

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

**MEETING MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING WITH FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY BOARD**

**DATE: November 8, 2023**

**TIME: 5:10 p.m. – 6:23 p.m.**

**LOCATION: 12055 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, VA 22035  
Park Authority Board Room, Suite 941**

**EQAC Member Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present/ Absent*</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present/ Absent*</b>
Larry Zaragoza (Chair, Mount Vernon)	P (arrived at 5:16 PM)	Renee Grebe (Vice-Chair, At-Large)	P
Johna Gagnon (Franconia)	P	Stella Koch (At-Large)	P (arrived at 5:38 PM)
Richard Healy (Mason)	P	Oaklen Kalinichenko (Student Member)	A
Ken Gubin (Dranesville)	P	George Lamb (At-Large)	A
Ken Lanfear (Hunter Mill)	V	Bryan Campbell (Braddock)	P
<i>Vacant</i> (Providence)		Eric Goplerud (At-Large)	P (arrived at 5:20 PM)
Rich Weisman (Sully)	A	Clyde Wilber (Springfield)	P

\* P indicates present; A indicates absent; V indicates attended virtually

**Park Authority Board (PAB) Attendance**

Kiel Stone, Chair  
Maggie Godbold, Vice-Chair  
Timothy B. Hackman, Treasurer  
William G. Bouie  
Linwood Gorham  
Ronald Kendall  
Ken Quincy  
Michael W. Thompson, Jr.  
James P. Zook  
Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carer, Secretary, arrived at 6:10pm

**Staff Attendance**

Matthew Meyers, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)  
Neely Law (OEEC)  
Allison Rankin, Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)  
John Burke, FCPA  
Shera White, FCPA  
Emilie Shumate, Park Services Division (PSD), Youth Services

Aimee Vospar, FCPA  
Ben Boxer, FCPA  
Jai Cole, FCPA  
Kim Eckert, FCPA  
Cindy Walsh, FCPA  
Tonya Mills, FCPA  
Nicole Varnes, FCPA  
Julie Kang, FCPA  
Lupita Marcos-Robio, FCPA  
Michael Peter, FCPA  
Karen Lussier, FCPA  
Kevin Williams, FCPA (Virtual)  
Brendon Hanafin, FCPA (Virtual)

**Visitor Attendance**

Donna Jacobson, Virtual  
Carolyn Gamble, Virtual  
Julie King, Virtual  
Amy (as identified), Virtual  
Martha (as identified), Virtual

**Call to Order/All Virtual Meeting**

Chairman Stone called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

**Agenda Items, Discussion, Decisions and Votes**

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. Chairman Stone welcomed EQAC and made a special mention of the long-time involvement of EQAC member Ms. Koch.
2. Bamboo Mitigation/Removal Update
  - a. Mr. Burke provided a presentation entitled, “EQAC/FCPA Natural Resource Branch Bamboo Update”. The presentation provided an update on bamboo management and response by FCPA to the Bamboo Ordinance, invasive management area (IMA) program, and investments in natural capital.
  - b. Mr. Burke described the activities associated with bamboo management to include, for example, the development of a prioritization protocol, educational materials, records and tracking complaints, and providing training to Department of Code Compliance inspectors. It is estimated that it will take 15 years and \$9.25million to treat FCPA’s identified acreage. FCPA requested recurring funding in the FY2024 budget. There is also a need for dedicated staff and contractor-support bamboo removal and suppression project on FCPA property.
  - c. IMA is the flagship stewardship program. It is funded through the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP). In FY2025, FCPA is requesting \$466,000 in EIP support and seeking continued long-term funding from the Board of Supervisors to support

IMA staff outside of the EIP. IMA includes spotted lantern fly and tree of heaven, for example.

- d. The Landscape Legacy and Sustainability program is supported by three full-time staff that maintain and monitor restoration projects as well as management of rare species and invasive species. A new office opened at the Lewinsville House in Lewinsville Park.

At 5:27pm Chair Zaragoza announced that one EQAC member, Mr. Lanfear, had requested to participate in the meeting remotely. Chair Zaragoza read the remote participation language requirements and Mr. Lanfear to state his name, location, and reason for remote attendance.

Mr. Lanfear shared that he was participating remotely from his home in the Hunter Mill District due to a family member's medical condition that requires him to provide care for such family member.

Ms. Gagnon moved to allow Mr. Lanfear to participate remotely. Clyde seconded the motion, and it carried by a vote of 8-4-0, with Mr. Lanfear not yet able to vote and Ms. Kalinichenko, Dr. Weisman, and Mr. Lamb and Stella Koch being absent from the meeting.

Stella Koch joined the meeting at 5:38pm

- e. There was a discussion about the adequacy of staffing to support FCPA's programs described in the presentation and management and treatment of bamboo. Mr. Burke restated that FCPA efforts are limited to county parks and training efforts focus on running and clumping bamboo but are not yet engaged in the identification of native bamboo.
- f. A question was raised about how the proposed change to move Animal Control Officers out of the Police Department (and under the shelter) would affect the deer management program; FCPA was not aware of this proposal.

### 3. Forestry Management Update

- a. Mr. Williams provided a presentation on FCPA's current staffing and budget, work distribution, risk assessment and priority, challenges, budget history, requests, needs and next steps related to forestry management. He described the program funding limits FCPA's work to be reactive rather than preventive and focuses on tress that are at extreme or high risk. Anything below these risk levels is not funded, nor is any pro-active work, nor tree planting. Mr. Williams provided examples of the different priorities or level of risk. There are other tree planting programs in the county. There were four staff vacancies in FY2023. Work is completed by staff and contractors.
- b. Mr. Williams noted the current concern in the decline in oak trees and the funding required to address this concern (e.g., maintenance, removal). The budget for contractors increased from \$237,000 to \$1,273,00 from 2013 to 2024.
- c. Mr. Williams identified that a total of \$2.64 million of maintenance funds has been redirected from park maintenance FY13-24. Compounding deferred maintenance for other park facilities, delayed job completion, growing backlog and increased risk from preventive maintenance.

- d. In response to questions, FCPA has information for 1:1 tree replacement but it is not recorded using GIS. There was a discussion about using volunteers to assist or augment FCPA capacity that noted the challenge of managing volunteer groups when staff and funding are already limited. A suggestion was made to use volunteer groups like Tree Rescuers for outreach and education. Mr. Burke responded that they are seeing natural recruitment and anecdotal evidence of the positive impact from deer management. FCPA shared concern about the impacts of climate change on trees but FCPA is not able to set-up reserve financing. Chair Stone stated support from EQAC for funding to support FCPA programs and activities would be appreciated.

4. FCPA Budget Update

- a. Ms. Cole provided a presentation on a FCPA budget update and plans for FY25. In her presentation, Ms. Cole identified the FCPA FY25 budget request that total \$6.8 million including continuing services, compliance and operating budget (e.g. staff new facility). She estimated that \$3.4 million is needed to Zero Waster Trash Removal and Recycling to be compliant with the county ordinance (e.g. recycling bins, recycling truck, staffing). Ms. Cole described a current situation where there is no trash management over the weekend and there dumping of waste by residents near dumpsters at park facilities.
- b. Discussion ensued with Ms. Cole stating that FCPA is coordination with Department of Public Works and Environmental Service Solid Waste Management to implement Zero Waste to improve efficiency, however staffing is needed as maintenance staff are dedicated to trash for an estimated 40% of their time. FCPA is holding vacant positions until the budget is available to fill them.

5. Adjournment 6:23PM (not vote to adjourn)