

**Fairfax County Park Authority  
Board Meeting  
April 23, 2014**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35 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  
Roberta Longworth

Absent\*

**Guests:**

Harrison A. Glasgow, Fairfax County Park Foundation  
Eric Kulczycky, Visit Fairfax  
Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Fairfax County Health Department  
Sharon Arndt, CTG Project Director, Live Healthy Fairfax  
Shakira Coleman, Student, South County High School, Fairfax County Public Schools

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

P-1 Combo Classic Golf Tournament

Messrs. Osborne and Glasgow proved a briefing on the Park Foundation's plans for the Combo Classic Tournament that will be held at Twin Lakes Golf Course on June 6 and 7.

P-2 Smoke Free Parks

Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director, Fairfax County Health Department, and Park Authority Deputy Director Sara Baldwin spoke about the initiative to reduce smoking in county parks.

**APPROVED AND SIGNED MAY 14, 2014**

**ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM**

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes, April 9, 2014, Park Authority Board Meeting  
Mr. Batten made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2014, Park Authority Board meeting.

Mr. Vellucci asked that the following change be made to his Board Matter: Page 6, 9<sup>th</sup> paragraph, changing the name of the stream/park, to read:  
“The Wakefield stream restoration is completed. He thanked the Park Authority and DPWES and the partnership that has been forged. DPWES just completed the restoration at the DeQuincey stream in Crooked Creek Park.”

Mr. Thompson asked that the following change be made to his Board Matter: Page 7, fourth paragraph regarding Mr. Voyten, to read:  
“As mentioned by Mr. Bouie, Mr. Thompson had received a letter from Mr. Voyten. Mr. Thompson added that Mr. Voyten did come over to talk with him when he was looking at the park.”

Seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion to approve the minutes as amended carried unanimously. Mr. Sullivan was absent.

**ACTION ITEMS****A-1 Smoke Free Parks**

Ms. Quintana made a motion to approve the installation of the Tobacco-Free Play Zone signs so that parks can remain clean and safe outdoor environments for children and their families to visit and recreate; seconded by Mr. Batten. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sullivan was absent.

**A-2 Scope Approval – Poplar Tree Park Parking Lot Renovation (Sully District)**

Mr. Strickland made a motion to approve the project scope to renovate the west parking lot at Poplar Tree Park; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sullivan was absent.

**A-3 Scope Approval – Woodlawn Park Bridge Replacement (Mount Vernon District)**

Mr. Gorham made a motion to approve the project scope to replace the existing pedestrian bridge in Woodlawn Park with a 35’ fiberglass bridge; seconded by Mr. Batten. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sullivan was absent.

**A-4 Scope Approval – Installation of Synthetic Turf on Field #2 and Related Stormwater Enhancements at Rolling Valley West Park (Springfield District)**

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the project scope to design, permit and convert field #2 to synthetic turf, and related stormwater enhancements at Rolling Valley West Park; seconded by Vajda. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sullivan was absent.

A-5 Memorandum of Understanding with the National Park Service for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Ms. Quintana made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the National Park Service for recognition and implementation of sections of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail on Fairfax County Park Authority lands; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sullivan was absent.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

I-1 Needs Assessment Update

No action was necessary.

I-2 Installation of Emergency Generators and Telecommunication Equipment on Athletic Field Light Poles

No action was necessary.

I-3 Board of Supervisors/Park Authority Land Bank Agreement Update

No action was necessary.

I-4 Braddock Park Mini golf Update (Springfield District)

No action was necessary.

I-5 Financial Related Issues – Update

No action was necessary.

**CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS:**

- Mr. Bouie thanked Ms. Pedersen, Mr. Bowden, Ms. Stallman, Ms. Dorlester, Messrs. Kincannon, Quincy, and Sullivan for attending the Tysons park planning press briefing at Westgate Park earlier in the day. Public comment opened and will remain open for 60 days. A couple developers were there and gave examples of their vision for urban parks.

Improvements are currently being made at Westgate Park. It will have one of the first overlay synthetic turf fields. A stream valley restoration project is also taking place.

- Mr. Bouie introduced Ms. Sandy Evans, FCPS Board liaison, and thanked her for coming. The School Board met earlier to discuss the SLEEP initiative. He will provide the Board with information on that meeting. There will be additional conversation about the program, but essentially a decision will be postponed until September 2015. Public outreach will begin soon to address the various alternatives the consultant proposed. The Park Board will discuss the proposals at a later date.
- Mr. Bouie commended the Board members for talking with their Supervisors about the budget. While Parks did not come out unscathed, the budget results were positive. Parks

received \$1.8M. He indicated that Mr. Kincannon would provide more details in his remarks. The Supervisors do love their parks.

Mr. Bouie's personal disappointment was that the Board did not raise the \$5.50 fee because it has a direct effect on Parks. Some of the costs of the user-based facilities need to be borne by the users that are getting special access to those amenities. Parks will have more discussions with NCS, the Athletic Council, and tournament folks to close the gap.

He believes that while there was some push back from some athletic groups, overall the Board of Supervisors was in support of the increase, but basically deferred the decision to raise the fee for another year. The reality is that it is not the way Parks needs to run a business; that was the reason behind the Financial Sustainability Plan. Parks has to have the tools to fill the gaps as it moves forward.

Mr. Gorham gave a personal example in regard to the \$5.50 fee. His son plays baseball and he knows the \$5.50 mostly covers the cost of rectangular fields. He paid the \$150 fee for his son to play baseball. Additionally, he paid several hundred dollars for equipment and incurred a lot of commuter costs, probably dropping a thousand dollars overall. For Parks to be asking for the \$5.50/\$8 fee, it is pennies in the grand scheme of things of the cost to play these sports. He encouraged his colleagues to spin this away from it being a bad thing to increasing this fee. It is a good thing; it gives Parks money to make better fields for people to play on. Children's experiences will be better for literally a couple of dollars.

Mr. Vellucci indicated that one time he had asked Mr. Johnson to identify what the cost would be if Parks was totally maintaining the fields and how much it would be beside the \$5.50. If his memory serves correctly, it would be about \$27. People are getting an incredible discount. Mr. Vellucci has been to meetings where parents have said they would pay the increased fee because they know that \$5.50 is not a reasonable amount knowing that that fee is ten years old. The Park Board needs to get the information out to the Supervisors just as they had with the budget, prepping them for next year.

Ms. Quintana commented that these fields are for the exclusive use of registered users. It is no longer an option to walk-on these fields. She agrees that Parks needs to find a way to make this more sustainable. While Parks wants everyone to have a great experience, it needs to explain what the true cost is for maintaining the fields.

Mr. Bouie commended Mr. Mark Meana and the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services for promoting the \$8 fee. Parks needs to continue to partner with them.

Mr. Thompson stated that the Athletic Council supports increasing the fee to \$8 only applying to rectangular fields. It is important to recognize that these youth sports organizations do a tremendous amount for the community and in other areas that the county would pay for, areas where the county runs the recreation programs. The burden of the referees, the staff that run the programs and scheduling would be borne by the county. A few years ago the soccer council reached out and got a response from about half of its groups and

put \$3-4M back into the fields every year. It is important to remember that these groups are not profiting off of these fields. These non-profit groups are giving a great benefit back to the county and as Parks looks at whatever amount is appropriate it needs to remember that there has to be a balance.

Mr. Thompson commented that the meals tax might be a tool to provide a revenue stream that would help to support field maintenance. The baseball council indicated that they would be willing to have a fee increase if the money would be used for turfing diamonds as it was for rectangular fields.

Ms. Cortina thinks that balance is very important and it is great that the Athletic Council supports a modest increase, but when fees are increased for people to play the outcome is impacted. The whole community needs to be focused on the total outcome. To the extent that we promote our children being active in our park system, whether on a field or at various sites, we need to always keep in mind how it impacts the outcome.

- Following the budget mark-up on April 24, the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors appointed a special committee led by former chairs, Ms. Hanley and Mr. Davis, to look at the potential for a meals tax in Fairfax County. The committee started its work and is to report back with a recommendation by mid-June. It has a short time to complete its work with enough time to get it on the ballot in the fall. If the referendum passed, the \$88M that would potentially be generated would benefit parks in a positive way. It would enable us to sustain Parks and its core mission via tax dollars. It would help bridge the gap that we are looking at in the Financial Sustainability Plan.
- Mr. Bouie thanked Mr. Bowden for working with the folks from the Initiative of Public Arts in Reston and its memorial garden committee. The group has taken a couple of tours at Lake Fairfax and have some of ideas of a linear walkway memorial where the stream restoration will take place.

#### **DIRECTOR'S MATTERS:**

- Park Services Division coordinated Culmore Multicultural Community Day "Building a Strong Community" on Saturday, April 4, at Bailey's Elementary School in Falls Church.

The event has a two-fold purpose: to raise public awareness of county programs and services and to build collaboration among agencies and organizations seeking to serve the diverse community.

More than 600 people of all ages and cultures representing the Culmore community attended with more than 40 businesses, agencies, and local nonprofits participating.

Festivities were kicked off by Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross who welcomed the community to the event along with other dignitaries including Park Authority Board Mason

District representative, Frank Vajda; Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid; and Assistant Mason District Commander, 1st Lieutenant Mike Grinnan from the Mason District Police.

The day's activities included multicultural performers representing the folklore dance traditions of Bolivia and Peru on the Showmobile stage throughout the event. A free soccer clinic for 50 children was held on the turf field led by a dozen teenagers and coaches from Hispanics Against Child Abuse and Neglect (HCAN).

The event was underwritten by donations and sponsorships by business partners, local agencies and nonprofit organizations that showcased their services to participants.

- Mr. Kincannon thanked the Board, the Federation of Friends, the Foundation, and the community relative to their support of the Park Authority by taking time out of their busy lives to spend time with their supervisors talking about the support that Parks requires to do what we do related to public service.

Parks was very positive in thanking the Board about the work they have done in support of Parks through tough economic times over the last many years. He believes the message was heard.

While not coming through totally unscathed, Parks did come through very good in looking at how we will move forward on some of the non-recurring funds this year in particular. Kirk reported on the budget markup and indicated that we need to remain positive and the final budget will be adopted on April 29. He stated that he would report the outcome after the approval.

#### **BOARD MATTERS:**

- Mr. Strickland indicated that this is his 22th budget cycle since sitting on the Board and he realizes the amount of energy and effort it takes from a lot of people to make this happen. He thinks Parks came out very well this year.

Taking the opportunity to watch the budget mark-up yesterday there were some very compelling discussion. Chairman Bulova described this year's budget process as the long and winding road travelled. From the Park Authority's perspective, he would be hesitant to call it the road to sustainability; however, in comparison to some of the budgets of the recent past, he would describe it certainly as a more pleasant journey.

It appears at this point that the impacts to parks are relatively minimal and that once more we are safe in terms of protecting our merit positions (our most valuable resource) and keeping our operations and programming in place at the lakefront parks and Riverbend. Clearly there was no appetite for these reductions. Sadly, we know that our dollars for environmental projects have been reduced and replacement of turf field fees was not approved, but we are still waiting for final details as the Director noted. Parks has access to a lot of good folks that can help with carryover. Until the final budget is approved, we need to wait to assess the

potential damage. As always, even with this budget that primarily holds the line we must be vigilant because the next budget challenge may be just around the fiscal corner.

Mr. Strickland thanked the staff who worked so diligently to position this agency so as to minimize the potential impacts of this budget exercise--Director Kincannon for leading the charge with assistance from Ms. Messenger, Mr. Baldwin, Ms. Burns, Mr. Baird, and the division directors and their respective staff. They kept the Board informed, met with staff, and prepared for the worst while hoping for the best. They did a great job.

Ms. Bobbi Longworth deserves credit for getting the Park Foundation engaged and behind Parks. Foundation Vice Chair Bruce McLeod was an able advocate in front of the Board of Supervisors and his remarks were quoted and set the stage for the discussion noting that there was simply nothing left to cut that was not painful. Mr. Strickland also understands that our good friend Harry Glasgow, Foundation Secretary, also spoke on our behalf. Great support, Bobbi – thank you.

Chairman Bill Bouie did his best with the Board of Supervisors and county leadership staff, reaching out to get a feel for what was in store for Parks and keeping the message on point with testimony reminding our elected officials what a great, nationally acclaimed park system we have. And we sent vice Chair Ken Quincy to be the sole speaker in support of our capital program and he did a fine job. We owe Mr. Bouie and Mr. Quincy gratitude for their effective efforts.

Mr. Strickland thanked the friends groups for writing letters and providing testimony. Park Board members spoke to their respective supervisors. In general he thanked his colleagues and any other advocates for banding together to make our case with passion and confidence. Parks is very lucky to have a terrific product to advocate on behalf of and he commended each one for staying the course, sticking with the facts and getting the job done. Great job folks!

- Mr. Sullivan was absent.
- Mr. Vellucci thanked Mr. Kincannon for addressing FLAP on April 17. The meeting had 35-40 people in attendance. He and Mr. Kincannon met beforehand and discussed a number of issues.

Piggybacking on Mr. Strickland's concerns and comments he noted that it was interesting that the maintenance budget is still \$214K. That budget was once \$900K seven or eight years ago and has consistently gone down. One of the requirements of the MOU with the Board of Supervisors is to let them know what the true cost of running this Park Authority is, and we have not been doing that. Parks has been accepting what it has been given in the budget. He believes that now that Mr. Kincannon is in place, Parks needs to figure out what it costs to run the Park Authority and let the Board of Supervisor know.

- Mr. Thompson thanked staff for helping with all the Braddock Park issues. The community will be engaged in June to help determine what will be done with the facility.

He is looking forward to seeing a YouTube video where some skateboarders actually went into a mini-golf facility and without any upgrades used it for a skate park.

He encourages Parks to look at parking at Rolling Valley West Park as we get ready to turf the field.

- Mr. Vajda had nothing to report.
- Ms. Quintana was excited to talk about her golf outing with Ms. Cortina, Ms. Walsh, and Mr. Furey. She thanked Ms. Walsh and Mr. Furey for taking the time to golf with them.

Staff at Burke Lake Golf Course was wonderful. It was good to see so many kids out there taking lessons. There were people of all ages and abilities. It was a nice opportunity to see what staff was doing and she is looking forward to some of the improvements that are going to be made at the facility.

She checked out Burke Lake Park; rode the train and carousal. It was packed. The train and the carousel were full and one could barely get a seat.

Ms. Quintana is looking forward to SpringFest on Saturday, April 26. She was heavily involved last year and Ms. Baldwin has taken the bull by the horns and has taken over the planning. Chairman Bulova was very interested in seeing the profile of this particular activity raised.

Ms. Quintana gave a shout out to Mr. Henry and his staff at Colvin Run Mill. She sent a note to the director which she hoped he shared with staff. Her family participated in the egg hunt at Colvin Run Mill. Staff did a wonderful job; they did a number of creative crafts with the kids and were very organized. A number of moms commented that this event was absolutely fabulous.

Ms. Quintana will be continuing with her Mommy Blog. She is planning on writing about Green Spring Gardens and Riverbend Park. She hopes it is continuing to be well-received by other moms in Fairfax County.

- Mr. Quincy commented that Tysons plan presented to the press and the public at noon today was well-received. Unless one had been involved from the beginning you probably don't realized the milestone that was reached. This is the result of a tremendous amount of work that began in 2005. It's reflective of the effort and dedication of Mr. Bowden and his staff, especially Ms. Stallman, Ms. Dorlester, and Ms. Hooper.

Back in 2005 the Tysons Land Use Task Force was established, before he was a member of the Park Board. He attended some of those meetings since he lived nearby and attended

more frequently after he became a Board member. For some time Parks was on the sidelines listening. This came to the attention of certain individuals that took notice and got us at the table with a voice. Mr. Quincy acknowledged the efforts of Providence District Planning Commissioner Ken Lawrence and former Park Board Chairman Hal Strickland. Today was a milestone and it was a challenge, but Parks has come a long way since he first saw the map of the new Tysons. There were two stream valley parks. We now have a conceptual plan for a really thriving park system.

- Ms. Cortina reported that she is planning to attend the Healthy Fairfax Design Summit on Tuesday, April 29, that begins at 8 a.m. The topic is about economic health, environmental health, public health, and other essential building blocks for a thriving community. She encouraged her fellow Board members to participate. We have a tendency to work in silos across the county, and to the extent we can work together with other agencies, like the Health Department, or the schools, it helps us to be a part of the solution. Typically, the way that happens in Fairfax County is with Task Forces, like the Healthy Fairfax Initiative. These can also be an additional source of funding, not just the through the General Fund, but grants and other opportunities.
- Mr. Batten stated that he appreciated Mr. Strickland's comments about the budget and the comments about the Park Foundation. The Foundation has over the years been very dedicated to doing the best it can to enrich and enhance Parks' opportunity to meet its mission.

Mr. Bruce McLeod has been, since 2000, an ardent supporter of Parks in every way. As Vice Chair he has done a humongous amount of work and as long as he has the opportunity, will continue to let the county as a whole know the caliber of the Foundation and the caliber of the Park Authority that we all attempt to represent. Mr. Strickland's words in the record will mean a great deal to him.

Mr. Batten added that Ms. Longworth and her team are exceptional.

Mr. Batten reminded the Board that the Foundation is still looking to the Board to help find additional members for the Foundation Board that are willing to donate their, time, service, and their money. He reminded the Board that whenever they have an opportunity to thank the members of the Foundation Board for their service.

Last month the Park Authority had a public meeting for the Franconia Park master plan. There have been meetings subsequent to that meeting and Ed has spoken to Supervisor McKay. On May 8, there will be a meeting regarding Franconia Park at his office. The community feels good that Parks heard what it had to say and that we are doing something other than ramming it down their throats.

- Mr. Gorham invited everyone to participate in the two events in the Mount Vernon District on Saturday, April 26 – the opening of the equestrian site at Laurel Hill and SpringFest at the Lorton Workhouse for the Arts.

- Mr. Khan thanked Ms. Longworth for meeting and exploring different ideas for sponsorships. He will apprise the Board as things as they move forward.

**CLOSED SESSION**

At 8:57 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 Vajda and the motion carried unanimously by all members present. Mr. Sullivan was absent.

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION**

At 9:17 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. Sullivan was absent.

C-1 Addition of Property Located in the Braddock District to the Workplan  
Mr. Vellucci made a motion to add property located in the Braddock District to the workplan as discussed in closed session; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sullivan was absent.

C-2 Arrowbrook Wetlands Park/McNair Farms Drive Extension (Dranesville District)  
Ms. Cortina made a motion to direct Park Authority staff to work with the applicant on land projects associated with the Arrowbrook Wetlands Park and McNair Farms Drive Extension.; seconded by Messrs. Strickland and Gorham. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Sullivan was absent.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie called the meeting to a close at 9:19 p.m.

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Kala Leggett Quintana, Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting  
on May 14, 2014

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Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

[SIGNATURES CONTINUE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE]

**APPROVED AND SIGNED MAY 14, 2014**

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

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Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant