



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County

## FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL MINUTES

December 16, 2015

### 2015 Council Members

#### Magisterial Representatives:

**Marcia M. Pape Daniels**  
Secretary  
Braddock District

**Gregory Beckwith**  
Dranesville District

**Harold Leff,**  
Vice Chairman  
Hunter Mill District

**Lisa Mickey**  
Lee District

**Barbara R. Lowrey**  
Mason District

**Jonathan Willmott**  
Mount Vernon District

**Stephen McLaughlin,**  
Chairman  
Providence District

**Michael Thompson, Jr.**  
Springfield District

**David L. Lacey**  
Sully District

**Elmer Arias**  
Member-At-Large

**Clement Chan**  
Diversity-At-Large

#### Town Representatives:

**Jeffrey E. Stein**  
Town of Clifton

**Barbara Glakas**  
Town of Herndon

**Sam Althoff**  
Town of Vienna

#### Sports-Specific Representatives:

**Jerry Klemm**  
Baseball Council

**Suzy Willemssen**  
Fast Pitch Softball Council

**Carl A. S. Coan, III**  
Adult Softball Council

**Gordon Austin**  
Basketball Council

**Mark Meana,**  
Football Council

**Mary Ann Wagner**  
Lacrosse Council

**Lula Bauer**  
Soccer Council

**Chuck Pruitt**  
Volleyball Council

**Jenni Cantwell**  
Women's Sports

#### Non-Voting Members:

**Michael Thompson**  
Park Authority

**Todd Johnson**  
Park Authority

**Megan McLaughlin**  
School Board

**William Curran**  
Fairfax County Public Schools

#### Executive Agency:

**Christopher A. Leonard**  
Director  
Neighborhood and Community Services

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District  
Rachel Huhn, Braddock District Alternate  
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District  
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District  
James Elder, Hunter Mill District Alternate  
Karin Stamper, Lee District Alternate  
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District  
Jonathan Willmott, Mount Vernon District  
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District  
Clarke Gray, Providence District Alternate  
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District  
David Lacey, Sully District  
Ralph Wills, Sully District Alternate  
Clement Chan, Diversity-At-Large  
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna  
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council  
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council  
Mark Meana, Football Council  
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council  
Rebecca Frece, Slow Pitch Softball Council Alternate  
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council  
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council Alternate  
Rob Baily, Volleyball Council Alternate  
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

### COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Michael Thompson Jr., Fairfax County Park Authority  
Todd Johnson, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Bill Curran, Fairfax County School Board  
Megan McLaughlin, Fairfax County School Board  
Sarah Allen, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Karen Avvisato, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Mark Martino, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Jason Shelton, Neighborhood and Community Services

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Lisa Mickey, Lee District  
Elmer Arias, Member-At-Large  
Jeffrey E. Stein, Town of Clifton  
Barbara Glakas, Town of Herndon  
Dillon Lee, Basketball Council  
Carl Coan, Slow Pitch Softball Council  
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council

### GUESTS:

Eric Kulczycky, Visit Fairfax

Fairfax County Athletic Council  
12011 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
703 324-5501



## **MEETING OPENING**

Mr. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

## **PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL**

Mr. Hahne gave a presentation regarding the Park Authority Needs Assessment. He explained that he and Mr. Lacey had met with FCPA as well as sports representatives and organizations to get feedback.

Mr. Hahne noted that FCPA had conducted meetings in a box and had shared survey results with the Council in October showing that sports fields were a low priority. He also explained that data from NCS showed sports were over-allocated with regard to field space by 145 to 430 percent.

Concerns with the current Needs Assessment process are the formula, that the 2004 Needs Assessment was not used, variables, and survey issues. For the formula piece, the formula used in the study was an allocation formula based on existing resources. Mr. Hahne indicated that the formula should be based on need, not on existing resources. From the 2004 Needs Assessment, the results indicated a need for 95 additional rectangles, 9 additional 90' diamonds, and 101,741 sq. ft. of gym space. Mr. Hahne stated that we should work down from the 2004 needs by accounting for new fields and artificial turf conversions. Some of the variables Mr. Hahne cited are artificial turf vs. grass (12 to 20 percent increase in usage), bottleneck days of the week as well as bottleneck weeks in the calendar, lower level/rarely used fields, unused or rarely used weeks which still count toward total permitted use (March, August), higher usage by travel sports, high school field closures after permits are sent, tournament complex needs, and roster sizes. Different levels of fields should be identified, since a stadium field is not the same as a small elementary school field

In response to a question about gym usage, Mr. Johnson responded that gym space is not evaluated because the gyms are located in schools. He added that there are 22 new FCPA fields that did not exist in 2004.

Mr. Hahne stated that magisterial representatives need to be at the two Needs Assessment Committee meetings in January. Ms. Avvisato said she will send the complete field inventory to both magisterial and sports representatives. Sports groups are asked to provide information on field quality.

## **CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

N/A

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

The November 18, 2015 minutes were approved.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. McLaughlin thanked Eric Kulczycky from Visit Fairfax for providing food and drinks for the meeting.

Mr. Lacey was recognized and thanked for his years of service to the sports community and was presented with a plaque.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

N/A

## **SPORT SPECIFIC UPDATES**

### Football

Mr. Meana stated that the movie "Concussion" will be released on December 25. The NFL and USA Football welcome attention to the issue. Mr. Meana emphasized that education regarding concussions is key.

### Softball

Ms. Frece announced that Fairfax Adult Softball will be running a bowling benefit. The cost is \$200 for five players and there are still three lanes available. She indicated that the event is looking for sponsors, as well.

### Soccer

Ms. Bauer explained that the United States Soccer Federation has mandated, beginning this coming spring, that U11 and under soccer players may not practice headers. U13 and under may practice headers, but not use them in a game. U15-18 may both practice headers and use them in games. Ms. Bauer also expressed concern about the lights being left on at fields. She inquired if the user groups could be given access to disable the lights when needed. Mr. Martino explained that she should contact the NCS person on call to have the lights turned off. NCS and FCPS are also working on a way to give user groups read-only access for lights to cut down on the lights being left on when the field is not being used by permitted users.

## **MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM GOVERNING BODIES**

### Fairfax County Public Schools

Ms. McLaughlin introduced herself and said she will again be the School Board member on the Council. Ms. McLaughlin gave a brief overview of the upcoming FY17 School budget. She explained there is a \$100 million gap and Superintendent Garza put together a task force to look at the issue. One proposal included a \$200 per sport fee for high school sports, which is concerning. Another proposal is to eliminate all Assistant Director of Student Activities positions. Mr. Hahne stated that cutting Assistant DSA positions would have a huge impact.

On January 7, Ms. Garza will present her proposed budget to the School Board. Ms. McLaughlin encouraged the Council to attend a forum on January 25 to present its views. The School Board will vote on the budget on February 4, and it will then go to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Thompson stated that he hosted a meeting of Booster presidents, who identified their top concerns: A sport participation fee; elimination of one varsity boys' and one varsity girls' sport; elimination of freshman sports; elimination of Assistant DSAs; loss of athletic trainers.

Mr. Curran explained that 0.8% of the entire School budget is dedicated to the Activities Office. He added that DSAs should have input into decisions affecting any cuts.

Mr. Curran also stated that Westfield High School won the state football championship. Winter sports are now underway. Mr. Curran added that Ken Tilly, the Executive Director of the Virginia High School League, is retiring.

Fairfax County Park Authority

Mr. Johnson stated that two turf projects are in design, one new synthetic turf field at Pine Ridge Park and a turf replacement at Mason District Park. The McNaughton fields are also undergoing renovation this spring. Mr. Johnson explained that the FY17 bond draft package has been reduced to \$107 million but must be cut to \$87 million. Although it is still early in the process, the bond will include things such as improvements to irrigation, turfing grass fields, etc.

Neighborhood and Community Services

Ms. Avvisato stated that NCS is in the process of getting all organizations certified as Certified Athletic Organizations for spring 2016. Ms. Avvisato also reminded the Council that some high schools will be using park fields until 5:30 p.m. this spring due to the change in school bell schedules.

**NEW BUSINESS**

N/A

**OLD BUSINESS**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marcia M. Pape Daniels', written in a cursive style.

Marcia M. Pape Daniels  
Secretary