

**COUNTY OF FAIRFAX
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL (EQAC)**

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: April 8, 2026

TIME: 6:01 p.m. – 7:09 p.m.

**LOCATION: Fairfax County Government Center - Conference Room 4/5
(12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax, VA 22035)**

EQAC Member Attendance

Name	Present/ Absent*	Name	Present/ Absent*
Larry Zaragoza (Chair, Mount Vernon)	P	Eric Goplerud (Vice Chair, At-Large)	P
Kathryn Alsegaf (Providence)	P	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
Dean Costello (Franconia)	P	Alexis Dickerson (At-Large)	A
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	V	Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	P
Vacant (At-Large)		Kersey Manliclic (At-Large)	P
Nishka Shah (Student Member)	P	Rich Weisman (Sully)	P
Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P	Vacant (Mason)	

* P indicates present; A indicates absent; V indicates attended virtually; P** Present not participating

Park Authority Board (PAB) Attendance

Tim Hackman – Chairman
 Bill Bouie – Vice Chair
 Abena Aidoo Hewton – Treasurer (Virtual from the Franconia District location)
 Linwood Gorham
 Rick Healy
 Jose Peralta
 Michael Reynolds
 Michael Thompson

Staff Attendance

Jai Cole, Executive Director, Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)
 Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO (FCPA)
 Nigel Fields, Deputy Director/CPD (FCPA)
 Torsha Bhattacharya, Director, Stewardship and Planning Division (FCPA)
 Laura Grape, Director, Resource Management and Interpretation Division (FCPA)
 Daidria Grayson, Director, Marketing and Communications Division (FCPA)
 Mohamed Si Ghiwane (virtual), Assistant Division Director, Park Development Division (FCPA)
 Joan Allen, Forest Health Branch Chief (Department of Public Works and Environmental Services)

John Burke, Natural Resource Branch Manager (FCPA)
Andy Grabel, Public Information Officer (FCPA)
Brittany Vasquez, Public Relations Manager (FCPA)
Allison Rankin, Chief Strategist, Director's Office (FCPA)
Laura Vaughn, Management Analyst, Director's Office (FCPA)
Matthew Meyers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)
Maggie Beetstra (OEEC)
Kelly Zitzer (OEEC)

Visitor Attendance

None

Call to Order

Chair Hackman called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Chair Zaragoza introduced the requirements to allow EQAC to meet virtually. He asked that all members introduce themselves and following, he moved that EQAC certify that the virtual meeting comported with EQAC's adopted policy for all-virtual meetings. He further moved that EQAC conduct the meeting electronically through a dedicated video- and audio-conferencing line, and that the public could access this meeting through the Microsoft Teams link provided on the agenda or by dialing in by phone at 571-429-5982 with the phone conference ID: 298 440 905 697 29#. The motion was moved by Mr. Lanfear, seconded by Dr. Weisman and carried with a vote of 10-0-0, with Ms. Dickerson absent and Mr. Gubin not yet able to vote.

Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Natural Resources Management Update
 - a. Mr. Burke provided attendees with a Parks and Recreation natural resources update. for Parks and Recreation. Highlights included inventory and planning, protecting natural capital, managing wild populations, and sustainability and maintenance.
 - b. Joanne Allen Beech provided beech disease information
 - c. Staff provided answers to questions from members of EQAC.
3. Fairfax County Park Authority Budget (FCPA) Reduction Update
 - a. Ms. Cole presented an FCPA budget reduction and budget reduction target update. She explained the FCPA operating fund, FY27 budget requests, and FY 28 predictions.
 - b. Staff provided answers to questions from members of EQAC.

4. Chair Zaragoza adjourned the meeting.

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