

**Fairfax County Park Authority  
Board Meeting  
March 26, 2014**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Room 941, Fairfax, Virginia.

**Board Members:**

William G. Bouie, Chairman  
Ken Quincy, Vice Chair  
Kala Leggett Quintana, Secretary  
Frank J. Vajda, Treasurer  
Edward R. Batten, Sr.  
Mary Cortina  
Linwood Gorham  
Faisal Khan\*  
Harold L. Strickland  
Richard (Rip) C. Sullivan, Jr.  
Michael Thompson, Jr.  
Anthony J. Vellucci

**Staff Present:**

Kirk Kincannon, Director  
Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/CFO  
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO  
Barbara Gorski, Administrative Assistant  
Judy Pedersen, PIO  
Barbara Nugent  
Cindy Walsh  
David Bowden  
Todd Johnson  
Debbie Babcock-Daley  
Brian Williams

Absent\*

Guests: Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive  
Carey Needham, Director, Capital Facilities  
Luis Pitarque, Capital Facilities  
Tom Williamson, Capital Facilities  
Alan Weiss, County Attorney

**AGENDA CHANGES**

Mr. Bouie announced that the Closed Session would take place following Board Matters.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No speakers were present.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM**

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes, March 12, 2014, Park Authority Board Meeting  
Mr. Strickland made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2014, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously by all members present. Mr. Khan was absent.

**APPROVED AND SIGNED APRIL 9, 2014**

**ACTION ITEMS****A-1** Scope Approval – Great Falls Grange park Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements (Dranesville District)

Ms. Quintana made a motion to approve the project scope to construct Americans with Disabilities Act Improvements at Great Falls Grange Park; seconded by Mr. Sullivan. The motion carried unanimously by all members present. Mr. Khan was absent.

**INFORMATION ITEMS****I-1** FY 2014 – FY 2018 Strategic Plan and FY 2014 Implementation Plan, Mid-Year Update  
No action was necessary.**I-2** Draft Brookfield Park Master Plan Amendment  
No action was necessary.**CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS:**

- Mr. Bouie commented that the county lost one of its great citizens and one of its greatest Park supporters, Ben Peck. He was known around the Hunter Mill, Sully, and Centreville parks and was one of the driving forces of the founding partners at Frying Pan Park. He was a regular visitor and one of the original members of the Friends Group there. He and his wife, Margaret, attended just about every event. Ben will surely be missed. He participated and gave input right up to the very end.

Services for Ben Peck will take place on Thursday. Mr. Bouie suggested that at some point in time, when things have settled down it may be appropriate to look at some of the awards for volunteer service that Parks give some consideration to a Peck award.

Mr. Bouie thanked the Peck family for everything they have done and for what they represent to Parks.

- The Baron Cameron Park Master Plan Public Information meeting will be held on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m. at Buzz Aldrin Elementary School. This meeting will be held in conjunction with conversations around dog parks. A number of people will be motivated to come out to speak particularly around the dogs.

Mr. Bouie thanked Jay Rauschenbach, Dave Bowden, and Sandy Stallman for doing a tremendous job over the past year in putting together two great concept plans that will serve that part of the county. It will be emphasized that Parks is doing this in consideration of a district park, not a city park, nor a neighborhood park. The park will be built to meet the needs of the entire community as defined by the master plan.

**DIRECTOR'S MATTERS:**

- Mr. Kincannon also spoke about the loss of Ben Peck and his contributions to the Park Authority as well as his contribution to Frying Pan Farm Park.
- Chantilly Youth Association is partnering with the Fairfax County Park Authority by underwriting improvements to the Sully Highlands Field Complex. A generous donation of \$120,000 was presented on Tuesday, March 18, to the Fairfax County Park Foundation. This contribution will fund batting cages, a pitchers warm-up area, picnic tables with concrete pads, and a playground. Ralph Wills, President, CYA Board of Directors said, "This is a unique partnership that we're real proud of. We are ecstatic about this signature facility for FCPA and for all in the area. CYA wants to be part of the solution".

This is a huge commitment from this organization that has made significant contributions in the past. They are real partners.

- Mr. Kincannon met with Mr. Strickland in the Sully area with members of SYA and CYA to talk about the future renovations. Mr. Kincannon thanked Mr. Strickland for the invitation to the meeting.

Mr. Strickland added that CYA's contribution was to the Foundation and it has also allocated another \$180,000 to work with the developer to put a restroom in the park. They have stepped in with \$300,000.

- Mr. Kincannon reported that the Leadership Team has been discussing the total cost of facility operation. This is an area that will be looked at in greater detail over the next several months—the actual cost of operating our facilities; how that is factored into long-range budget planning including our capital improvement program, working with the Board, to make sure adequate information is provided in order to plan and create a long-term Park Authority sustainability platform. This is something that will come to the Board in the future. He will work with the Chairman to bring this forward. There are a number of organizations across the country that are facing similar situations. Parks will work with FMD to look at how it measures and how it looks at the system. Parks will look at the numbers with the budget folks across the street so it can represent itself and its needs in this situation.

As the Board is aware, on March 4 the Board of Supervisors talked about a two cent tax increase. They directed the County Executive to come back with \$15M-\$20M in reductions relative to the budget proposal for FY 2015. Mr. Kincannon had provided this information to the Board via the internet and had conversations with many of them. The county has the lists that had been provided previously. Mr. Kincannon provided the list put together in September 2012. This is not something he ordinarily would do, but would rather have full discussion with staff and the Board.

The prospective cuts from September 2012 in relation to the 2014 budget were the lakefront parks, Riverbend Park, the five staff at the lakefront parks, three staff at Riverbend Park,

port-a-lettes at athletic fields, and funding at Martin Luther King pool. The County Executive and DMB wanted to go with the lakefront parks recommendation and Riverbend Park recommendation. The County Executive's memo, which he had forwarded to the Board on March 18, talks about those recommendations.

Parks will work with the Friends Groups if needed. Mr. Kincannon talked with Tim Hackman relating to Riverbend and the Federation of Friends trying to get them prepared for a discussion that may need to occur. Parks will learn more on April 1 when the Board of Supervisors holds its next Budget Workshop regarding the proposed reductions.

During the Board of Supervisors meeting on March 25, Supervisors Herrity and Cook provided some alternative thoughts for the budget reductions. The County Executive was asked to provide responses to those recommendations.

As Parks goes through the exercise it is being very cautious. Mr. Kincannon is optimistic regarding cuts and any actions by the Board of Supervisors' final budget approval. More should be available by the first of April.

In addition to providing the information to the Board, Mr. Kincannon met with the affected staff. He had a discussion with this awesome Parks team that is potentially affected. They handled it like consummate professionals. They know this is an exercise that they have been through many times. The Park Authority has faced some tough situations and continues to do so relative to the budget and the outlook. He commended the incredible staff Parks has and thanked the Board for the opportunity to have that discussion, for bringing him here. It was not an easy discussion because it affected things that are near and dear to his heart from the time he was with the Park Authority previously. He and staff had a good discussion; they had a good dialogue. Staff left feeling Parks had their backs, that the Board had their backs; that Parks would take the message forward if it needed to relative to the next steps. They talked about working with and understanding the Federation of Friends, the Foundation, and the Board's support relative to that. They left feeling very confident again that the Board had their backs in supporting the programs, the activities, and the public service that they provide to the community.

In sharing that information with the Board, Mr. Kincannon commented that the Board has incredible staff that took it as consummate professionals. They were very high-road, very positive. One could see the impact, but could also see that they have faith in the system that has led them thus far to an incredible career and opportunity to work with the community.

Mr. Kincannon had recent discussions with some staff and Friends. He spoke with Mr. Vellucci relating to Lake Accotink Park and the information Mr. Kincannon provided the Board on the budget.

Mr. Kincannon spoke with Mr. Hackman with regard to Riverbend Park. They talked about making sure they received the correct information.

Mr. Kincannon had a conversation with Mr. Bouie about the advocacy tools that Parks could put together that would support the Board's efforts. Park staff cannot advocate but will provide the necessary facts. This is where the Board comes into play. Mr. Kincannon asked the Board members to make sure that they reach out to their Supervisors to ensure that their feelings are made known about the situation.

The key date of April 1 is the Board of Supervisors' Budget Committee Workshop. Following that meeting a communication will be sent out to the Board and staff. Mr. Kincannon will follow that up with a conversation with Mr. Bouie relative to the information, in particular what the next steps are for Parks.

Mr. Kincannon wants to ensure that Parks does not look into the face of the gift that is being given to it with regard to the budget that is already on the table for FY 2015. There are some improvements coming Parks' way, and hope that those things stay in the budget—\$1.9M for ADA improvements; support for Parks' IT program; additional funding for maintenance for ball fields; and, hopefully the passage of the increase in fee structure of athletic fees from Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) for athletic field renovations. These are all very important things and Parks needs to recognize that it has some staff that is looking to the Board for support in this budget situation.

Mr. Kincannon reminded everyone that the Board of Supervisors' Budget Public Hearings are taking place on April 8, 9, and 10. Mr. Bouie has signed up for April 10. If anyone else would like to provide comments, please contact Barbara Gorski to set up some times. Bruce McLeod will speak on behalf of the Foundation.

#### **BOARD MATTERS:**

- Mr. Strickland invited everyone to the public information meeting regarding the Sully Woodlands Conceptual Development Plan (CDP) on April 2 at 7 p.m. at Bull Run Elementary School. He encouraged everyone to come out to experience full community support for Parks.

Mr. Strickland commented that he appreciated Mr. Kincannon attending the meeting with members of SYA, CYA, and the Sully District Athletic Council member, David Lacey. He noted that he usually meets with the sports groups before the spring season begins. He had the opportunity to talk with these folks along with the Planning Commissioner, John Litzenberger, who was there to look for places to get proffers to help improve parks; not just in the Sully District, but throughout the park system. Athletics was not the only topic of conversation. SYA and CYA have about 30,000 registered in their programs, about 50,000 parents, and some grandparents, they probably represent about 50,000-60,000 people in the Sully District. If Parks can keep these folks happy, Mr. Strickland always felt that was a good thing.

He thanked Dave Bowden, Todd Johnson, Sandy Stallman, and Pat Rosend for being there to make presentations. Mr. Strickland is constantly amazed how well staff relates to the

citizens. They understood what these citizens really wanted to hear and how they could be part of the solution of what Parks is trying to do. It was a great meeting. He extended his gratitude.

- Mr. Sullivan thanked the Board members that participated in the Dranesville tour. He also thanked staff for giving up their Saturday morning. He hopes they had half the fun he did; he enjoyed it a lot. It was a terrific morning. He hoped everyone was impressed with all the exciting things going on in that part of Dranesville. They had the opportunity to visit Spring Hill, McLean Central Park, Salona, and of course, Langley Fork Park. He indicated that if anyone had any questions, to please contact him. They can have a discussion off-line.

Mr. Sullivan reminded the Board that he had pointed out during the tour that it was only seeing a piece of Dranesville. It did not see Great Falls or Herndon or Riverbend Park in Great Falls.

He suspected that the word had not gotten out yet about the Riverbend situation. He was told that Supervisor Foust had received some calls about it, but he has not. He promises there will be some advocacy available from Dranesville for Riverbend Park. Riverbend is thought to be another jewel in the system.

He thanked Ms. Quintana who visited Riverbend Park this past weekend. She noticed some maintenance issues that need to be addressed. Be that as it may, there is no place like Riverbend on the planet. He added that there will be some push back, Dranesville has staff's backs.

- Mr. Vellucci thanked Mr. Sullivan and staff for the tour of Dranesville. He had heard a lot about Dranesville.

Staff erected a donation box at Lake Accotink Park on March 24 that was purchased by the Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP). It is hoping it will be as successful as the one at Huntley Meadow Park.

June 1 is the Cardboard Boat Regatta at Lake Accotink Park. It is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the cardboard boat race. It was the original idea of Kirt Chase and Parks' esteemed director, so it is only appropriate that Mr. Kincannon should be there to break a bottle of champagne at the beginning of the race. Mr. Kincannon agreed, as long as he doesn't have to get into one of the boats.

Mr. Vellucci thanked Mr. Batten for attending the last FLAP meeting. The Next FLAP meeting will be held on April 17. Mr. Kincannon has agreed to address FLAP.

Mr. Vellucci indicated that he would be unable to attend the Baron Cameron master planning meeting on March 27; however, he will be meeting with Braddock Dogs.

- Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Sullivan and staff for the Dranesville tour. He appreciates the time and planning that went into the tour.

Mr. Thompson thanked Ms. Messinger for dealing with some discussions related to ParkTakes and providing some information. It helped to get more complete information.

Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Kincannon for attending the Athletic Council meetings. He has attended both Athletic Council meetings since becoming director. Because of his attendance record, Mr. Kincannon will be listed as an official member of the Athletic Council.

NCS is paying for a fence to be constructed at Patriot Park. It will be placed at the end of the rectangular field that is closest to the Mott Center. NCS agreed to put up a short fence to prevent balls and the children that chase those balls from running into the road. It was a safety issue that needed to be addressed; it is a project that has been in the works for nearly three years.

There appears to be some growing concern from some of the sports groups about the \$5.50 fee being raised to \$8. While Mr. Thompson doesn't believe it will have a big impact, some of the groups are being caught off-guard that the Task Force Report even existed. Some of their Athletic Council (AC) members and others did not get the word. Mr. Thompson has had discussions with them. He told the AC that in his perfect world he doesn't think the fee should exist at all. He can barely wait for the maintenance to be paid for; however, the Task Force which had Park Authority representation, had worked for over a year and came to the conclusion that everyone bought into. It is a conclusion that helps reach a point that is important to replacement. Mike doesn't believe that the Park Authority will be hearing from those folks, but they may contact their Supervisors. There are three or four groups that are trying to engage sport councils, who have chosen not to be involved. In the end, he believes there is limited impact, but there is talk out there. Some were surprised that he was not willing to lead the charge as he had in the past.

- Mr. Vajda commented to Mr. Sullivan and staff that it was an excellent tour of Dranesville, especially the tour of Salona, and the opportunity to revisit Clemyjontri Park. He agrees that Clemy is in need of some attention.
- Ms. Quintana thanked Mr. Sullivan and staff for a great tour of a portion of the Dranesville District.

These tours are absolutely instrumental in helping the Board members to get their feet on the ground in areas that they may or may not go to in their free time. She appreciates gaining a better understanding of the facilities. While standing at Salona it felt different, it helped her gain a better sense of the place. It was very interesting and was great to see what was being done. Staff did a tremendous job, as they always do, of walking them through the changes in the plans and bringing it home. She stated that she appreciates the effort that goes into the tours.

Ms. Quintana made her first visit to Riverbend Park on March 22. It was a great visit and it was good to see so many people out on Saturday. The weather was beautiful and people were everywhere. It was great to see the attendance at this facility and what people were

doing there. Ms. Quintana did pass along a few comments to staff. It is a jewel but there are areas to focus on.

Dave Bowden informed Ms. Quintana that the shade canopy at the Lee Family Recreation Area will be installed by Memorial Day. Families will now have a shaded area to escape from the heat and sun. She thanked the Foundation and Mr. Batten for making this happen.

- Mr. Quincy echoed all the comments about the Dranesville tour and thanked Mr. Sullivan and staff.

On March 20, Mr. Quincy spoke on behalf of the Board at the Planning Commission's Public Hearing on the CIP. He received some insightful questions and some complements from the Commission members. There were two people present—he and Mr. Kincannon. Mr. Quincy was the only speaker. He thanked Mr. Bowden, Ms. Pedersen, and Mr. Kincannon for the speaking points.

There will be a kick-off of the Invasive Management Area (IMA) Take Back the Forest event on Wednesday, April 2, at Nottoway Park. It's the third anniversary of REI as a very valuable partner in this project. He and all the participants are looking forward to good weather and a good kick-off to the season.

- Ms. Cortina thanked Mr. Sullivan for the tour. A wonderful time was had by all and it was good to be back in Dranesville. Clemyjontri Park is a wonderful place. A number of people that use the facility are not actually residents of Fairfax County, but travel from other destinations. Mr. Sullivan added that there are a number of vehicles with Maryland license plates. Ms. Cortina indicated that Parks should be collecting fees from them.

As an At-large member she has been to a lot of parks, but she wanted to talk about something in particular with this budget. Ms. Cortina called attention to a chart pulled from *Great Parks, Great Communities* (page 20 of the countywide section) that shows that the lakefront parks are the most attended facilities in the park system. She understands why things are the way they are, but unfortunately what happens when the General Fund is squeezed over the years and money is taken away from the things that are free to the county residents one ends up with an unintentional consequence. And, that consequence is that the number one thing that people like to do—hiking, taking trails, going to these kinds of parks—are the things that are free that do not get paid for out of the Revenue Fund, but require General Fund support. So when one asks, "Are we supporting the needs of our community?" Well, maybe not. That is what happens; you want to serve the greatest good. The greatest impact for Fairfax County and the park system are these things that are attracting 2.5M visits and are the things that are free.

She indicated that she will attend Supervisor Cook's town hall meeting with Ms. Quintana on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April in the Braddock District, adding that she also has scheduled a private meeting with him. She suggested that as at-large members, she and Ms. Quintana may also want to meet with the Supervisors that represent the districts in which they reside.

To recap, everyone knows the General Fund has been squeezed and overtime you may not pay attention to what kind of a park system you end up with in the long run. Thank goodness for the folks that work on the revenue side because without the money they have been generating Parks would really be in trouble.

- Mr. Batten reported that on March 18 the Park Foundation Board held an outstanding meeting. Every member with the exception of one was in attendance. One of the first things done at that meeting was receiving the donation of \$120,000 from CYA. He commented that he had tried to reach Mr. Strickland to be at that Foundation meeting because he wanted him to get the acknowledgement by the Board.

As a result of the kind of presentation that was made and the caliber of the people that were there representing CYA the Foundation is charging them with membership on the Foundation Board. One or more of them should have been in contact with Mr. Strickland.

Ms. Hedetniemi, former Park Authority Board member and member of the Planning Commission, challenged Foundation Board members to each contribute \$1,000 for the Combo Classic Golf Tournament. She received a number of responses and Mr. Batten is sure she has since received more.

Subsequent to that meeting, Mr. Batten contacted Mr. Fay who still would like to be on the Foundation Board. Mr. Batten has asked Mr. Glasgow to get in touch with Mr. Fay. Mr. Batten expects to see Mr. Fay at the next Foundation Board meeting.

The joint Park Authority Board and Park Foundation Board meeting will be held in June. The Foundation Board is going to come very prepared. A committee has been formed to come up with a strategic plan with several of the key people. Mr. Thormahlen indicated that was something that needed to be done. Mr. Batten expects that joint meeting to be a very fruitful meeting and anticipates that everyone on the Park Board will be in attendance. He asked Ms. Gorski to notify the Park Board of the meeting date.

Another comment made at the Foundation Board meeting was that the Board was interested in not only increasing the number of board members, but doubling its size with the caliber of people currently sitting on the Board, some of which have served two or more terms.

Mr. Batten has agreed to talk about this at every Park Board meeting. Mr. Bouie has indicated that he may have two candidates for the Foundation Board. With that Mr. Batten challenged each Park Board member to have an additional representative if they have one, or to nominate additional members. He asked them to be sure it is the kind of person that is committed to the Park Authority and the kinds of things that enrich and enhance the way of life in this county, and that they are willing to work in addition to whatever jobs and responsibilities business and/or agencywide they have here in this area.

With regard to the Dranesville tour, a number of the Foundation members have not had an opportunity to go on a tour. His hope is that if a tour has to be designed for Foundation

Board members that Parks does that and gets the information before them so they can put it in their calendars. Ms. Ward as well as other members that have been on the tours had some wonderful things to say about the tours.

Ms. Ward also commented on the Federation of Friends meeting and was very impressed with the Federation and the kinds of things they are doing.

Mr. Batten thanked Mr. Vellucci for the way he handled the FLAP meeting the other night. Mr. Vellucci has assumed the leadership of FLAP as chairman. It was a very fruitful meeting with a lot of positive energy. The manager of the park, Julie Tahan, also attended that meeting. Parks has some wonderful people that support its parks separate and apart from its wonderful employees that manage them.

Again Mr. Batten reminded that Board that the Foundation Board wants additional members.

- Mr. Gorham thanked Kristen Sinclair, Owen Williams, Chris Sperling, Cindy Messinger, Sandy Stallman, Liz Cronauer, Phil Hager, and Gayle Hooper, who attended the kick-off meeting for the Master Plan for Old Colchester Park and Preserve and Mason Neck West Park. There were probably 30 people in attendance. At this point he is 100% optimistic that the process is going to be smooth and cordial. He thanked staff for the wonderful presentation.
- Faisal Khan, At-large, was absent.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:19 p.m. Ms. Quintana MOVED the Park Authority Board convene in closed session for 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. Vajda and the motion carried unanimously by all members present. Mr. Khan was absent.

### **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:40 p.m. Ms. Quintana MOVED the Park Authority Board 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. Vajda. The motion carried unanimously by all members present. Mr. Khan was absent.

C-1 North Reston Study Area (Hunter Mill District)

Mr. Bouie made a motion to

1. Appoint the County Executive and his county staff designee(s) to act as the Park Authority’s agents with respect to the future filing of a consolidated rezoning and/or other entitlement action including Park Authority property located in the Hunter Mill District and having the Fairfax County Tax Map #17-1 ((1)), parcel 14D, as further discussed in closed session, and
2. Authorize the Director and, as applicable, staff to execute any and all documents necessary to effectuate such filing, and
3. Direct Park Authority staff to communicate regularly with said agents regarding the aforementioned filing and future plans for the property as they might mutually agree, and to keep the Park Authority Board apprised of such discussions.
4. Any consolidated rezoning will consider the opportunity for future park and recreation development as discussed in Closed Session.

The motion was seconded by Messrs. Thompson and Strickland. The motion carried unanimously by all members present. Mr. Khan was absent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Minutes Approved at Meeting  
on April 9, 2014

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Frank S. Vajda, Treasurer

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Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

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Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant