

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
May 14, 2014**

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:32 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:

Cindy Messinger, Deputy Director/CFO
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Judy Pedersen, PIO
Barbara Nugent
David Bowden
Todd Johnson
Steve Lewis
Brian Laws
Janet Burns
Mike Baird
Brian Williams
Sandy Stallman

Absent*

PUBLIC COMMENT: No speakers were present.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes, April 23, 2014, Park Authority Board Meeting
Ms. Quintana made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2014, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Vajda. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie and Khan were absent.

ACTION ITEMS

- A-1 Green Spring Gardens – Mastenbrook Volunteer Fund Grant Program Request – Friends of Green Spring Gardens (Mason District)
Mr. Vajda made a motion to approve the Mastenbrook Volunteer Matching Fund Grant Program request from the Friends of Green Spring Gardens in the amount of \$20,000 to renovate the gazebo and patio area at Green Spring Gardens; seconded by Mr. Batten. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie and Khan were absent.
- A-2 Reallocation of Stephens Property Bond Project Fund Balance for Sully Highlands Park (Sully District)
Mr. Strickland made a motion to reallocate the project fund balance from Stephens Property to increase construction funding for the Sully Highlands Park project; seconded

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by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie and Khan were absent.

A-3 Approval – Partnership with Cornerstones, Incorporated to obtain a KaBOOM Grant to upgrade the Play Equipment at Alabama Drive Park (Dranesville District)

Mr. Sullivan made a motion to approve the partnership with Cornerstones, Inc., to obtain a KaBOOM grant to upgrade the play equipment at Alabama Drive Park; seconded by Ms. Quintana and Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie and Khan were absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

I-1 Community Horticulture Program Update

No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN’S MATTERS:

- Mr. Quincy indicated that Mr. Bouie was absent because he was competing in the Senior Games in Newport News.
- There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Wakefield Run on Saturday, May 17, at 9:30 a.m.
- The Park Foundation Board will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, May 20, at 7 p.m.
- On May 24, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Canterbury Woods Bridge Replacement at the Canterbury Woods Swim club in Annandale.
- With regard to the Invasive Management Area (IMA) program, it appears that some members of the Board of Supervisors are not really clear on what they voted for with regard to IMA. IMA funding is only \$150,000 but without it, the program cannot exist. Park Board members need to explain a little more to their respective Supervisors just what they voted for during the budget process. Ken asked Sara Baldwin to expand on the issue.

Sara Baldwin reminded the Board that as part of the budget mark up, the Environmental Initiatives Projects (EIP) were eliminated. Specifically, for the Park Authority, the IMA project was cut as well as a couple other Park Authority projects – to include a smart water web-based irrigation system, a weather station for Greendale, and funding for lighting retrofits. The Board of Supervisors indicated that these projects would be considered as a part of carryover. It appears that when the Board of Supervisors made the budget cut, they were not aware that it included the IMA program. The Park Authority has received some money from REI and other sources for IMA that will carry the program halfway through FY15. Parks will continue to run the program, but will not have all the money needed to operate it fully. Volunteers will continue to do the work, but funding would not be available to treat the sites once volunteers have cleared the area. The Park Authority is hopeful and has indications from several members of the Board of Supervisors that this will be considered

at carryover. Parks encourages its Board members to ensure that their respective Supervisors are aware of the impact.

Mr. Vellucci asked for talking points.

Mr. Quincy indicated that IMA is a key element of the maintenance of its properties, a capital investment. One hundred fifty thousand dollars are spent, but the return on that investment is tremendous because Parks relies on its volunteers. In 2013, volunteers spent 5,472 hours on this project, which equates to about \$124,000. REI has provided \$10,000-\$15,000 in grants. The \$150,000 has been spent on follow-up on the restoration, as well as trash bags, gloves, tools, plants, and other things the volunteers need. In addition to the value of the restoration of the land the community aspect is tremendous.

Ms. Cortina noted that she contacted Chairman Bulova the day after the EIP was cut and told her that she was concerned that cutting this from the budget must have been an error. As a result, Chairman Bulova indicated that she would contact Ms. Datta to discuss correcting the situation and commented that the Board did not know that IMA was part of the EIP.

While at the Huntley Meadows event on May 10, someone from EQAC told Supervisor McKay that he was concerned about the IMA program and noted that many people at the Huntley program would be protesting to their Supervisors. Supervisor McKay was also unaware that the program had been cut. The bigger question is why this program is not a part of the permanent budget, but rather part of the discretionary budget that can be cut every year. Where should this program be? In her opinion as Parks does it's budgeting there is an opportunity to request funds for those natural and cultural resource projects as outlined in the formal countywide NRMP and CRMP plans which the Park Board approves. There is a great opportunity not only to bring it forward to the public but to ask for funding for those specific types of programs. Things that are part of Parks mission statement should be part of the permanent budget and not require special approval.

Mr. Strickland noted that EQAC has put in its report to the Board of Supervisors for the past five or six years that they recommend an increase in Parks' staff and in its funding. EQAC has specifically asked for six additional positions and \$600,000 for implementation of the NRMP. He is glad that EQAC cares and advocates for us. Parks has referred to EQAC's recommendation every year and has not received the funding.

Mr. Strickland reminded the Board that it had recently agreed to take a portion of funding from the telecommunications' fees to support the natural and cultural resources programs.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Strickland reported that he and Kirk Kincannon met with the Sully Foundation on May 6 at the Sully Historic Site. The Foundation has been a very supportive group and Hal believes they were the second group that was developed in Parks right after the Frying Pan Farm Park Foundation was established.

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The Sully Foundation has been a great supporter of Parks in setting its trust aside and putting projects together each year working with Carol McDonnell, the Sully Historic Site manager. Nearly \$1,000,000 has been made available for specific projects to enhance that location. The Foundation has ownership with the site and has supported Parks in its bonds; they do period dress; they are volunteers. The Sully Foundation has been honored with Elly Doyle awards.

Good discussion took place at that meeting and the Sully Foundation is willing to raise more funds for more things to happen at Sully. Kirk Kincannon was quite enthused with how much the Foundation collaborated with Parks.

Mr. Strickland gave a shout out to Judy Pedersen. There have been some great articles in the papers recently. There was a great article in the Post written by one of the Post reporters about Colvin Run Mill and an article in two other papers. The Farmers' Markets Keeps Growing was a full article in the papers. Judy deserves a great thanks for getting so many articles in print.

(Board Matters continue following Director's Matters.)

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS:

- Sara Baldwin, sitting in for Kirk Kincannon, announced that the next Board tour is scheduled for May 31 in the Providence District and asked that each member should respond to the poll when it comes out so that the appropriate size bus can be secured.
- Schools are hosting public meetings relating to school start times. There will be eight public meetings over the next month or so. Parks stated its position and presented Schools with the facts. Four different scenarios will be presented at the meetings. All scenarios have high schools starting sometime after 7:50 a.m. Someone from Park staff will attend some of the meetings so Parks will hear firsthand the types of comments received from the public. A listing of the meeting dates and times were provided and a copy of the November 13, 2013, memo from the Chairman to Ilryong Moon outlining the impacts will be redistributed to the Board.
- Twice in the last three weeks, Suzanne Holland, Visitor Services Manager from Hidden Oaks Nature Center, presented a 90-minute webinar, Connecting Children to Nature in Fairfax County Parks. This unique program through Fairfax County Office for Children's Institute for Early Learning was provided for over 400 registered licensed family day care providers and preschool teachers. The webinar highlighted nature centers, Fryng Pan Farm, Green Spring Gardens, Clemyjontri and the playgrounds at Lee District Park. The webinars are the latest in trainings offered through Hidden Oaks for continuing education for family day care providers and preschool teachers.
- Muriel Levin, long-time volunteer at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, passed away unexpectedly at the end of February 2014. For 16 years, once a week throughout the busy

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school field trip season, Muriel helped enrich the 3rd graders' simple machines curriculum by introducing them to 19th century hand tools. Twice a month she also worked during grinding demonstrations, welcoming visitors inside the mill and sharing her enthusiasm and knowledge with them. In addition, Muriel volunteered at seasonal programs, helped paid staff with record keeping and with taking the annual Museum Collections inventory. Over the years, she logged over 250 hours a year for a total of 4,000 hours of volunteer service at the mill. Her enthusiasm and friendship will be missed.

- Megan Carroll will be receiving a Neighborhood and Community Service Distinguished Partner Award on May 22, 2014. She is being recognized for working tirelessly with the NCS region 3 office to set up the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that is being offered at the 2014 Reston Farmers Market. The implementation of this program offering will make the Reston Farmers Markets more accessible to low income families shopping for fresh, locally produced food. The Reston Market will offer a matching dollar program, in which the amount of money spent by SNAP recipients will be matched up to ten dollars for fruits and vegetables. The intent of the matching program is to enable recipients to choose healthier options without spending more of their SNAP funds. This program expansion would not have been possible without Megan!
- Parks and Recreation Magazine, a publication of the National Recreation and Park Association features a story about the Park Authority's Combo Classic golf tournament which pairs able-bodied players with disabled golfers. The tournament will be held on June 6 and June 7 at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Clifton. With an eye on the 25th anniversary of the Combo Classic in 2015, the Park Foundation is working to raise this event's profile. It is hoped that sponsors will help defray tournament costs as well as funding an Accessible Golf Instructional program. The informative article was written by Deputy PIO Matthew Kaiser.
- As mentioned by Mr. Quincy, the Wakefield Run ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on Saturday at 9:30 a.m.
- With regard to the SLEEP initiative, Mr. Quincy indicated that the Park Authority has continued communication with the School Board's liaison to the Park Board.

BOARD MATTERS (continued):

- Mr. Sullivan attended the press conference for the Tysons Concept Plan on April 23. It was good to see Messrs. Bouie and Quincy at Westgate Park. The event was well done. He congratulated staff for a job well done.

On May 4 Mr. Sullivan attended Great Falls Day. He thanked Mr. Thompson for attending. Kirk Kincannon was there and made some terrific remarks. Mr. Sullivan recognized Matthew Kaiser, Deputy PIO, for his help. It was the 85th anniversary of the Grange.

Mr. Sullivan spent the morning of Great Falls Day at Colvin Run Mill with its manager, Mike Henry.

Mr. Sullivan invited everyone to the Dranesville District and to McLean Day on Saturday, May 17, at Lewinsville Park. Staff works awfully hard to get the park ready for the event. He thanked staff in advance for their hard work.

- Mr. Vellucci thanked Mr. Kincannon for addressing the FLAP meeting on April 17.

Mr. Vellucci also reminded everyone about the Wakefield Run restoration ribbon cutting on Saturday, May 17, at 9:30 a.m. A number of stream restoration projects are going on in the county and encouraged anyone that has not seen one to stop by and see how things are done to make stream valleys a lot less damaging.

Mr. Vellucci reminded everyone to submit their Elly Doyle nominations. The deadline is June 14.

One of the projects that he is working on with Todd Johnson is as adopt-a- stormwater sewer program. If anyone has been to Lake Accotink Park after a major storm the marina is full of trash and the water bottles that come down stream. If we can cut down on the number of water bottles before they make it into the stream there is a good chance we could limit the amount of trash that gets into the lake. Todd is going to look into the program and will coordinate with DPWES and VDOT.

Mr. Vellucci invited everyone to the June 1, 25th anniversary of the Cardboard Boat Regatta. The regatta was kicked off by Kirk 25 years ago, as a co-sponsor and he will be there on June 1. Mr. Vellucci is hoping to see as many Board members as possible at the event.

Mr. Vellucci thanked Judy Pedersen for the opportunity to serve as master of ceremony at the opening of the Farmers' Market at the Government Center on May 1.

Mr. Vellucci indicated that he is still looking to review the bylaws and get them where they need to be. In October the Board agreed to review them in the spring. Tony wanted to get his concerns on the table and why they need to be looked at.

- The bylaws do not currently address any Board of Supervisor incorporating documents establishing the FCPA.
- No members of the organization are referred to, except for officers
 - o Members are referred to, but no definition of who can be a member
 - o No roles and responsibilities for PAB district representative members
 - o No roles and responsibilities for PAB members at-large
- No definition of the composition nor the roles and responsibilities of the board
- No definition of what the term "Authority" actually encompasses
 - o Board only/Board + Director / Board + Director + Fairfax County Employees
- Term "authority" used interchangeably with "board"
- Chairperson identified as executive officer

- o Executive officer in many organizations is the number two individual in charge
- o Begs the question of who is the number one individual in charge is
- Director responsible to the “Authority,” the director can be responsible to himself
- No definition of what constitutes an “emergency” meeting

It is mid-May and Mr. Vellucci would like the Administration, Management and Budget Committee to address when it is going to look at the bylaws. FLAP prepared its bylaws in two months and believes the Park Authority can get it done quickly.

- Mr. Thompson thanked Judy Pedersen for the wonderful opening of the Twin Lakes Oaks Room. There seemed to be some consensus from Bill Bouie that the annual holiday gathering has been moved to Twin Lakes.

Mr. Thompson thanked everyone on staff for Great Falls Day. The historic exhibit was awesome.

A public meeting will be held on June 12 for the Braddock Park mini-golf at 7 p.m. at the Mott Community Center. The commitment was made to Supervisor Herrity and his staff that we would take the information to the community before the end of June. Dave Bowden provided Mr. Thompson with a video of skateboarders who took a mini-golf course and used it for skateboarding. It is important that Parks look at what it will do with that space.

The article on Colvin Run Mill was a great article, but some people asked why the county is competing with private industry and why don't we give it to a private vendor? It was a great article and showed a lot of background.

The public meeting to prevent the expansion of Lorton Landfill was held on May 13. Somehow word was spread at that meeting that Mr. Thompson was a person who was trying to oppose the expansion of the landfill. As a result he received a number of phone calls indicating that it was the Park Authority's fault because it is not taking over the park if ESI builds it. Mr. Thompson asked staff to look into this and help him, because it was stated to him that at one point the Park Authority took over a park that was on a landfill and had no issues with it. He would like to confirm that before he returns the call.

With regard to the SLEEP initiative, Mr. Thompson commented that the high school start times that are proposed start anywhere from 7:50 a.m. to as late as 9:15 a.m. with high schools getting out as late as 4:05 p.m.

After some discussion, Ms. Baldwin indicated that Parks' message has been that the earlier schools start the better, the later the High School start-time the impact to Parks and the community to be more severe.

Mr. Quincy stated that once the Park Authority has formulated its response, it needs to become part of the formal record.

- Mr. Vajda attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on May 10 at Huntley Meadows Park. It was fabulous engineering that came to fruition. The meadow minimally is still a work in progress, but it was delightful to see that it is coming back. It is a testimony to staff, which did a wonderful job, but it is also testimony to many generations that preceded you. He understands that it has been work in progress for something like 22 years and he was proud to be part of that ceremony.

Mr. Quincy added that Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross ran in the Healthy Strides 5K.

- Ms. Quintana thanked staff and her peers for attending the ribbon cutting ceremony at Huntley Meadows. The event was incredibly well-attended.

Ms. Quintana began her day on Saturday at the Burke Center Farmers' Market, attended the Huntley Meadows event, returned home, and finished her day at the opening of the Twin Lakes Oaks Room. Several Foundation Board members attended the opening of the Oaks Room. She hopes that it will begin to generate revenue.

It was a wonderful day. Ms. Quintana thanked Judy Pedersen and staff for all the events. She is also looking forward to all the events coming up.

Ms. Quintana indicated to Dave Bowden that she would like to know when the shade structures would be installed at Our Special Harbor. Mr. Bowden responded that they were to be installed the next week. She thanked the Foundation's work on the project.

- Ms. Cortina enjoyed the Huntley Meadows ribbon cutting. She extended a special thanks to Dave Bowden and his team. Heather Lynch has been a great project manager. What Ms. Cortina liked most about the ribbon cutting is that one got a sense that it was a partnership. Kevin Munroe who leads Huntley Meadows is a great spokesperson for the Park Authority. Something he said really resonated with her, he said that it was the friends groups, the citizens who came out, who challenged them to think about doing this project in a way that had the least impact to the environment. It could have had a huge dam with a giant spillway with trees down left and right, but it was constructed in a different way that had less of an impact. It is an innovative design. The fact that Kevin Munroe recognized that citizen input was really a help to the project, help to the Park Authority, and help to build the base of the Friends of Huntley Meadows. The more citizens can be involved the project is a real celebration. Ms. Cortina thanked Kevin Munroe.

She attended the Twin Lakes expansion. The room is beautiful and anybody would be happy to rent the room. Ms. Cortina thanked Peter Furey and everyone on his team.

Ms. Cortina attended the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax summit. The keynote speaker was Mark Fenton, a national public health, planning and transportation consultant and an expert on walkable communities looked at how the built environment impacts health. It was a great program. There were hundreds of attendees from all over Fairfax County. The idea

was to look at all the public policies and how they impact health. A reception was held in the evening.

- Mr. Batten thanked everyone that attended the ribbon cutting at Huntley Meadows. He especially thanked Judy Pedersen because she and her team consistently show us what excellence really is. The Park Authority will be indebted to them for the contributions they make. It was a fun time for him.

Norma Hoffman is an extraordinary lady and is the symbol of what the people that love this Park Authority really look like. While not on the agenda for the event, when she was introduced she just took over. The turnout was just wonderful. There were people out from the Green Breakfast and of course, the father of Huntley Meadows was there (Harry Glasgow), had some wonderful words to say. Huntley Meadows is something of which all can be proud. Mr. Batten noted that someone said that it was the most money Fairfax County has ever spent for wetlands restoration. It was money well-spent! WSSI's project leader spoke and they had done a fantastic job.

Mr. Batten commented that those that have not been to a Cardboard Boat Regatta at Lake Accotink should make the effort to attend. And those that have been out before should make an effort to get out again.

Mr. Batten reminded and encouraged the Park Board that the Park Foundation is looking for good people to serve on the Park Foundation Board.

- Linwood Gorham thanked Mr. Quincy, Ms. Quintana, and Mr. Vajda for coming out to the ribbon cutting at the Equestrian Center at Laurel Hill. He thanked Judy Pedersen for the great program and the demonstration following the ceremony. Kirk Kincannon, Dave Bowden, Bobbi Longworth, and Harry Glasgow were all there.

He thanked Todd Johnson and his crew for a helping out with little baseball scheduling issue.

Mr. Gorham thanked everybody that got out to SpringFest. It was a great event. A special thanks to Sara and all the staff that were well represented.

Mr. Gorham apologized to Mike Thompson if he had gotten blamed for anything having to do with the ESI landfill. Mr. Gorham didn't know why Mr. Thompson would ever be mentioned. The Park Authority has tried to remain neutral throughout the entire issue. It bothers Mr. Gorham hearing people bashing Parks throughout this process. All that know the details of that issue knows that Parks has done nothing wrong, wronged no one including ESI, especially the public. He hopes people will realize in the long run that Parks was in the right place on this and did the right thing for the citizens.

- Faisal Khan, At-large, was absent.

- Mr. Quincy added that with regard to the opening of the equestrian center he received two phone calls subsequent to the event from two principals who spoke thanking the Park Authority profusely.
- Ms. Cortina mentioned that several members of the Board of Supervisors were at the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax reception. Chairman Bulova spoke to the Trails Committee about whether there should be a referendum for trails.

Ms. Cortina thanked Sara Baldwin and her team for SpringFest. It was really fantastic. The center of SpringFest was a big tented area full of Park Authority. There were so many volunteers and staff there that did a great job. The kids loved it, including her sons.

- Ms. Quintana also thanked Sara Baldwin and the team for SpringFest. This was an issue that Chairman Bulova asked Parks to get involved in a couple of years ago. Fairfax County's Earth Day celebration had been losing its luster and the idea was to bring it to the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center and draw attention to that facility in addition to doing a reboot that would reenergize the event and bring in more families and more interaction. At the time, Sara Baldwin was Ms. Quintana's logical reach. Sara has since taken that event to places Kala couldn't even think about. Sara and staff have done a phenomenal job. Last year was big and this year was even bigger. Ms. Quintana expects that program to grow. It is the perfect marriage between what Parks does and what Earth Day and Arbor Day are all about. Many staff that were not working there were there with their families and friends.
- With regard to the Schools opening and closing times, Mr. Strickland asked that the Park Authority's response be very neutral, provide the information requested without talking to it one way or the other. He also asked that as Board members, they be careful that they understand that it is the educators' responsibility to make that decision. The topic deserves to be debated in the community with the School Board. He hopes that the Park Board can express the impact strongly and accurately in a tone that is very neutral.

Mr. Quincy noted that that was the tone that was taken in the letter that Parks provided to Schools.

- Mr. Batten thanked Dave Bowden and his team for meeting with him and Supervisor McKay on May 8. They are trying to address many of the concerns that were expressed by the citizens of the community of Franconia Park regarding certain aspects of the master plan and some of the problems the citizens are currently incurring and some of the things they think may occur as a result of the master plan as it is proposed, even though there are several reiterations. They will continue to maintain contact with the community. Supervisor McKay is setting up an additional follow up meeting in early June. Mr. Batten noted that he has had some additional contact with some of the leaders in the community and they are very pleased that Parks actually did hear them.
- In keeping with tradition Mr. Gorham announced that his son's baseball team won its game. He scored twice and he pitched three scoreless innings.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie called the meeting to a close at 8:38 p.m.

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on May 28, 2014

Kala Leggett Quintana, Secretary

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant