

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
March 22, 2017**

The Vice Chair 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
Barbara Nugent
Andi Dorlester
Cindy McNeal
Jeffrey Snoddy
Mary Olien

Absent*

Guest: Heather Diaz, Project Coordinator,
Capital Facilities, Building Design and
Construction Division

PUBLIC COMMENT: No speakers were present.

PRESENTATION

P-1 Original Mount Vernon High School Planning Study

Ms. Diaz provided an overview of the planning and implementation efforts related to the Original Mount Vernon High School site and building.

Mr. Thompson asked if the area which covers fields 6 and 7 on the map will all become Park Authority property and Ms. Diaz replied that most likely they would not. The intent is to keep the function of the RECenter and the fields somewhere on the 48 acres.

Mr. Thompson added that this is a great spot to begin to address the inequity of turf fields in this part of the county.

APPROVED AND SIGNED APRIL 12, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes – March 8, 2017, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Thompson made a motion to adopt the minutes of the March 8, 2017, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried. Having been absent on March 8, Ms. Godbold and Messrs. Alcorn and Khan abstained, Messrs. Bouie and Kendall were absent.

ACTION ITEMS

- A-1 Approval – Jones Branch Park and Arbor Row Stream Valley – Naming of Park Honoring Ken Lawrence (Providence District)
Mr. Quincy made a motion to approve the naming of Jones Branch Fields and restored Arbor Row Stream Valley Park in honor of Ken Lawrence; seconded by Messrs. Alcorn and Gorham. The motion carried; Messrs. Bouie and Kendall were absent.
- A-2 Eakin Community Park – Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program Request – Eakin Park Family Trust (Providence District)
Mr. Quincy made a motion to approve the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program request from the Eakin Park Family Trust in the amount of \$20,000 to construct a picnic shelter at Eakin Community Park; seconded by Mr. Thompson and Dr. Carter. The motion carried; Messrs. Bouie and Kendall were absent.

(Mr. Khan left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.)

INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 Overview of Website Reconstruction Project and Park Authority Site Architecture
Park Authority Web master, Jeffrey Snoddy, provided an overview of the website reconstruction project and Park Authority site architecture.

Following concerns expressed by the board that Parks cannot be located within one or two clicks, Mr. Kincannon recommended that the board members contact their appointing Supervisors and the project coordinator, Anita Rao, with their concerns about the new website and Parks' location under the recreation and reading tab and any other issues they may have.

Mr. Snoddy indicated that more than 80% of the searches come through a search engine such as Google, and not through the county's web site. The county's search engine should work much better with Drupal.

Mr. Thompson stated that looking for a specific report, or a part thereof, is not an easy task and asked if there could be a way at some time in the future to simplify the search for users.

Ms. Pedersen remarked that Parks values board input and if they see something that could be better they should say something.

Ms. Cortina suggested that Natural and Cultural Resources be separated into two categories since they are different, even in the Needs Assessment.

I-2 Park Authority Master Plan Update

Samantha Hudson presented an update of the Park Authority Master Plan and the next steps in the process. This presentation covered the timeline and major milestones, ongoing and planned engagement.

The board members discussed the need for community outreach to include the Athletic Council and Friends groups and involvement from the Board of Supervisors and other county agencies.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- Ms. Cortina, who chaired the meeting in Mr. Bouie's absence thanked Gayle Hooper and the Park Authority team including Aimee Vosper, Dave Bowden, and Andi Dorlester for the update to Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Cook on Lake Accotink Master Plan which was very enlightening. Chairman Bulova and Supervisor Cook have ideas that they would like to see incorporated. It was a good session, very candid. They were very excited about all of the participation by the community. Supervisor Cook's office particularly commended Ms. Hooper on the public outreach and the planning team.
- On March 18 Ms. Cortina attended advocacy workshop that was organized by Glenda Booth. The workshop which was held at Green Spring Gardens was attended by Congressman Gerry Connolly and several other delegates. There were a lot of people interested in the topic. Congressman Connolly gave a great talk and mentioned the Park Authority many times, especially the goal of owning 10% of the land in Fairfax County and other ways it contributes to the quality of life in Fairfax County. He also criticized the environmental community for not being present during the EPA dismantling, so to speak. He told them they were MIA in general. A number of local people were there including a number of Friends groups.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

- Mr. Kincannon reported that he, Janet Burns, and Dave Bowden attended the Board of Supervisors' Budget Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 21, in which they discussed the

capital improvement program. Some Board members made comments about the need to work jointly on long term development efforts. Some of the comments were to think about senior centers working with day care and recreation facilities and partnering with Schools, looking for opportunities for Libraries and Schools to work together closely, and for opportunities for the Park Authority and Neighborhood and Community Services to partner on their facilities as we go forward in the future.

Also to look at sites that exist in the county for repurposing. Lorton/Laurel Hill came up in relation to archaeology facility and looking at areas where there are structures across the county instead of purchasing new facilities. Can we use an existing vacant facility for that requires less costly renovation and retrofit rather than building a new structure? The Board would like a longer lead time to get educated on plan structures, facilities etc. for inclusion in future bond referenda. The instance was related to archaeology. When agencies think of long-term strategies, they should share that information with various boards and the Board of Supervisors so they can begin to think about operational costs, capital costs, funding mechanisms, dealing with aging infrastructure, the growing community because the county is running out of capacity.

- Dr. Elizabeth Crowell, the manager of the Fairfax County Park Authority's Archaeology and Collections Branch, was recently honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference. Criteria for the award includes length of service, professional ethics, research, and mentoring. Liz is Chair of the Conference Awards committee, but her colleagues kept this a secret from her until the presentation. The award was presented by Conference President Dr. Douglas Sanford of the University of Mary Washington on Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference in Virginia Beach. Liz has spent more than 30 years as an archaeologist at both historical and prehistoric sites. She has been with the Park Authority since 2003.
- Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) raised \$43,215 to support renovating the Glasshouse at Green Spring Gardens. The FROGS membership contributed \$23,215, which was matched with \$20,000 from the Mastenbrook Grant program. The Glasshouse was built in 1983 as part of the original Horticulture Center and received major renovation upgrades in 2002. For the current renovation, the heat distribution system, the shade cloth, and the reverse osmosis water treatment system were replaced, which also improved energy efficiency. Staff horticulturist, Judy Zatsick, planned a new layout that included these features: 12 powder-coated aluminum benches with cedar planking, two large decorative metal panels featuring laser-cut leaf designs, and two new aluminum chairs inviting visitors to pause and enjoy the space. The new look will be further enhanced with new trellises for vines and epiphytic plants, small display tables, troughs and pottery containers for the succulent collection and other key specimens, and new signage.

A guest lecture on Sunday, March 12, 2017, about the history of conservatories by Mount Vernon's Horticulturist, Dean Norton marked the conclusion of this very successful project.

Today the Glasshouse is a major plant display with engaging arrangements of succulents, orchids, bulbs, and tropical plants from around the world.

BOARD MATTERS

- Mr. Khan left the meeting during the Information Items.
- Mr. Quincy received a number of compliments with regard to the paving at Nottoway Park. The patrons are really appreciative and some even commented that the speed bumps look good.

He was very pleased with the action the board took to approve the name change of the Jones Branch Fields and restored Arbor Row Stream Valley Park in honor of Ken Lawrence. The naming is a truly fitting tribute to an individual who was a strong advocate for park facilities and open space, not only in the Providence District, but in Fairfax County.

- Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter had nothing to report.
- Ms. Godbold had nothing to report.
- Mr. Thompson reminded the board to make an effort to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for Burke Lake Park driving range on May 13 at 10 a.m.

He also noted that the opening of Go Ape will take place at South Run District Park on Thursday, May 4 at 1 p.m. It will open to the public on Friday, May 5.

The Fairfax Archaeology and Cultural Resources posted a video on Facebook of Liz Crowell accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference.

- Mr. Gorham reminded the board that the Ides of Bark is taking place on Sunday, March 26, at Grist Mill Park from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.
- Mr. Alcorn remarked that he had seen Ken Lawrence's son recently and the family is very honored. Walter asked if a ceremony will take place.

Mr. Quincy noted that there will be a ceremony once the weather is nice, and noted that there are somethings to work out on the signage.

- Mr. Vellucci noted that Beverly Bradford passed along her thanks to the board for changing the public comment period for speakers from three to five minutes.

Royal Lake is progressing nicely. The heavy equipment is being removed and the end stage of restoration and/or roadway repair are in progress or about to start.

He thanked Liz Cronauer for providing a trail development maintenance strategy presentation to about 25 members of the Friends of Royal Lake on March 9. It was a very nice Q&A session.

Before Sandy Stallman retired Mr. Vellucci had asked her to take a look at a master plan revision for Royal Lake as part of the FY18 P&D workplan. She agreed, but since then Dave Bowden identified an alternative approach which involved reviewing the lifecycle approach of the facilities and determining a replacement schedule. Mr. Vellucci approached the Friends of Royal Lake and they are willing to support that approach. However, he said that he had some concerns with that approach. Currently there are four parks that border Royal Lake, of which two have master plans. One of the plans is dated 1968 and is about 12 acres. The other is dated 1973 and is about 10 acres. Together they comprise about 15% of the 135 acres in and around the lake. Since the DPWES dredging there have been physical changes to the lake including a 46- acre open space area. He believes that the four parks deserve a fully-integrated master plan, but he is willing to support staff and the Friends of Royal Lake in a modified approach as long as it includes four Royal Lake parks and affords them the same treatment as they would have had had there been a fully-developed integrated master plan.

On March 13 Bob Lamond and Christopher Vo, president of DC Drones user group, identified 31 parks that would be acceptable under FAA regulations, but suggested five as a starting point for drone activity in accordance with the FCPA draft policy.

Mr. Vellucci thanked Ms. Cortina for attending the meeting on March 14 with Chairman Bulova, Supervisor Cook, and Park Authority staff to discuss the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan. He also extended thanks to staff.

The board received an email from Barbara Gorski with a link to the Alexandria Open Space Acquisition Plan prepared by the City of Alexandria in 2003. Mr. Vellucci was impressed by its comprehensiveness. It provides an example of the transparency requested by Mr. Roesell in a meeting he and Mr. Vellucci had. Following that meeting Tony provided the board with examples of open space acquisition plans that provided addresses and parcel level by various municipalities in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, asking why Parks could not do the same. Unlike New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Alexandria must comply with Virginia Code. Mr. Vellucci stated that he is not advocating for an open space acquisition plan, but is complying with a constituents request that the FCPA provide more transparency in its acquisition efforts. The Alexandria plan provides a basis to do so. Mr. Kincannon (and Ms. Vosper), who were working in Alexandria at the time, had advised Tony that there were a lot of lessons learned from the Alexandria Open Space Acquisition Plan. Tony said that Kirk could share that with the board members. Mr. Vellucci expressed his concern that to the extent that

Parks could combine the constituent's request, the Alexandria plan, and the lessons learned from that plan and having something along those lines would seem to be the optimal solution. He is not sure how to do that. What he did ask was that Planning and Development (P&D) Land Acquisition staff look into developing quantitative measures that could be scored via some sort of score sheet, meaning some sort of decision-maker for each land acquisition opportunity so that it can be tracked, or racked and stacked numerically for the board's consideration. P&D does a great job on the qualitative side but it would be nice to know if an opportunity scored a 97 or a 79.

Mr. Vellucci thanked Ms. Pedersen for the presentation and discussion of the Elly Doyle and other associated awards. He asked that board members look at the volunteers in their respective districts and see if they could submit nomination forms. As the Awards Committee chair, he reminded the board that the Awards Committee is not responsible for the Strickland award, that award is under the prevue of the Committee of the Whole, as per board action on June 10, 2015.

In response to Mr. Vellucci's comments about the open space document, Mr. Alcorn indicated that he had read the Alexandria plan and commented that the analogy there is much better suited for the Department of Planning and Zoning than it is for the Park Authority. That is a much more comprehensive approach. Parks should remember that it is involved in the acquisition of property but it is not the driver, it's working around the edges. Mr. Alcorn found it very interesting and he stated that he would hold judgment on the idea of what to do in the future.

- Mr. Hackman commended the Eakin Park Family Trust for going well beyond the \$20,000 Mastenbrook match in terms of putting up the funds to construct the picnic pavilion for the community park.

Mr. Hackman reported that he found out early in the day that the Friends of Riverbend Park received a \$2,000 community grant from IBM to support Riverbend Park's summer programs.

- Mr. Kendall was absent.

CLOSED SESSION

At 9:07 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. Alcorn. The motion carried unanimously; Messrs. Bouie, Kendall, 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 Mr. Quincy. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie, Kendall, and Khan were absent.

ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION

C-1 Right of First Refusal to Acquire Property

Mr. Vellucci made a motion that the board decline to exercise its right of first refusal to acquire the property located at 4716 Wakefield Chapel Road, Alexandria, Tax map 70-1 ((16)) parcel 285; seconded by Mr. Alcorn. The motion carried unanimously; Messrs. Bouie, Kendall, and Khan were absent.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m. Dr. Carter made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie, Kendall, and Khan were absent.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on April 12, 2017

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant

APPROVED AND SIGNED APRIL 12, 2017