS:**

- Mr. Kendall thanked everyone for the welcome and stated that he is actually taken aback by the amount of work and focus that the board applies. He is looking forward to the work but is a little bit nervous. The board does so much good and solid work and overtime he knows he will get there but right now he is shaking in his boots.

He extended his thanks to Supervisor Gross for nominating him and the confidence in him to do the work, and the Board of Supervisors for the appointment.

Mr. Kendall reiterated everyone's thoughts about Mr. Vajda adding that he has been a joy to work with over the last six months. Mr. Kendall stated that he is truly looking forward this work will pick up speed as we move forward adding that he is a very task oriented person.

He thanked the board for the opportunity and asked the chairs of the committees to which he was appointed to get ahold of him and start throwing things his way.

- Mr. Hackman commented that Mr. Vajda was very welcoming as were all the board members and hopes that Ron has the same experience he had coming onboard.

A few months ago Mr. Vajda and Mr. Kendall were gracious to give him the opportunity to speak to the Lake Braddock Citizens Association meeting to talk about the bond on behalf of the Green Team. He thanked them for the invitation.

Thanks to Cindy Walsh, Denise Dressel, and David Buchta among others a group had the opportunity to walk through Dranesville Tavern and McDannald House to see the property. He was very impressed with the current state of both those properties. There are those in the Great Falls area that would love to see these properties moved up on the list. They are looking forward to the time when that is announced.

- Mr. Vellucci welcomed Mr. Kendall onboard and wished Mr. Vajda fair winds and following seas.

He announced that there will be seven friends groups that will be participating in the Braddock District in the April 1<sup>st</sup> cleanup. Ms. Cortina is going to help at Wakefield Park. Mr. Vellucci thanked her.

He thanked staff for the work on the drone policy and appreciates moving the drone policy approval from September to June.

Mr. Vellucci stated that he believes that often citizens that come before the board to speak may not be used to speaking before groups and may be nervous and not accomplished speakers. With that in mind he stated that he would like the board to consider a motion to change the timing for the public comment period, limiting the number of speakers to three and allowing each of them the opportunity to speak for five minutes. Mr. Bouie stated that he would like to add that the total time for the public comment period is not to exceed 15 minutes.

Mr. Vellucci made a motion to change the timing for the public comment period, limiting the number of speakers to three and allowing each of them the opportunity to speak for five minutes, the total time for the public comment period not to exceed 15 minutes; seconded by Mr. Hackman. The motion carried unanimously; Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan were absent.

- Mr. Alcorn was absent.
- Mr. Gorham thanked Mr. Vajda for his hard work over many years and welcomed Mr. Kendall.
- Mr. Thompson stated that Mr. Vajda was a role model when he first came on the board. Frank helped him to understand how things worked and as Mr. Bouie stated, we lost a legend, as well as institutional knowledge. Mr. Thompson hopes that when appropriate the board reached back out to Mr. Vajda to take advantage of that at times.

Mr. Thompson welcomed Mr. Kendall adding that it is kind of odd since the board had been seeing him and speaking with him.

He thanked Janet Burns for reaching out to him after the last board meeting to help him understand some numbers and some different things.

Mr. Thompson thanked Todd Brown and Dave Bowden for meeting with some athletic organizations from the Springfield District, all were represented but one, were able to interact and engage. This is similar to one he had held in the Sully District. They received a lot of positive feedback. Mr. Thompson expressed appreciation for the presentations that Mr. Brown and Mr. Bowden provided.

He invited everyone to come out to South Run District Park on Thursday, May 4 at 1 p.m. for the opening of Go Ape.

The opening of the Burke Lake Driving Range is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, at 10 a.m.

Mr. Thompson hopes that everyone can get out to see Burke Lake and Go Ape.

- Ms. Cortina welcomed Mr. Kendall as well. She noted that she spends a lot of time in the Mason District.

Ms. Cortina noted that Mr. Vajda is welcome to her garden plot at any time and is welcome to snatch tomatoes. She first met him a year before she came onto the Park Board. They were kitty-corner at the garden plot and didn't realize once she was nominated to be on the board that this was the same Mr. Vajda. She will really miss him. They shared a lot of stories and he provided guidance across the garden fence. He will be missed.

Ms. Cortina told Mr. Kendall that he is welcome onboard and if she can help in his district in any way to please let her know.

She thanked Dave Bowden, Andi Dorlester, Liz Cronauer, Karen Kressin, and Kevin Williams who met with her regarding trails. As the trails liaison they had some discussions that were a fabulous foundation for the segments and what happens on the ground of the trails, and an overview of the trails countywide.

Ms. Cortina also thanked John Stokely. There were some questions from the Friends of Accotink Creek about the plan inventory and they wanted to participate. Mary learned that that component of the Natural Resource Management Plan went forward to the EIP Grant Process just like the IMA program, but it was turned down.

- Ms. Godbold was absent.
- Mr. Quincy welcomed Mr. Kendall and let him know that the entire board is willing to help, but he will get the best help from staff.

He stated that he will miss Mr. Vajda too. Mr. Quincy had worked closely with him when the redistricting took place and he stole a RECenter from the Providence District, but it caught fire. There was a transition, but there was a little bit to orient and educate some residents that things had changed. As someone stated, Mr. Vajda is the gold standard.

On Monday, March 6, Mr. Quincy and Andi Dorlester attended a briefing on the Tysons development for the Vienna Town Council. The topic had come up before and the council felt it would be good to have. Barbara Byron from the Office of Community Revitalization organized the meeting which was very beneficial. Vienna is very concerned about what the impact might be with regard to the Tysons development on the Town of Vienna primarily in three areas, transportation, schools, and park facilities. Although this is a very complex, 40-year plan and the impacts may not be immediate, they are concerned. Mr. Quincy believes that they were able to educate the Town Council and were able to alleviate some concern by speaking to the entire body at once. Parks provided some handouts and fielded some questions. The benefit was in getting the entire body together and giving them the update. Andi did a great job explaining the park facilities ramifications and what we are trying to do and what we may not be able to do. Following the meeting, the mayor thanked them for the meeting and complimented them for the presentation. He suggested keeping this in mind for future community interaction.

Mr. Bouie suggested that perhaps sometime before the summer is over it may be worthwhile to take a Saturday morning or two to take a ride to see the development in Reston, Tysons, Merrifield (Mosaic) and Springfield. This would be beneficial to see what they are providing and how things are changing and how we are changing in terms of providing recreation.

Mr. Quincy added that it would also be beneficial to look at the map to see where these things are taking place and how it is all going to fit.



- Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter joined everyone in wishing Mr. Vajda the very best. While she didn't know him very long, he was always very kind, welcoming, and very helpful. She will miss him as though she had known him for years and years.

She welcomed Mr. Kendall adding that she is also glad that she is no longer the new kid on the block. Dr. Carter noted that she is still shaking in her boots a little too. She is also willing and happy to share whatever she can. She finds that the board is a great group of people and will make him feel very welcome, and staff will be so helpful.

On Thursday, March 9, she will be meeting with Supervisor McKay to discuss a number of things. The meeting will be an overview and briefing about the Banks property, Franconia Park, Mount Vernon Woods, Lee District Park, and he is interested to learn about any timelines that may need to be aware of immediately. If anyone knows of anything burning, she asked that they please send her an email or see her before following the board meeting.

Mr. Kincannon noted that Andi Dorlester would also be attending the meeting with Supervisor McKay.

- Faisal Khan, At-large, was absent.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 9 p.m. Mr. Thompson made a motion to convene in closed session for

- a) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(3).

Seconded by Mr. Hackman and Ms. Cortina. The motion carried unanimously; Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan were absent.

### **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 Ms. Cortina and Mr. Hackman. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan were absent.

**ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION**

C-1 Approval of an Offer Range for Property Located in the Mason District

Mr. Kendall made a motion to approve the offer range for property located in the Mason District as discussed in closed session; seconded by Mr. Hackman. The motion carried unanimously; Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan were absent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

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Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting  
on March 22, 2017

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Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

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Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant