



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

November 18, 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
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District
James Elder, Hunter Mill District Alternate
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
Jonathan Willmott, Mount Vernon District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
David Lacey, Sully District
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large Alternate
Barbara Glakas, Town of Herndon
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Mark Meana, Football Council
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council Alternate
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Michael Thompson Jr., Fairfax County Park Authority
Todd Johnson, Fairfax County Park Authority
Sarah Allen, Neighborhood and Community Services
Karen Avvisato, Neighborhood and Community Services
Mark Martino, Neighborhood and Community Services

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Barbara R. Lowrey, Mason District
Clement Chan, Diversity-At-Large
Elmer Arias, Member-At-Large
Jeffrey E. Stein, Town of Clifton
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Dillon Lee, Basketball Council
Carl Coan, Slow Pitch Softball Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council

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

N/A

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

N/A

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The October 21, 2015 minutes were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

N/A

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Synthetic Turf Field Committee

Mr. McLaughlin updated the Council on the Synthetic Turf Field Mini Grant Program. The needed lead time for any potential new turf field means we will be targeting the summer of 2017 for installation. The extended timeline will also allow a more deliberative process. Proposals will be accepted in early 2016. Mr. Thompson asked whether all of the unused money would be available if sufficient applications were received. Mr. Martino responded that it would, although as previously discussed, the Council may choose to direct more funding toward the replacement program in the future. The grant amount per applicant will not change.

Gym Policy Committee

Mr. Lacey reported that the committee has nearly completed its review of the issues. They are awaiting review by the county attorney. The draft policy then will be put out for 30 days for public comment.

SPORT SPECIFIC UPDATES

Soccer

Ms. Moxie reported that the soccer season is almost completed. She gave special thanks to Arthur Harris for solving unusual problems on weekends.

Softball

Ms. Willemssen commented that Mr. Harris has also been very helpful to them. The college showcase tournament at Wakefield Park went well and the help from NCS staff was appreciated.

Baseball

Mr. Hahne stated that he looks forward to upgrading their fields to synthetic turf. He also asked to clarify for the record that when the \$5.50 fee was discussed 10 or 11 years ago, the baseball community determined that with the numbers they had, it would take too long to fund even one field and that the money was better spent improving the level of maintenance on all baseball fields.

Volleyball

Mr. Pruitt reported that on Saturday, the sand volleyball court at Burke Lake Park was named for Dave Lacey. The club season is starting up and the high school season is just ending. He noted that Northern Virginia is dominating the state in volleyball, with two Loudoun teams competing for the 5A championship and two Fairfax teams in the 6A finals.

Football

Mr. Meana stated that youth football finished last weekend and clubs are in bowl play. He was pleased to note that there were no catastrophic injuries. He also reported that the U.S. Olympic Committee has added USA Football as a recognized sports organization for all forms of American football--tackle, flag, and seven-on-seven. Over 70 countries play American football. Because of the interest, it could be included in the Olympics as early as 2020.

MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM GOVERNING BODIES

Fairfax County Public Schools

Ms. Avvisato spoke with Ms. McLaughlin, who expressed concern about the FCPS Budget Task Force proposal for a \$200 fee per sport. Ms. McLaughlin will be at the Council's December meeting.

Fairfax County Park Authority

Mr. Johnson reported that the fields at South County Middle School should be handed over to NCS for scheduling in early December. A project team has put together for the bond-funded turf field at Pine Ridge and they are working on the design.

Mr. Thompson recognized the large group in attendance at Burke Lake Park to honor Mr. Lacey's 37 years with the adult volleyball council, his commitment, and the big impact he has had on the volleyball community.

Ms. Avvisato reported that Mr. Lacey is designated as the Athletic Council liaison to the Park Authority for the Needs Assessment. He will be handing this responsibility off to Mr. Hahne. The liaison's role is to convey the needs of the athletic community. They met tonight and will have one or two additional meetings. Mr. Hahne noted that the allocation policy formula is based on the fixed resources that we currently have; he feels there should be a different formula for the Needs Assessment study. He will reach out to the specific sports for input on roster size, frequency and length of practice, frequency and length of events, and whether there is a distinction between house and travel needs.

Mr. Johnson stated that the Needs Assessment has not yet been discussed with the Park Board, so they will not be reporting back to the Athletic Council until after that happens. Mr. Thompson added that there should also be a conversation between Park Authority staff and the Athletic Council regarding the bond proposal.

Neighborhood and Community Services

Ms. Avvisato reminded members that field permit applications are due December 1. December 1 is also when they begin certifying groups for the spring season under the new policy, which requires certification of background checks, proof of insurance with FCPS and the county named as co-insured, and proof of 501(c) (3) status to be considered a nonprofit. Ms. Cantwell is the central point of contact to help groups work through the process. NCS staff has voiced some concern about adding a fourth season, due to overrun of spring sports going into the summer season and how to determine whether or not to charge groups for both seasons.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Glakas informed the Council that the Town of Herndon passed a resolution and sent a letter to Board of Supervisors Chair Bulova requesting consideration in the 2016 Park Bond for \$2 million in funding to establish a capital project for the 15-acre field site behind Herndon Middle School. This space would accommodate at least one large rectangular field, one 90-foot baseball field, two 60-foot youth baseball/softball fields, as well as parking and general improvements. It is lighted and has an irrigation system in place. She cited additional need for athletic space with the development of the Silver Line and growth in the western part of the county. Ms. Glakas made a motion that the Athletic Council indicate its support for the Town of Herndon's request that the county consider a capital project of \$2 million to provide mass for planning and redevelopment of the Herndon Middle School sports field area. The motion was seconded.

During discussion, Mr. Hahne asked for more information, specifically whether any of the fields would be turfed and if fences would be installed. Concern was expressed over highlighting one specific project as worthy of consideration. Mr. Thompson noted that there is already approximately \$225 million worth of projects on the list for consideration in the \$85 million Park bond. He suggested the discussion might be more appropriate in the broader context of putting together a package after the Park Authority staff briefs the Council. Ms. Avvisato noted that she will be attending a meeting next week with the Mayor of Herndon, Supervisor Foust, and the FCPS. They will be replacing the two diamond field lights December 1. Mr. Elder asked who is currently responsible for doing the allocation of the space. Ms. Avvisato responded that NCS currently schedules the fields.

Mr. McLaughlin commented that, generally, the Athletic Council tries to avoid making a motion and voting on it at the same meeting. There are still numerous questions and additional information is needed. Ms. Avvisato said she will forward specific plans following next week's meeting.

Mr. Thompson moved that Ms. Glakas' motion be tabled until a presentation by the Park Authority regarding the bond program. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

N/A

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcia M. Pape Daniels". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Marcia M. Pape Daniels
Secretary