



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

UPDATED MEETING PACKAGE

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Jai Cole, Executive Director

FROM: Ben Boxer, Public Information Officer
Marketing and Communications Office

DATE: April 18, 2024

Agenda

**Communications and Community Engagement Committee
(Committee of the Whole)**

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 – 7:00 pm

Virtual, via Zoom

Chairman: William G. Bouie

Vice Chair: Mike Thompson

1. Summary of Board of Supervisors Public Hearing Testimony* (with presentation) - Information

*Enclosures



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563. TTY (703) 803-3354

Board Agenda Item
April 24, 2024

INFORMATION (with presentation)

Summary of Board of Supervisors Public Hearing Testimony

From April 16 - 18, 2024, the Board of Supervisors held their Budget Public Hearings. Staff will provide an overview of the testimony given by park advocates.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENT:

None.

STAFF:

Jai Cole, Executive Director, Park Authority
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Daidria Grayson, Division Director, Marketing and Communications
Ben Boxer, Public Information Officer

Board of Supervisors Budget Public Hearings Summary of Speakers Supporting Parks

Video for April 16 Board of Supervisors Meeting and Public Hearing – [click here](#) (Budget Public Hearing begins at 4:54)

Speaker:	Time:	Themes:
Kiel Stone, Park Authority Board	6:26	Thank the board for funding, better trajectory than one-time funding; Equity findings and the transformation of our system to a more accessible one will not be quick, easy or inexpensive. We will need new committed funding and challenged board to expand revenue – meals tax and transit occupancy tax.
Anita Herrera, Park Foundation	6:30	Supports the proposed budget recommendations on baseline funding for FCPA. Thanked for past funding. Highlighted the foundations function in supplementing parks funding.
Aimee Martin, Friends of Green Spring	6:42	Thanked for last year’s support and this year’s sustained funding. Please, we want some more. We really need permanent site staff to do the on-site activities. Parks are not sustainable without permanent on-site people. Parks and Libraries are the tiniest sliver of the budget. Support for equity recommendations.
Elizabeth Ende, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions	7:01	Supports tree planning and promotion of the county’s tree canopy across the county and in parks. Enhance policies to preserve mature trees in the county’s land use process. Increase support for the Invasive Management Area program. Protect and enhance our parks and small green spaces.
Whitney Redding, Friends of Holmes Run	7:43	This year supported more than 50 different stewardship events. Support invasive plant control and stormwater restoration. Approves 2025 investments in parks including maintenance, park forestry and bamboo removal. Park Authority share of the General Fund has been traditional 0.6%. Invasives Management Area program is in need of additional staff to help manage volunteer efforts.
Terri Harley	7:47	Allocate funds for environmental education – including invasive plant control and educational efforts on the benefits of native plantings.
Lula Bauer, Fairfax County Athletic Council	8:17	Increase funding for the Turf Replacement Fund and promote the quality and safety of the county’s athletic facilities.
Courtney Massey, Defund NOVA Police	8:37	Mentioned support for investment in Parks.

Video for April 17 Board of Supervisors Budget Public Hearing – [click here](#)

Speaker:	Time:	Themes:
Renee Grebe, Nature Forward	59:00	Thank you for avoiding cuts to the Park Authority. Thank you for the extra funds for forestry, zero waste, mobile nature center, invasives management. Support a more equitable and sustainable funding model for the FCPA.
Judith Harbeck, Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations	3:28	Support increases and investments in the park system. Parks are a wonderful asset.
Leo Milanowski, Hollen Hall Board President	3:38	Happy to see the increase in funding for parks and that a portion of that increase is specifically earmarked towards invasive species. More will be needed.
Lydia Lawrence, Chair, Fairfax Parks Coalition	3:44	Appreciative that the County Executive budget fulfills most of FCPA's funding requests and does not cut. Asks the board to provide budget guidance to include: 1. A plan to implement the FCPA equity study recommendations; 2. Additional funding support to fund the FCPA's Invasive Management Area Program; 3. Develop a plan for language outreach and translation services; 4. Funding for outreach staff within the parks, potential for more bilingual staff.
Linda Byrne	4:35	Voiced general support for Parks

Video for April 18 Board of Supervisors Budget Public Hearing – [click here](#)

Speaker:	Time:	Themes:
Todi Carnes, Friends of Historic Huntley	0:52	Thanked the board for their investment in parks over the past two budget cycles and for this year's advertised budget which did not include cuts to park budgets. Historical underfunding of parks is well-documented. It is far below that of best practices. Best practices for actively managed land was between \$3K and \$6K per acre. Currently Park Authority is \$351 per managed acre. Annual cultural resource management is about \$500K below best practices. Fairfax County operational funding – per-acre is far below that of other jurisdictions. Cited Kiel Stone's testimony related to ongoing deferred maintenance and the revenue model of the Park Authority and dedicated funding.

Summary of Board of Supervisor Public Hearing Testimony

April 16-18, 2024

FY 2025 Budget Public Hearings

- Speakers:
 - 14 total speakers spoke in support of parks
 - Chairman Kiel Stone, Park Authority Board
 - Chair Anita Herrera, Park Foundation
 - Friends Groups
 - Other allied support groups
 - Individual citizens

Testimony Themes

Appreciation for FY2025
Investments in Parks; No
Cuts

Fund Equity Study
Recommendations

Funding for Invasives
Removal (Bamboo and
Beyond)

Synthetic Turf Field
Replacement Program
Funding

Bilingual Staff/Language
Translation

More Funding for On-
Site Staff Positions

Support to Investigate
Dedicated Funding
Sources for Parks (Meals
Tax, Transient Occupancy
Tax)

More General Fund
Support