

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
June 11, 2014
As Amended**

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:

Kirk Kincannon, Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Judy Pedersen, PIO
Deborah Babcock-Daley
Barbara Nugent
Cindy Walsh
John Lehman
Ron Pearson
Roberta Longworth
Brian Williams
John Zeigler

Absent*

Guests: Bill Knight, CEO, Fairfax 2015

PUBLIC COMMENT: One speaker was present.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Bill Knight, CEO, Fairfax 2015 provided a presentation on the World Police and Fire Games to be held in Fairfax County and surrounding jurisdictions.

Mr. Quincy welcomed School Board Liaison Sandy Evans to the meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes, May 14, 2014, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2014, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Vajda. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie, Sullivan, and Strickland were absent.

ACTION ITEMS

A-1 Appointment of Cynthia Jacobs Carter to the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board
Mr. Batten made a motion to reappointment of Cynthia Jacob Carter to the Foundation's Board of Directors; seconded by Messrs. Thompson and Vajda. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie, Sullivan, and Strickland were absent.

APPROVED AND SIGNED JUNE 25, 2014

- A-2 Park Foundation FY 2015 Fundraising Projects
Mr. Batten made a motion to approve the list of projects for fundraising by the Park Foundation in FY 2015; seconded by Ms. Quintana. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie, Sullivan, and Strickland were absent.
- A-3 Approval – 2014 Telecommunication Spending for Natural and Cultural Resources
Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the Natural and Cultural Resource telecommunication funding projects; seconded by Ms. Cortina. The motion carried unanimously. Messrs. Bouie, Sullivan, and Strickland were absent.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 Fairfax County Park Foundation FY 2015 Meeting Dates
No action was necessary,
- I-2 FT 2015 Deer Management Overview
No action was necessary.
- I-3 Program and Interpretation Update
No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS:

- Mr. Quincy announced that Park Authority Board Chairman, Bill Bouie, is the recipient of the first Anthony H. Griffin Partnership Leadership Award. The Award was presented to Mr. Bouie on May 29 at the Celebrate Partnerships: Fairfax County and FCPS Award Ceremony held at George Mason University.
- The Park Board's own, Mr. Vellucci, was awarded the honor of being the 2014 Lord Fairfax for the Braddock District.
- Mr. Quincy thanked those that participated in the Providence District tour. This tour, as have others, indicated the need for increased funding for maintenance and upkeep. This was highlighted in the visit to the James Lee Community Center where the archaeological artifacts and documents are kept.
- The Park Authority's Tysons Park Planning open house was held at Pimmit Library on May 29. Attendance was small but it was a very interested and active attendance. Community leaders attended. Staff as usual did an exemplary job fielding questions and interacting with the attendees.
- On June 1 the Tysons Farmers Market opened. It was a huge success. While he was unable to attend Andi Dorlester commendably represented the Park Authority.

- Mr. Quincy attended the Gerry Connolly CCT renaming along with a number of dignitaries. Congressman Connolly thanked the Park Authority for renaming the trail while he was alive. The trail is part of a trail network that runs north to south.
- Mr. Quincy visited the Park Authority's tent at Celebrate Fairfax. There were some very energetic folks manning the tent with a variety of games from the 1800s, 1900s, and some he even remembered – and he's not that old.
- Mr. Quincy joined Todd Johnson and Mr. Bouie at cricket event at Oak Marr Park. He deferred comments to Mr. Khan.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS:

- Mr. Kincannon reminded everyone that July is Parks and Recreation month. Parks is participating in a national campaign that the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) puts together each year. This year the theme is "OUT is the new IN." This is an opportunity for us to talk about all the great things that we can provide to the community.

He shared a poster that Matthew Kaiser created with the help of Joanne Kearney, the agency's graphic artist. Hats off to Judy Pedersen and her staff for creating the poster. The poster will be posted at facilities, on the website, Facebook.

This is a huge national campaign that ties to a lot of initiatives that tie to Schools, private enterprise groups, community groups, and is a great thing.

- On May 14, 2014, the Park Authority Board approved a joint application with Cornerstones, Inc., to obtain a KaBOOM! grant to upgrade the tot-lot play equipment at Alabama Drive Park. The contract with KaBOOM! required the Community Partner, either the Park Authority or Cornerstones, to indemnify and hold harmless KaBOOM!, the Funding Partner and their respective affiliates, directors, officers, managers, partners, members, shareholders, employees, agents, and representatives from any and all losses, liabilities, claims, actions, fees, and expenses. After seeking legal advice from the Office of the County Attorney, the requirement to indemnify KaBOOM! from liability for the project was a matter that could not be resolved. Virginia state law prohibits the county from indemnifying third parties. Cornerstone investigated the possibility of assuming this responsibility; however, they too were unable to accept this requirement. KaBOOM! was not willing to waive this requirement.

Cornerstone continues to express interest in moving forward with this project despite the loss of this funding partner. Park Authority staff is exploring the prospect of developing a new partnership with Cornerstones, Airbus Americas, and Cunningham Recreation to support the community in their continued interest and involvement in this project.

- Mr. Kincannon announced that the Board of Supervisors has decided not to move forward with the proposal that would have limited large gatherings in private homes.

- One may recall the tragic death of Ruthanne G. Lodato who was murdered in her home on February 6, 2014. Her family has requested the opportunity through the Park Foundation to honor her memory. Ruthanne taught music and was well known and respected in the community for her many, many years of teaching music to thousands of children. In a tribute to her a scholarship has been set up designed to assist children participate in music and the arts programs throughout Fairfax County. The Park Authority will work with private and public schools to identify children who would benefit from this most generous gift of music. The Park Authority offered more than 180 classes and 1140 participants in art programs that include piano, guitar and other performing arts. We are grateful for the opportunity to share Ruthanne's legacy through music.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Khan reported that his cricket league held a successful tournament, the first of four. He thanked Messrs. Bouie and Quincy, and Todd Johnson for attending the ceremony and their support. The cricket group gave a demonstration. This was a pilot project that had a tremendous response.

Representatives from other leagues in the area, many of which have been around for nearly 50 years, have different levels of competition. The highest division of competition represented was the premier division which takes three years to graduate to that level. A team must win the first year to move onto the next level. Everyone commented that this new league which began this year is already above the premier division. Those teams in the premier division had nowhere to look up to after winning the tournament. This new league is set up that the level of play must be at the top of the game, above the premier division.

His league is promoting the Park Authority, making everyone aware of the Park Authority's and the county's interest in the sport. It was a wonderful start. A short tournament will begin on June 14, the second of four. They have received a number of calls, including some from out of state. A lot of credit goes to Park staff, especially Ed Busenlehner and Michael Harris, who worked really hard to keep the fields up to date.

Mr. Khan hopes the league will grow to a bigger level and will be beneficial for the sport, the community, the Park Authority, and the county.

- ~~• Mr. Gorham stated that he was unhappy about the bylaws and the process for the proposed changes. To him nothing is more important than transparency and inclusion. He was disappointed that only two Board members were on the team with two staff members to review and make recommendations.~~

Note: During the June 25, 2014, Board meeting Mr. Gorham requested that his comments be entered verbatim. His comments follow.

“I've been thinking a lot about how to broach the subject I want to talk about positively and I'm sorry I can't think of a way to do it completely positively as I

would like to do, and that's the letter we received two weeks ago about the bylaws and the proposed change. Nothing's really more important to me on a board and every board I have ever been on and every board I've been head of or whatever than transparency and inclusion. And I believe I've always been successful in the past in bringing people together in that regard but it's something I've struggled with with this board. I think a lot of people acknowledge that we've made if not mistakes in our decisions mistakes in our process when we didn't include people and we weren't as transparent as we needed to be. I was especially disappointed when we got the letter that pointed out that there was going to be two people that were going to come up with some bylaw changes and the letter went on to then try to rationalize why it specifically excluded one person then further went on to rationalize why not to include everybody. To me that just completely acknowledged that the authors of the letter understood the problems with the decision to have just two people do it. So I'm not going to say any more about that except for, Ken, I'll talk to you off line on this. Please do the right thing, appoint another person. Let's just make a note to the positive and let's be inclusive and let's be completely transparent, there's absolutely no reason not to be."

- Mr. Batten reported that he and staff will meet with Supervisor McKay's office regarding their concerns over the Franconia Park master plan on Thursday, June 12.
- Ms. Cortina attended the Cardboard Boat Regatta at Lake Accotink Park, along with Messrs. Kincannon, Vajda, Batten, and Vellucci. Chairman Bulova, Supervisor Cook, and Supervisor McKay were also there. Ms. Cortina and Mrs. Batten joined Mr. Vellucci at the Lake Accotink walk-through with staff to talk about the Lake Accotink master plan. A really good discussion was held and she appreciates staff being frank about issues that need to be faced.
- After the renaming of CCT for Gerry Connolly, Ms. Cortina and Mr. Quincy had a discussion with the Congressman about some things that were good to remember. Congressman Connolly said he liked to work with local government because you can get things done. One of the tools he used was to set goals that could be remembered easily and goals that people would work to achieve, like the 10% land acquisition goal. It is something that Parks continues to work at and it is something that will be remembered after someone like him is gone. He also mentioned the tree canopy goals.

His advice to us was to continue to think about performance measures. Parks performance measures have been on hold from the Strategic Plan. They have not been completed. The Strategic Plan needs a lot of reworking with Mr. Kincannon coming on board.

Those things help galvanize an organization to focus on outcomes. She has spoken with other elected officials that agree that performance outcomes are needed for the whole county.

Ms. Cortina extended thanks to Kristen Sinclair for walking Wakefield Park with her to view the areas where mountain bikers, hikers, and kids use the trail where deer management will take place. After seeing the areas with full tree coverage, Ms. Sinclair agreed that the two activities were not compatible and blocked those specific areas. In the fall and winter months when the foliage is off the trees those areas will be opened again for hunting.

Ms. Cortina thanked Ms. Sinclair for coordinating with the Police Department and representatives from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to come to an agreeable solution.

- Ms. Quintana enjoyed the Providence tour and thanked staff for organizing the tour. It was the first time she saw the collections and archaeological artifacts. The Board realized that there is an opportunity to potentially digitize and preserve those reports a bit better, especially documents that were generated in the 1970s that were not generated electronically. In a conversation earlier with Foundation Board member Tim Eakin Walsh, they talked of potentially finding a corporate sponsor to help with the project.

The Oak Marr construction is stunning and hopefully will draw more patrons in terms of what Parks is doing, such as offering child care. She did notice that the vending machines had healthier option.

Ms. Quintana reported that she went to Burke Lake Park over the weekend and noticed the number of people waiting to use trains and carousel. Many of these families use playground near these amusements as a waiting area. The playground is overcrowded and Parks needs to think about spending funds to increase the size of the playground.

She attended the renaming of the Cross County Trail in honor of Gerry Connolly who was her mentor. From him she learned how local government works.

Congressman Connolly reminded her of the Board of Supervisors' effort to look at the meals tax for Fairfax County. This could have a potential positive impact for the Park Authority. The Park Board should become more versed on the meals tax because it could affect Parks' bottom line. Almost all the jurisdictions in the area have a meals tax, except Fairfax County. As a board it would be helpful to become more knowledgeable about what is being proposed by former Congressman and former Chairman Tom Davis and former Chairwoman and former Secretary of the Commonwealth Kate Hanley in the report they are presenting to the Board of Supervisors on June 17.

- Mr. Vajda attended the Cardboard Boat Regatta. He thoroughly enjoyed the event.

He also attended the renaming of the CCT in honor of Gerry Connolly.

Mr. Vajda reminded everyone that Spotlight by Starlight, summer concert series, is in progress and is being held Sunday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Saturday mornings for children at Mason District Park and one performance on Saturday evening at Ossian Hall. He encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the entertainment.

- Mr. Thompson thanked the Park Foundation for all its work and its contribution of \$868,673.38. The work the Foundation has done and what Mr. Batten has done with the Foundation is beneficial to all throughout the county.

Mr. Thompson announced that the public meeting regarding Braddock Park Mini-Golf will be held on Thursday, June 12, the Mott Community Center.

With regard to naming rights and sponsorships, Mr. Thompson was surprised to learn that Montgomery County was moving faster than Parks. They are moving forward in their park system, projecting that with a focused approach they can make \$200,000 in the first year; \$390,000 in year two; \$690,000 in year three; and \$980,000 per year by year four.

Mr. Thompson recalled that the Parks naming rights study was a conservative estimate of \$200,000 assuming that no big sponsors came in. This is something Parks has not pursued vigorously. He believes that this should be put back on the table and really take a look at. There is a sign at Clemyjontri Park thanking the landscape company for its donation. Mr. Thompson is sure that there are folks out there that would be willing to do things for the advertising.

Mr. Thompson noted that is very complicated to find things on the Park Authority website. Prior to this meeting he was searching and was surprised to find a March 10, 2014, article on sponsorship.com from the IDG sponsorship report highlighting a survey the Park Authority had done in 2012 which outlined takeaways on public support for sponsorship programs. It also addressed the appropriateness of naming of specific facilities.

Montgomery County indicated that it is going to hire someone for \$50,000-\$100,000 to manage its program. As the Park Authority is looking at its long term Financial Sustainability program these are things that need to come back to the table. As Parks is asking for folks to do more for it, it needs to do an effective job of looking to see what Parks can do for itself.

- Mr. Vellucci thanked everybody that showed up for the Cardboard Boat Regatta. The seaworthiness of the boats seems to get better; some actually made it through four races.

Special mention should go to Mr. Hickey who has served as the master of ceremonies for a number of years. He really does make that a fun event. He thinks very quickly on his feet and tries to keep it light with the kids. He thanked Jim for making it wonderful and Julie Tahan, Jamie Fish, and all volunteers that make it the best every year.

He asked Chairman Bulova and Supervisors Cook and McKay if their job of judging gets any easier and they indicated it gets tougher.

Mr. Vellucci thanked Ms. Cortina and Mr. Batten for participating in the walk through at Lake Accotink Park to discuss getting ready for the master planning kick-off. The public meeting is being delayed until sometime in September. The major issue is whether there will be a Lake Accotink in the future. It has an incredible 30-mile watershed and it is silting in

very quickly. We need to look at the options and course of action is open to Parks. There are some internal decisions and discussions that need to take place before it goes out to the public.

Mr. Vellucci thanked Andy Galusha for staying on following the walk-through to walk the park and to talk about possibilities for entering the park. Mr. Galusha suggested the possibility of a loop which would also eliminate a safety concern.

Mr. Vellucci thanked Whole Foods in Springfield for holding its 5% day. The Whole Foods representative indicated that they should have numbers by Saturday, June 14. Five percent of everything they took in on June 11 will go to the Park Foundation for use by both the Friends of Accotink Creek and the Friends of Lake Accotink Park. The marketing manager, Janelle Cesari, walks Lake Accotink and loves it. This event was her idea. A number of people shopping at Whole Foods indicated that they shopped there on the 11th just for this event. Mr. Vellucci thanked Bobbi Longworth and Margaret Thaxton for being very responsive to Ms. Cesari.

Braddock Nights summer concert series is holding its kick-off on June 27.

Mr. Vellucci noted that he and Mr. Quincy had a discussion about the bylaws and he has some various serious concerns as well. He has four major issues with the approach that is being taken with the bylaws.

- 1) The working group consists of two board members who are both senior members of the board. 75% of the board are junior members who have five or less years of service, however there is very little responsibility accorded to the junior members of the board. Once again, this calls into question the true collegiality of the board.
- 2) We are limiting board involvement in the working group so as to skirt the three person state corporate commission law regarding advertising meetings.
- 3) One of the reasons for waiting until the spring was so that the new Director would be on board and would be a part of the process, yet the working group cites four individuals and the new Director is not one of them. All four of the working group members were in place six months ago, so that begs the question of why this process could not have started six months ago.
- 4) The timeline for this effort appears to be one of stretching this out so that there are additional delays ... given the delays to date ... such that this never gets done.
- 5) Nowhere in the bylaws does a committee member have the authority to establish a working group. The Chairman has the authority to establish a committee; therefore it has to be the entire committee by definition, unless the Board allows the committee chair to establish a working group.

There needs to be full transparency and full participation. The AMB has the lead and the rest of the Board has the responsibility to follow what the AMB is doing and looking at it in an overview situation.

- Mr. Thompson commented on the number of parking spaces for events in response to a comment made by Mr. Gorham during the presentation on the World Police and Fire Games.

Ms. Quintana added that from a smart-growth perspective and partly may need to be addressed in our long-term strategic planning process. We need to not think about paving over things to provide the maximum amount of parking spaces for peak events. We need to rethink and figure out how to become connected with transit options and multi-use of existing facilities. Look at existing inventory and who exists around our facilities and figure out ways to develop partnerships so we don't have to pave over everything. While Parks needs to have adequate facilities to accommodate people, staff also needs to think in a more comprehensive way about how to move people to our activity centers.

Mr. Kincannon stated that there is over-use of athletic areas and the multi-scheduling of micro-soccer because of the need to create opportunities for the number of youth in the county. Most of the facilities are not designed to take the increased parking related to that. One of the areas that Parks should be having a discussion with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) is its programming/scheduling.

One of the things that other localities did when there was an event was to require the event organizer to arrange for transportation by working with schools and transportation departments to arrange for shuttles to accommodate parking requirements. This may be something that Parks with NCS works on for sustainability.

Mr. Quincy suggested that this is a topic that should be addressed as a separate issue at an upcoming committee meeting.

Ms. Cortina noted that between now and the end of the month Parks has 72 events is organizing. This does not include all the partners' events. There are 1,039 classes scheduled.

- Mr. Quincy reminded the Board members that Elly Doyle nominations are needed and the opportunity to submit nominees closes on June 20.
- Messrs. Strickland and Sullivan were absent.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Quincy called the meeting to a close at 8:50 p.m.

Frank S. Vajda, Treasurer

APPROVED AND SIGNED JUNE 25, 2014

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on June 25, 2014

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant