

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
April 12, 2017**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:37 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, Secretary
Walter Alcorn*
Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter*
Maggie Godbold
Timothy Hackman
Faisal Khan
Ronald Kendall
Ken Quincy
Anthony J. Vellucci*

Staff Present:

Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Barbara Gorski, Administrative Assistant
Judy Pedersen, PIO
David Bowden
Barbara Nugent
Mary Olien
Janet Burns
Cindy McNeal

Absent*

Chairman Bouie welcomed Xiali Li, a student at George Mason (GMU). Xiali said that she was happy to be here and is an international student from China. She is studying forest management. She noted that in China they do not have board meetings so it's good to be here to study. Mr. Bouie invited Xiali to come back at any time.

He also welcomed James Piccolo of Boy Scout Troop 152 in Vienna. James was attending the meeting for a scout merit badge. He is currently a First Class and he is trying to obtain Star. James' father, Jim, was also attending the meeting and noted that he will ensure that James takes diligent notes.

Amy Mann, a GMU student, also joined the meeting. She is taking a leadership class and was present to observe.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No speakers were present.

APPROVED AND SIGNED MAY 10, 2017

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes – March 22, 2017, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Quincy made a motion to adopt the minutes of the March 22, 2017, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried by all members present. Ms. Cortina, Dr. Carter, and Messrs. Alcorn and Vellucci were absent.

ACTION ITEMS

- A-1 Scope Approval – Ellick Preserve Helping Our Land Heal Project
Ms. Godbold made a motion to approve the project scope for the Ellick Preserve Help Out Land Heal Project; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried by all members present. Ms. Cortina, Dr. Carter, and Messrs. Alcorn and Vellucci were absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 Original Mount Vernon High School Property Reuse
Dave Bowden and Cindy McNeal provided an update on the proposed process for the development of the reuse of the Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) property in the Mount Vernon District. The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services is currently preparing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a potential Master Developer to lead the effort for determining the reuse of the OMVHS property. County staff has requested that the Park Authority consider including the park property as part of the potential reuse area in the RFP.

In the event this moves forward, the future next steps may include:

- o Entering into a partnership that possibly incorporates the GW RECenter
- o Updating the land bank if BOS deems that a land exchange is necessary
- o Following the standard process of holding a public hearing for the disposal of land

Ms. Vosper stated that the direction Parks has given them so far is that it would at least maintain or enhance the current level of park and recreation uses and its benefits. Parks wants to make sure it's incorporated into the RFP if we go forward, that Parks will be looking at the benefits and uses of what we have now and what any redevelopment can provide us in the future.

Mr. Gorham stated that he could think of no downside to participate in this actively. He has tried to think of ways to improve the RECenter and make it not make it the lowest performing in our system and it's hard to come up with ideas. At the very least it would be good to have new ideas for the RECenter.

Ms. Vosper said Parks hopes that going into this process it is open to new ideas, but if there is something specific right now or that the board is concerned about we need to know that now so that the RFP can be tailored to make sure they don't go through a process and come back and Parks will say 'no'. If Parks is open to new ideas, uses, or how to revitalize Parks' uses then we are in good shape.

Mr. Gorham stated that it would not be a problem to express that Parks would like to see the asset used similarly or that there be a greater community use.

Mr. Kendall noted that Mr. Gorham mentioned that this is an underperforming facility. Has the Park Authority identified the reasons why the center itself might be underperforming? Mr. Gorham responded that it is just an indoor pool without room for any other amenities, and its location is limited also. It's not in a visible area and one has to go quite a bit off Route 1 to find it. And it overlaps with the Mount Vernon and Lee District service areas.

It was the consensus of the board to continue on. Mr. Gorham has the leading voice and if anyone has anything to share, share it with Dave Bowden, with Mr. Kincannon or Ms. Vosper.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- Mr. Bouie thanked the board members for the great birthday wishes that they sent simultaneously as he was celebrating his birthday with a couple of friends. This showed them what a great group of friends he works with. He thanked them again and stated that his vacation was great. There was a lot of baseball, barbeque, and beer. So, for the 18th consecutive year spring training was a success again.
- Mr. Bouie extended congratulations to Ms. Cortina who was named Lady Fairfax. More details are to come. He encouraged everyone to send her congratulations.
- Last week, Mr. Bouie and Mr. Kincannon had the opportunity to go to Lexington, VA, to receive the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award. Parks' was a Gold Medal winner for the Huntley Meadows Wetlands Restoration. It was a great event held at a state environmental conference at VMI. There were 300 or more attendees. Bill passed around the award for the board to see. He added that this was another prize to go on the wall. He thanked staff and the board for the great work that they do and Judy Pedersen for her dynamic and eloquent writing that allowed Parks to be nominated and win this award.

Ms. Baldwin pointed out that Karen Sheffield, manager of Huntley Meadows, was in the gallery. Mr. Bouie congratulated Ms. Sheffield and the board applauded her.

- Mr. Bouie said that he was sorry he missed the McNaughton Field opening on Saturday, April 8; however, he was at Frying Pan Farm Park watching Spirit do its therapeutic riding exhibition. It was wonderful and he added that if anyone has not had the opportunity to view the Spirit therapeutic riding they really need to do that. It's a pleasure to see the interaction between the animals and the kids and adults. It's a fantastic program. Mr. Bouie stated that he was pleased that this is now in Parks' portfolio.
- Dave Bowden, Charles Mends-Cole, Ron Kendall, and Mr. Bouie met with the Washington Nationals on April 11 and finalized the plan for the Nationals to completely update the Little League field at Mason District Park. This is a fantastic project and Mason District Park will get a first class facility. The Nats are not only stepping up at Mason District, but for District 4 Little League the Nats are sponsoring uniforms for all the teams in District 4 starting next year. That includes Reston, Herndon, Great Falls, McLean, Arlington, and Alexandria Little Leagues. The Nats have done a tremendous job and Parks is looking forward to many, many years of support for them. They have picked a name for the field, but we cannot announce who they will name the field after yet. A lot of people will be excited about who that person is. There will be a little statue out in centerfield noting this gentleman's accomplishments during his time with the Nats.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

- In Kirk Kincannon's absence Sara Baldwin reported that Watershed Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 1, was no April Fools' affair at the nine Park Authority sites that were active participants. Results announced by The Nature Conservancy, the event's sponsor, show a near doubling of material removed from the nine sites compared to results of the event a year ago. An estimated four and a-half tons of trash was removed from parks, twice the estimated two and a-quarter tons a year ago. More than 1,500 volunteer service hours were given by residents, a jump from 800 hours in 2016. The 654 volunteers who gave of their time was an increase of 60% over the 408 volunteers in 2016. More than 20 miles of stream and shoreline were cleaned of items such as plastic bottles and plastic bags. Among the unusual items removed were:
 - o bathroom tiles
 - o a \$20 bill
 - o a model replica of the Greek Acropolis
 - o a desk
 - o a goal post
 - o a Medieval Times flag

Ms. Baldwin thanked the many volunteers that helped with this effort.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Kendall stated that Mr. Bouie covered the Nats meetings which highlighted his last two weeks.

He noted that he is trying to get around to all the parks and all the staff facilities. He has had some good conversations. He met with Mark Plourde who has given him a lot of insight into things that the Park Authority has to deal with. He is going to keep on going. He is not discouraged yet. He has more trails to walk, more athletic fields to look at, and he is enjoying himself.

Mr. Kendall has had some good conversations at Hidden Oaks Nature Center. They discussed programs, its scouting programs that are always ongoing, having over 700 folks attending the dinosaur egg hunt just in the programs for that one week.

He spoke with the folks at Green Spring Gardens about all the things they have going. The garden sale will take place in mid-May, so if anyone needs plantings, please plan to go to Green Spring.

- Mr. Hackman noted that earlier in the agenda it was mentioned that there was a Resident Curator Program update at the Resource Management Committee meeting on March 22. Cindy Walsh and company will be coming back to committee again on the 26th of April with an update and a review of the Turner Farm House, Ellmore Farm House, and Stempson House proposals. The administrative and financial reviews have been completed on at least two of the proposals and they are working on the third.

He gave a shout out to the Great Falls Soccer Club for the Mastenbrook application which was reviewed by the Park Operations Committee earlier in the evening pending board approval on April 26. They submitted to install synthetic turf at Nike Field #7. The reason for the shout out is that the grant is for \$20,000 to match the \$855,000 they are putting up as part of the field conversion.

- Mr. Gorham reported that Ides of Bark was held in the Mount Vernon District on March 26 at Grist Mill Park. He thanked Barbara Nugent and everyone else in the Park Authority, including Park Operations that helped put on the event. He believes this will be an ongoing event if the Supervisor's office has anything to do with it, as it should be.

On Saturday, April 8, there was a ribbon cutting at the new, spectacular, beautiful McNaughton Field. Mr. Gorham thanked Mr. Thompson for attending the opening. Mr. Gorham stated that he was overcome when he first went there about two hours before the ceremony, at how great the transition was and seeing the Little League players play and knowing that his opportunity in life for that had passed. It was an absolutely spectacular job. He extended thanks to Dave Bowden and his group who obviously took a lot of pride in that project, and to Judy Pedersen for setting up the ribbon cutting ceremony.

- Mr. Thompson echoed Mr. Gorham's comments about McNaughton Field.

Mr. Thompson noted that he had stated in a committee meeting earlier in the evening that we wanted opportunities for kids to play in the dirt, get dirty, and enjoy nature. One of those places is not when you are walking onto a baseball field or running the bases on a baseball field. The opportunity has been created at that facility (long-term). Woodlawn Little League has been there for about 50 years. This is a huge upgrade for them and shows what Parks can do.

- Mr. Khan had nothing to report.
- Mr. Quincy echoed Mr. Bouie's comments on Spirit therapeutic riding exhibition. Mr. Quincy has gone to several of these events but was unable to make this one. It's really heartwarming to see. He once had his picture taken next to the largest horse and you couldn't see him. He added that he is glad this is now in Parks portfolio.

On April 22 Healthy Strides 5K and 10K races will be held at Burke Lake Park. The Park Authority RECenters are the principle sponsor of the event. Barbara Nugent and her group are prominent in turning out the event and they do an excellent job. If you don't run come out and cheer on some of those that are going to try to do it. It starts at 7:30 on Saturday morning.

- Ms. Godbold, in Mr. Vellucci's absence, reminded the board to submit nominations for the Elly Doyle awards. The deadline closes on June 16.

ADDITIONAL BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Thompson reminded the board members that they should help the Park Foundation by finding folks that can help the Foundation for all the good things it does for Parks and supports all of Parks' efforts.
- Mr. Bouie thanked Parks for Wag Fest in Hunter Mill which was held on April 1. It wasn't quite as large as the Ides of Bark, but everyone had a lot of fun.

Subsequent to Wag Fest and an unnamed district at this point, Parks received a letter from a group of citizens led by a person who lives next door to a park that is petitioning to put in a dog park right next to their home. She has support of the entire neighborhood to do this. When you talk about extremes, Parks has a bunch of citizens that are begging/clamoring and found a way to raise \$30,000 to get this thing off the ground. Barking for a cause.

In the midst of talking about dog parks, Parks has a citizen that has given Parks an online GIS report of every dog in the county, where they are located, in comparison to our dog

parks. The highest concentration of dog (by license) are located near our dog parks. Mr. Bouie asked that the link to the report be sent to the board members.

The Farmers' Markets open in May with really great locally produced meats and produce. Bill encourages everyone to go out and support the Farmers' Markets.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on May 10, 2017

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant