

Joint Meeting between the Board of Supervisors and the Park Authority Board

May 23, 2017

Conference Room 11

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Sharon Bulova, Chairman
Penelope Gross, Mason District
John Cook, Braddock District
John Foust, Dranesville District
Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Jeff McKay, Lee District
Kathy Smith, Sully District
Linda Smyth, Providence District
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District

Park Authority Board Members Present:

William G. Bouie, Chairman, Hunter Mill District
Mary Cortina, Vice Chair, At-large
Michael Thompson, Secretary, Springfield District
Linwood Gorham, Treasurer, Mount Vernon District
Walter Alcorn, At-large
Anthony Vellucci, Braddock District
Timothy Hackman, Dranesville District
Ronald Kendall, Mason District
Ken Quincy, Providence District
Maggie Godbold, Sully District

May 23, 2017, Meeting Agenda

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings/2017/may23-joint-board-park-authority-agenda.pdf>

May 23, 2017, Meeting Materials

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings/2017/may23-joint-board-park-authority-materials-package.pdf>

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 A.M.
Welcoming and Introductions

Board of Supervisor's Chairman Sharon Bulova called the Joint Meeting to order and thanked Park Authority Chairman William Bouie and the Park Board for attending the meeting. Board of Supervisors' Chairman Bulova asked Park Authority Chairman Bouie to take the floor.

Chairman Bouie began by thanking the Board of Supervisors for its support during the budget and bond process, and reported the successful passage of the 13th bond cycle for the Park Authority. The bond funding will enable the Park Authority to fulfill the residents' need for park and facility upgrades, renovations, and land acquisition. Chairman Bouie noted projects within the bond list, and made a pledge to the Board of Supervisors that the funding would be spent wisely and projects will be completed under budget and on-time. Chairman Bouie also thanked the Board of Supervisors for General Fund support, to ensure that the park system is maintained. Needs will continue to outstrip our ability to provide all that the community desires, but the additional funding this year will help in many ways. The Park Authority greatly appreciates the Sinking Fund dollars to address critical repairs to park infrastructure.

The Park Authority received numerous awards over the last year on the local, state, and national stage, including the Governor's Gold Medal for Environmental excellence. This is further evidence of the park system's national stature and a tribute to the continuing support of the Board of Supervisors.

The Park Authority Chairman mentioned the many partnerships the Park Authority has created, including a robust partnership with the Nationals baseball team. All these could not be accomplished without the support of the Board of Supervisors.

Presentation

After the remarks, Park Authority Chairman Bouie asked Park Authority Executive Director Kirk Kincannon to give a presentation on the status of the Park Authority initiatives outlined in the agenda.

The initiatives presented included the agency's work on its Master Plan including the Master Plan draft themes. Also included in the presentation was a brief update on the RECenter Analysis Study and the Strategic Asset Value (SAV) Outcomes that the Park Board is reviewing, based on input from the Board of Supervisors.

Discussion

Chairman Bulova opened the floor to discussion with the members of the Board of Supervisors. During the 'around the room' discussion, the Board of Supervisors thanked Mr. Kincannon and staff on the great work they continue to produce, problem solving and the opportunities they are creating for the residents of the county. During the round table discussion, the following topics were brought up:

- Open space, health, and fitness are vital components to the Park Authority
- Heritage – interpreting and preserving the county's history is very important
- Maintenance – taking care of what we have, critical, one of the first things to do
- Everyone loves the parks
- Gems, such as Lake Accotink and Audrey Moore, are important and need to be improved and renovated as soon as possible
- Summer Concert Series is very important; fundraising is very important; equity across districts should be considered
- Strategic Asset Value Outcomes – household management alternatives within the RECenters and program offerings for all residents

- Seniors may need support in programming and services; what can the Park Authority do?
- Public private partnerships (and also outsourcing) should be considered in instances where it would make sense in a business perspective for highest use
- Looking forward to the Mount Vernon RECenter, as it is outdated and has outgrown its space
- Data should be available to look at the demographics of how some parks and services are used to reach the depth of our residents; looking at how to serve the population and how to reach families that don't know the great possibilities within the system
- Collaboration with other agencies to expand access is important; how do we affect the change to implement One Fairfax
- Parking is becoming a very big issue in certain areas of the county, which may not be a PA specific issue, but is a challenge overall
- Mowing - community appearance (although it is a VDOT issue) is a very important issue and should be a concerted effort, with the Park Authority working to help
- The senior population is a growing challenge and programs/services should be at the forefront of thought going into the future.
- Consider adult programs and additional walking tracks at other RECenters
- Invasive species is concerning, serious issue trying to accomplish so much with just volunteers
- The park system is fraying around the edges; should consider a faster process to updating and replacing equipment and infrastructure
- Forestry crew and stewardship is in need of additional resources
- Providence RECenter's diversity is amazing in its depth of use; the consistency between RECenter fitness centers is a challenge
- Thank you for the emphasis on the One Fairfax initiative and the successful public private partnerships to leverage opportunities in all parts of the county
- Lee District should be toward the top of the renovations for RECenters; customer expectations for the RECenter should be the same across the county
- Emphasis for natural resources is important; properties acquired by the Park Authority may not require the same amount of attention although invasive species is an issue
- Partnerships with youth leagues is essential to make improvements to facilities; increased flexibility is needed in many cases when resources are limited
- Golf courses are large open spaces and can emphasize environmental stewardship through environmental practices that should be considered at the Park Authority courses
- Field shortage is still a challenge; more people use parks for recreation; aging population – the 50 + plan continues to be important; South Run is one of the best facilities, but consistency is essential into the future
- Partnerships are also a great tourism opportunity, such as Go Ape and should be expanded
- Sports tourism is an important element to consider
- Future opportunities in the Reston area will be a great addition

The Board of Supervisors showed overwhelming thanks and support to both the Park Board and all park staff, and what a pleasure it was to work with everyone in the system. It was noted that additional meetings should be scheduled so that both boards could enter into discussions.

Several key areas emerged through the discussion. The Board of Supervisors outlined overall areas where funding should be directed:

- Maintenance
- Renovation of RECenters across the county to achieve consistency of experience
- Stewardship of natural resources and cultural resources
- Forestry, appearance, working to irradiate invasive species
- Partnerships provide essential bridge of resources
- Senior programing and services will continue to grow in importance
- Achieving a higher level of access is necessary to implement the One Fairfax initiative

The meeting adjourned at 10:08 A.M.