

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
June 14, 2017**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:48 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*
Anthony J. Vellucci

Staff Present:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Barbara Gorski
Judy Pedersen, PIO
David Bowden
Todd Brown
Barbara Nugent
Cindy Walsh
Janet Burns
Cindy McNeal

Absent*

PUBLIC COMMENT

No speakers were present.

Chairman Bouie recognized Fanuj Bhat of Boy Scout Troop 20 from Rachel Carson Middle School who attended the meeting as a requirement for his advancement in Scouts and to listen to a public meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes of the May 24, 2017, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Quincy made a motion to adopt the minutes of the May 24, 2017, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Vellucci indicated that a typo was made in his board matters in the last paragraph on page 8, line 3. The word 'seen' should be changed to 'seven'

Without objection the motion carried by all members present; Mr. Khan was absent.

ACTION ITEMS

- A-1 FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan, Park Revenue and Operating Fund 80000
Ms. Cortina made a motion to approve the FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan for the Park Revenue and Operating Fund 80000; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried by all members present; Mr. Khan was absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 Update on Dominion Virginia Power Transmission Rebuild of Belvoir-Gum Springs Double Circuit 230kV Lines #204 and #220 Adjacent to Huntley Meadows Park, Muddy Hole Farm Park, and Mount Vernon Woods Park (Lee and Mount Vernon Districts)
Cindy McNeal and Dave Bowden provided an update on the Dominion Virginia Power Transmission rebuild of Belvoir-Gum Springs Double Circuit 230kV lines #204 and #220 adjacent to Huntley Meadows Park, Muddy Hole Farm Park, and Mount Vernon Woods Park. Dominion has agreed to adhere to the Security and Exchange Commission's final order on its stipulations. No action was required.
- I-2 FY 2017 Third Quarter Budget Review, Fund 10001, General Fund
No action was necessary.
- I-3 FY 2017 Third Quarter Budget Review, Fund 80000, Park Authority Revenue and Operating Fund
No action was necessary.
- I-4 FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan General Fund 10001
No action was necessary.
- I-5 FY 2018 Adopted Budget Plan, General County Construction Fund 30010
No action was necessary.
- I-6 FY 2018 Deer Management Program
No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- Mr. Bouie stated that the summer is off to a great start at the Water Mine and other places. He thanked Barbara Nugent and staff.
- While he was unable to attend, he reported that he had heard nothing but rave reviews about the board tour of Tysons.

- He thanked staff for the update on Tysons and Reston during the Planning and Development Committee meeting earlier in the evening.
- Mr. Bouie reported that he is still working on the response with recommendations back to the Board of Supervisors following the Mary 10 joint meeting as discussed on May 24. He will get the draft out to the board prior to the June 28 meeting for comments.
- He added that he will also get information out to the board on the item discussed in closed session on May 24.
- Mr. Bouie informed the board that he had participated in the Senior Olympics last week which were held in Birmingham, Alabama. He and his wife were successful in bringing home major swag. Together they earned a silver medal in the racquetball mixed doubles, losing the gold by one point. Mr. Bouie and his partner won a gold medal in the men's racquetball doubles category. His wife was asked to fill in the women's 50 singles and she won the gold medal by defeating her opponent 0-1 in the final game, having not played singles in five years.

Thirteen thousand athletes competed and Fairfax County is vying to host the senior games in 2021 or 2023. The event hosted national teams from Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and Tobago, which brought national teams completely outfitted carrying flags.

It was a fantastic experience with unbelievable medal ceremonies. He and his wife had attended a gold medal ceremony for a 95-year-old winner in the triple jump category. There were 56 runners in seven heats in the 85-89 1,500 meter race. They watched the gold medal game in the women's 80-85 three-on-three basketball contest. The games run through Friday, June 16.

Mr. Bouie encouraged any of the board members that have an opportunity to participate in the Senior Games to do so. The Park Authority is a sponsor of the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics which will take place from September 9 through September 20. Registration must be in by September 2. It costs \$13 and \$1 for each event you participate in. The information is on the website. He again volunteered to pay all fees for any of the board members that want to enter any event. It is so much fun to meet people from all over the world that are interested in staying fit, moving, and staying healthy.

He is looking forward to defending his crown in Albuquerque in 2019.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

- As Mr. Kincannon announced in April the Park Authority received awards at the National Association of County Park and Recreation Officials annual award ceremony.

- Sandy Stallman, who retired earlier this year, was selected as a recipient of a 2017 NACPRO Award in the Professional-Lifetime category. He thanked Sandy for attending the conference and picking up the awards on Parks' behalf.
 - The agency's Invasive Management Program received the 2017 NACPRO Award in the Environmental/Conservation category.
 - The Great Parks, Great Communities Long Range Park Plan and Need Assessment received the award in the Planning Initiative category.
 - Long-time volunteer and park advocate at Huntley Meadows Park, Norma Hoffman, was honored in the Outstanding Volunteer category. Sadly, Norma passed away on Sunday, June 11, with her family at her side. Arrangements will be made with the family to present them with the award.
- Mr. Kincannon wished everyone a Happy Flag Day.
 - The Park Authority is actively participating in the celebration of Fairfax County's 275th anniversary with a wide assortment of day trips throughout Fairfax County. Our day trips began today with a Constitution/Bill of Rights Tour through the City of Fairfax and Fairfax County and more will be offered this summer. Our showmobile and staff will be at the official kick-off on Saturday, June 17, at the original Fairfax County Courthouse located in Fairfax City.

There will be entertainment and information provided by more than 80 county agencies, historical sites and groups, living history reenactments, musical performances, children's crafts and activities, plus guest speakers, and presentations throughout the day.

- He announced that the Park Authority Board has a Lady Fairfax, Mary Cortina, and a Lord Fairfax, Mike Thompson.
- Summer camps are in full bloom with many preschool and kiddie camps that began last week. Camps designed for homeschoolers and private schools began this week. The largest number of camps will begin June 26 across the county at more than 50 locations and the popular RecPAC program will begin July 5 at 43 locations. Parks will feature more than 2,000 weeks of camps (1,821 summer camps and 258 RecPAC) of all types and locations. There's fun for everyone at a Fairfax County Park Authority Camp this summer.
- As in years past and in keeping with our guidelines Parks provides extra caution with all camps especially those that are predominately hosted outside. Frequent water breaks, modifying activities, and finding inside spaces are priorities all summer long. Many sites have access to misting tents as well and we are sensitive to ensuring children and staff do not

overheat. Staff receives training to recognize heat-related illnesses in our programs and we will do everything we can to ensure a safe and fun-filled summer for all.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Kendall thanked Bobbi Longworth for having invited the board to attend the Legacy Circle reception. It was extremely interesting to hear from the Eakin family and learn what it has done for Parks over the years.

He thanked Park staff, Sara Baldwin, and Aimee Vosper for holding the Federation of Friends meeting with the introduction of the volunteer park teams. He believes this is very good and was well-presented. The organizations that were there understood what was being offered and could tell whether they fit that model or not. He also feels it is a good middle ground for folks who want to work in the parks but don't want to be dumped as an individual into the volunteer management system, want to have some structure, but don't want to go the full Friends road.

Spotlight by Starlight begins on Sunday, June 18, with an orchestra playing at Mason District Park.

On June 25 the Annandale NOVA Symphony will perform. Cake and lemonade will be provided at the reception at the beginning.

Mr. Kendall reported that the work on Parklawn field has been completed and Mason District Little League will play its All-Star games there. A walk-through was held on June 13 at the field at Mason District Park and deconstruction has begun. He is looking forward to announcing the dedication that will take place sometime in August.

He mentioned that the Board of Supervisors is going to recognize Frank Vajda's service at its July 11 meeting. He encouraged everyone to attend the meeting as a show of support.

- Mr. Hackman thanked Bobbi and others for the Legacy Circle reception. It was a wonderful event and he was also impressed by what the Eakins have done over the years with their family foundation.

He reminded those that have not had the opportunity to leave behind money that they will never miss, the Foundation can provide the opportunity with recognition or anonymously, to your favorite park, or to the Park Authority as a whole. It would be nice to start to create endowments for our favorite parks, projects, or the Park Authority as a whole. Steve Thormahlen, Foundation Board Chair, indicated that the Foundation has begun talking about endowments.

Mr. Hackman thanked Sara Baldwin, Aimee Vosper, Cindy Messinger, and Lizzie Ehrreich for a good Federation meeting on June 8. The handbook contains real valuable information. The people that attended the previous meeting and this meeting really appreciated the information. One caveat as mentioned to him is that one of the provisions talks about is that as a Friends organization you must align yourself with and advocate the Park Authority's views. This, judging from past experiences with major budget cuts or staff cuts, would put some Friend's organizations that are trying to protect the interests of those parks and the interest of the community at odds with the Park Authority. He feels some middle ground or reasonable approach may be more suitable.

He extended thanks to Kirk, Dave Bowden, Jane Edmundson of Supervisor Foust's staff, Todd Brown, Barbara Nugent, and many others that have spent a lot of time on the synthetic turf issue at Great Falls.

- Mr. Vellucci offered congratulations to Mary Cortina and Mike Thompson for their appointments as Lady and Lord Fairfax.

He echoed the comments of Mr. Kendall and Mr. Hackman regarding the Legacy Circle. He stated that it was neat to see the dedication that other individuals have to Parks. Bobbi Longworth does an incredible job and should be recognized for that.

The Lake Accotink Cardboard Boat Regatta took place on Sunday, June 4. The Friends of Lake Accotink Park assisted by taking on significant judging activities this year, which was not easy given the quality of the boats. Mr. Vellucci believes more boats were entered than in previous years. Kudos to staff that organized the regatta and to FLAP for taking on the tough job of judging.

The Department of Environmental Quality held its final technical advisory council meeting on June 7 for the Accotink Creek TMDL for both sediment and chloride. A public meeting is scheduled for June 28 at Kings Park Library. Gayle Hooper attended the meeting for Lake Accotink Park and Parks may want to have others attend the June 28 meeting as well.

A Braddock Road widening community meeting is scheduled for June 16 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Andy Galusha has been involved with the project.

Mr. Vellucci noted that the community appreciates the culvert that was put in in the Pohick Stream Valley that was washed out about a year ago. He received good input from the community. While it was a minor job it was much appreciated. He extended thanks to Ed Richardson, Devon Treasure, and the crew.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for Royal Lake for dredging project will take place at Lakeside Park on Monday, June 19, at 6 p.m. This was the last of the lakeside dredging projects by DPWES in the Pohick Watershed.

Lastly, Mr. Vellucci reminded everyone to submit their Elly Doyle Award nominations and to see Judy Pedersen if they need assistance.

- Mr. Alcorn thanked staff for the Tysons tour. He stated that it's amazing how much he doesn't know and how much he has forgotten over the last few years. Three Planning Commissioners participated in the tour. This is a good thing and may provide some opportunities to push some things that way as well.

He reminded everyone that he is also chairing the Community Council on Land Use Engagement, which will present its final report to the Board of Supervisors on June 20. He encouraged staff to take a look at it once it has gone to the Supervisors. There are parts that may be applicable to the Park Authority.

- Mr. Gorham attended the Legacy Circle reception put on by the Foundation. It was a great event. He thanked everyone that participated. He stated that he is always impressed with the Eakin family. Eakin Park was his family park, his community park when he was growing up. When he became a board member Gerry Hyland asked him to site things that were his childhood memories, which certainly included Eakin Park, Lake Accotink Park, Burke Lake Park, and others. If it were not for the Eakins, those parks may not exist. The Eakins donated the land that made it a reason for there to be a park. They started what we have today and why we are here. The Eakins are also donating a pavilion that will be built in the next couple of months. With that he encouraged everyone to try to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony for the pavilion at Eakin Park. He would appreciate everyone showing up to show appreciation for what the Eakin family did and continues to do for more than 60 years.
- Mr. Thompson thanked staff for the National Trails Day event. It reminds him how amazing it is to see the places where he grew up change as all those trails going through Pohick have. He used to walk through the woods across trees and creeks now there are real bridges and real trails.

He stated that he really appreciated the Tysons tour and thanked those responsible for putting it together.

Mr. Thompson also thanked Todd Brown for dealing with some issues on park property.

Although Ed Batten is no longer on the board, Mr. Thompson reminded the board that the Foundation is still looking to increase the size of its board and if the Park Board members are aware of anyone that would be a candidate for the Foundation or if anyone would like to donate funds to the Foundation they should contact Bobbi Longworth.

At the June 13 Visit Fairfax board meeting potential partnerships were discussed. Visit Fairfax has undergone a birding tourism project wherein it is promoting birding across the country and is getting positive results from people who are going into our park facilities. There are six parks noted on the Visit Fairfax website, Huntley Meadows being the first one, Mason Neck, Dyke Marsh, Riverbend Park, Great Falls National Park, and Pohick Bay Regional Park. It has been working with different media outlets promoting Fairfax County as a birding hot spot.

It occurred to Mr. Thompson that it might be worthwhile for Parks' staff to work with Visit Fairfax to encourage tourism. Judy Pedersen commented that Visit Fairfax came to Parks earlier in the year and made a presentation to the Communicators Group and they come maybe twice a year. Parks sends materials to Visit Fairfax quite often.

Mr. Thompson added that there may be some smart ways to get synergy with things Parks is doing in particular because tourism is becoming more of a pursuit in the county. There may be some smart ways to create some synergy in that process and also would be able to work around some of the marketing issues Parks has with the things the county doesn't allow Parks to do or to have access to. Visit Fairfax is leveraging some cool technology that Virginia Tourism is using and would enable them to partner in. Some of that technology could be beneficial with some of the promotion Parks is doing.

- Ms. Cortina reported that National Trails Day was on June 3. She thanked Judy Pedersen and GIS staff for putting that together. State Senator Morrison was there as well as Mr. Thompson's former coach. Supervisor Herrity, Ms. Godbold, and several dignitaries were also there. She recalled working on this trail when it was proposed 15 years ago when she worked on the Burke Centre and VRE garage task force and they were trying to expand the scope of the garage which included how to get to the garage and how to incorporate alternative transportation into public transportation including these trails. She commented that it was great to see this come to fruition. One of the good things about this was that they had a great response from the community.

Ms. Cortina had been approached by some folks from the community at the Farmers Market that told her how wonderful Mike McCaffrey and the Hidden Pond group have been and the difference they have made to their family life and to their children who are now in college.

Another person from one of the elementary school PTAs expressed how wonderful it was that her three children had worked at Lake Accotink as interns. So, two families, both of which their children had gone through the Park system and their characters were changed by it in a positive way. In return, they both said they would like to be stewards of that trail. Ms. Cortina added that she thinks there is a volunteer opportunity online now to become a trail monitor. These families are interested in getting a PTA group together to take care of the trail.

Ms. Cortina thanked Sara Baldwin, Aimee Vosper, Cindy Messinger, and Lizzie Ehrreich who have been working with the Friends groups. They have been very responsive and Parks has come a long way in a couple of years and has gotten a lot of momentum. The only thing the Friends were really sticklers about was that the policy was all oriented from the Park Authority's perspective. Parks will look at it again.

The urban parks tour on Saturday, June 10, was fantastic. She commented that the benefit of having the Planning Commissioners there was really great and made her realize that the Planning Commissioners need to have an update on the Needs Assessment. They are making decisions that Parks lives with and they don't have the benefit of knowing the information the Park Board has about the community and its needs. They were very interested in being briefed on that.

The 275th Anniversary celebration will be held on Saturday, June 17, and she is looking forward to it.

Ms. Cortina thanked the Park Authority Board and staff. She is sure she would not have been nominated to be a Lady Fairfax if it were not for the Park Authority and said that it is an honor to serve. It has been an amazing, joyful appointment. Staff is amazing and she thanked everyone for everything they contributed back to her.

- Ms. Godbold echoed everyone's comments about the Legacy Circle reception and the Tysons tour.

She thanked Parks for holding a public meeting on Thursday, June 8, on the Ellanor C. Lawrence Park master plan update. It was a very well attended meeting with a number of good comments. There are still some TBDs that need to be worked out which has a lot to do with the I-66 development.

There are several I-66 meetings, one to be held on Thursday, June 15. Ms. Godbold attended the one held on Monday, June 12, where the Park Authority, VDOT, and others were there. What was most gratifying about the public comment was that most of the comments were about the need for more trails and better bike access; all the things Parks is trying to do.

Ms. Godbold thanked Liz Cronauer, Wayne Brissey, and others that worked to clear a huge blockage on a trail in the Oakton area. The best was their communication, which she watched going back and forth. She is very appreciative.

About a week ago a colleague of Ms. Godbold's alerted her to a problem at Hunter House at Nottoway Park. The stairs to the house were in disrepair and as the site is a precinct polling place and with the primary elections coming up someone could get hurt. She thanked Sara Baldwin and everybody for the quick repair.

- Dr. Carter complimented Park Authority staff for all of its good work presenting people like her with the opportunity to go on tour as the board had on June 10 to see all the wonderful parks and centers all in one day that she hasn't had the chance to see. It was quite impressive.

She complimented Bobbi Longworth for the work she does.

Dr. Carter noted that there a few projects moving forward in the Lee District which include Trailside Park and some funding for the Lee District carousel. She approved monopole funding for Lee District Park – Our Special Harbor operations.

On Sunday, June 11, Lee District had a special celebration for its volunteers. Dr. Carter stated that she was impressed the entire weekend. She learned that there were 8,100 volunteer hours expended for the year and doesn't even count the Friends of Huntley Meadows. There are 107 active volunteers doing good work there and she was able to address them, give them kudos, and let them know of Parks appreciation for their good work. There were three outstanding volunteers who were awarded special recognition as well.

- Mr. Quincy repeated what had been said about the Tysons trip and it was outstanding. He thanked Dave Bowden, Sara Baldwin, and Aimee Vosper, but most especially Andi Dorlester who did an outstanding job. Like Mr. Alcorn, he thought he pretty much knew all of Tysons, but he did not. Having some of the Planning Commissioners participate was a big plus.

The Friends group meeting which he attended got the same impression the board heard from others. In addition, he had conversations with some of the attendees and it was very clear that further outreach is needed. He and Sara Baldwin and Aimee Vosper talked about that. There is some concern that Parks may be calling the shots especially over the teams. While Parks knows that is not the case, it needs to communicate that Parks knows they are not working for the Park Authority; they are volunteers. Overall, it was a very good meeting.

Mr. Quincy extended congratulations to Ms. Cortina and Mr. Thompson, Lady and Lord Fairfax. He added that he would show them more respect.

Mr. Quincy also attended the I-66 meeting with Ms. Godbold. He added that Parks needs to stay on top of this project where it concerns our parks. He likes to say what you see is clear and concise, but it isn't. Parks in certain areas like the Sully District are vulnerable, as well as one in the Providence District.

- Ms. Cortina wanted Parks to take a moment to acknowledge the passing of Norma Hoffman. She was a very tiny person in stature and huge in her spirit and what she accomplished, especially for the Park Authority. She is the person who we considered saved Huntley Meadows and Parks owes her a huge debt of gratitude. She exhibited perseverance and persistence while always being polite and friendly. She was incredibly smart and shrewd, but

never rude. She was a model for all of our volunteers and all of our park champions. Ms. Cortina closed by saying thank you momma Hoffman.

Dr. Carter added that it was so appropriate that the volunteer awards program took place in the facility named for Ms. Hoffman on the day of her passing. During that event everyone had a moment of silence for her and her family.

- Mr. Bouie commented that the board has been receiving a lot of emails regarding a cell tower application by Milestone Communications at Fred Crabtree Park. This is going through the process and staff is talking with concerned citizens. This is a park that he knows like the back of his hand. He stated that he will not be disingenuous in what his thought process is. All he could tell the board is that the event that happened in the morning at Simpson Park in Alexandria, if it had happened at Fred Crabtree Park, would have been a catastrophe because you cannot get a cell phone signal in that park.

He will let staff do everything they need to do and bring it to the board, but he was a tournament director at a Little League game two years ago where a kid was hit in the head with a line drive and was knocked out and attendees could not call 9-1-1 from the park. A lot of times there are discussions about cell towers, but this is a safety issue, not a technology issue. If there is someone on the trail or in the park that gets hurts because we won't do it, it's on us.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on June 28, 2017

Kirk W. Kincannon, Executive Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant