



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods, and diverse communities of Fairfax County

2020 Council Members

Magisterial Representatives:

Marcia M. Pape Daniels
Braddock District

Gregory Beckwith
Dranesville District

James Elder
Hunter Mill District

Lisa Mickey
Lee District

Barbara R. Lowrey
Secretary
Mason District

Lester Munson
Mount Vernon District

Stephen McLaughlin,
Chairman
Providence District

Michael Thompson, Jr.
Springfield District

Gary Flather
Sully District

Katherine Quinn
Member-At-Large

Vacant
Diversity-At-Large

Town Representatives:

Jeffrey E. Stein
Town of Clifton

Roland Taylor
Town of Herndon

Sam Althoff
Town of Vienna

Sports-Specific Representatives:

Rob Hahne
Baseball Council

Suzy Willemssen
Fast Pitch Softball Council

Carl A. S. Coan, III
Adult Softball Council

Steve Bergstrom
Basketball Council

Mark Meana,
Football Council

Mary Ann Wagner
Lacrosse Council

Lula Bauer
Soccer Council

Chuck Pruitt
Volleyball Council

Jenni Cantwell
Vice Chairman
Women's Sports

Non-Voting Members:

Michael Thompson
Park Authority

Vacant
Park Authority

Dr. Ricardy Anderson
School Board

William Curran
Fairfax County Public Schools

Executive Agency:

Christopher A. Leonard
Director
Neighborhood and Community Services

FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Link to Video of the Meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTH1vZkGZXU&feature=youtu.be>

MINUTES

April 22, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
James Elder, Hunter Mill District
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
William Bright, Lee District, Alternate
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Clarke Gray, Providence District, Alternate
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Ryan Buchanan, Fast Pitch Softball Council, Alternate
Mark Meana, Football Council
Carl Coan, Adult Softball Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate
Rob Baily, Volleyball Council, Alternate
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Michael Thompson Jr., Fairfax County Park Authority Board
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
Dr. Ricardy Anderson, Fairfax County School Board, Mason District
Bill Curran, Director of Student Activities, Fairfax County Public Schools
Paul Hatcher, Fairfax County Public Schools
Chris Leonard, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Keisha Dotson, Division Director, Access to Community Resources and Programs, Neighborhood and Community Services
Karen Avvisato, Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services

Mark Martino, Branch Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
 Jason Shelton, Analyst, Neighborhood and Community Services
 Taylor Dixon, Region 1 Scheduler, Neighborhood and Community Services
 Travis Middleton, Region 2 Scheduler, Neighborhood and Community Services
 Lori Barb, Region 3 Scheduler, Neighborhood and Community Services
 Andrew Buffington, Region 4 Scheduler, Neighborhood and Community Services
 Chris Pulley, Community Outreach Specialist, Neighborhood and Community Services
 Nancy Bush, Finance Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
 Victor Morales, Administrative Assistant, Neighborhood and Community Services
 Dan Griel, Neighborhood and Community Services

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
 Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
 Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
 Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council

GUESTS:

Eric Kulczycky, Visit Fairfax
 Annemarie McGavin, Lee Mount Vernon Sports Club

MEETING OPENING

Mr. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

STATUS OF MAINTENANCE, IMPROVEMENTS, RENOVATIONS ON FCPS AND FCPA FIELDS

The Council discussed the removal of \$1.2 million from the County budget that was previously dedicated to the Fairfax County Park Authority maintenance of Fairfax County Public School synthetic turf fields. Mr. McLaughlin moved to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding the removal of the \$1.2 million and the jeopardy to its investment if maintenance is not continued. The motion was approved.

FCPS

Mr. Curran reported that FCPS was able to accelerate maintenance schedules while maintaining social distancing requirements.

Mr. Flather inquired on the status of the Centreville HS and Westfield HS synthetic turf field replacement projects? Mr. Hahne informed Mr. Flather that they started taking up the synthetic turf today. Replacement of the Westfield HS track began 10 days ago. NCS will provide Mr. Flather with an updated timeline on the Centreville HS synthetic turf replacement project.

FCPA

Ms. Baldwin stated that FCPA is moving forward with maintenance and has been able to accelerate maintenance project schedules as well. the synthetic turf replacement of Arrowbrook park will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

Fairfax County Athletic Council
12011 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
703 324-5523



FCPA is not currently maintaining the FCPS turf fields. It will resume maintenance of the fields in June.

Ms. Bauer asked the Park Authority if adopted field maintenance may continue, specifically on Manchester Lakes Park. Ms. Baldwin informed Ms. Bauer that landscaping is not part of the State's order and to work with Phil Hager to coordinate.

Mr. Hahne inquired if there were proposed cuts to diamond and grass field maintenance in the revised County budget? Ms. Baldwin stated there were no such cuts in the proposed. Mr. Curran also stated that he had spoken to Mr. Kevin Williams from FCPA in regards of continuing maintenance.

STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES ON SPRING AND SUMMER SPORTS

NCS

Ms. Avvisato reported that NCS was working on refunding all spring gym application fees that were paid before the closure of all facilities. Spring field refunds will be processed soon after. Ms. Avvisato informed the Council that NCS is still scheduling for summer in case facilities re-open. She encouraged sports organizations to submit their fall applications ASAP.

FCPS

Mr. Curran informed the Council that FCPS was able to move up some maintenance and renovation projects. The Virginia High School League is still unsure about a start date for fall sports.

STATUS OF FALL SPORTS

Mr. McLaughlin proposed establishing a Return to Play committee to look at the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on sports and the challenges of restarting. All fall sports representatives should be members on the committee. The motion was approved.

NCS is continuing to schedule for summer and fall in case the stay at home order is lifted. They are preparing for the best-case scenario. FCPA is currently planning on June 10 openings, while all FCPS facilities are currently closed through June 30. If the June 10 date changes, decisions on closures may be adjusted.

There is no definitive date for the reopening of golf courses. FCPA is coordinating with surrounding jurisdictions on how to proceed.

The Council advised that organizations prepare multiple contingency plans at this point. The Return to Play committee hopes to establish several plans for reopening.



STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES ON THE IMPACT ON THEIR OPERATION AND ANY CHALLENGES THEY FACE TO REOPEN

NCS

Mr. Leonard reported that like other agencies in Fairfax County and surrounding jurisdictions, NCS has revamped everything to support basic needs and assistance programs. Staff are assisting with Meals on Wheels distribution and others are still teleworking and providing help. Mr. Leonard highlighted the County Assistance from a Distance, that informs the public that the County's assistance and services are still available, however they may be provided differently.

FCPS

Mr. Curran stated that there has been a huge readjustment on the FCPS side, especially for spring sports as the cancellations and closures happened rapidly. He praised FCPS staff for adapting and staying engaged with students. Mr. Curran reported that the high schools are having virtual senior nights for spring athletes.

Mr. Curran met with the Director of Student activities for the high schools to discuss contingency plans on how to start in the fall. High school athletics rely heavily on fundraising and gate receipts and need to develop creative alternative plans due to the impact on the budget. Barring any setbacks, the Virginia High School League executive committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday May 12.

Dr. Anderson gave an update on how FCPS has been adjusting to the pandemic. Dr. Anderson explained how FCPS is distributing meals to families, conducting virtual instructional learning, as well as how the pandemic has impacted the budget.

Mr. Thompson inquired about the funding of the replacement of synthetic turf at high school stadium fields. Booster clubs may not be able to financially assist with the investment. Mr. Curran replied that this potential issue is on Assistant Superintendent, Department of Facilities and Transportation Services, Jeff Platenberg's radar.

FCPA

Ms. Baldwin stated that these are challenging times for FCPA as well. No decisions to close park facilities was easy, however, community and staff safety were paramount in all decisions. FCPA has ongoing conversations and evaluates daily. Ms. Baldwin stated that revenue-funded facilities are dependent on fees/charges. Mr. Thompson informed the Council that the FCPA summer camp schedule may be profoundly impacted as well

COMMUNITY NEED

The Council discussed the financial impact to organizations and those that may be more severely impacted than others. A few suggestions to help 501©3 organizations are the following

- Paycheck Protection Program
- FEMA Disaster Relief Fund Loans
- County Small Interest Loans

NCS will distribute a list of organizations in the County to all the Council members.



MAJOR WALK-ON ISSUES

The Council reported multiple walk-on issues at both FCPA and FCPS sites. Fences are being climbed to access fields, as well as barriers being removed to access parking lots. FCPA is working with Fairfax County police regarding walk-on groups using athletic fields and have also created a park monitoring program. When the police receive a phone call regarding walk-ons using athletic fields or accessing closed park facilities, the police contact FCPA. FCPA will then dispatch a monitor to encourage voluntary compliance from the walk-on group. Ms. Baldwin encouraged the Council members to reach out to their local organizations because FCPA is seeing a lot of organized play. All walk-on use should be reported to the property authority.

STATUS UPDATES FROM MAGISTERIAL AND SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Hunter Mill District

Mr. Elder reports that the United States Tennis Association has suspended league and tournament play through May 31. Guidelines for resuming tennis were also released for states that fall into phase 1 of resuming activities. Mr. Elder will send the guidelines to NCS to distribute.

Lee District

Ms. Mickey stated that she had reached out to all the organizations in Lee district to check-in. She requested NCS send a list of the organizations' websites to help contact them.

Mount Vernon District

Mr. Munson inquired if the annual Champions of Character ceremony had been revised? NCS Community Outreach Specialist Mr. Pulley stated that the Champions of Character committee had planned on meeting before the pandemic, and the ceremony is still tentatively scheduled for October 6. The committee will convene electronically to consider different ideas of how the ceremony may look.

Springfield District

Mr. Thompson stated that when sports start back up, but there are social distancing requirements in place, there are going to be major adjustments needed. One solution at FCPS sites would be to have access to the school wi-fi network to stream games online.

Mr. Thompson suggested actively communicating to organizations how to access all the resources provided by not only NCS, but throughout in the County. NCS will create a document with access to help and resources throughout the County for the Council to distribute as needed.

Baseball

Mr. Hahne reported that baseball is still awaiting a decision on the national level. Mr. Hahne announced that he was able to assemble a group of high school baseball coaches to conduct 12 webinars on a variety of topics of interest to the baseball community. Each webinar has had 150-500 attendees.

There have also been virtual media days for high school baseball teams that allow coaches and players to interact. They have provided positive experiences for all involved and have averaged 200 attendees per session.

Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen appreciated the information provided at the meeting and will pass it along to the softball community. Like baseball, softball is waiting to see how things evolve.



Basketball

Mr. Bergstrom reported that basketball was able to complete the winter season. The spring house basketball season is canceled, and spring/summer travel basketball is currently on hold. Mr. Bergstrom stated that sporting goods stores are not seeing orders for equipment which is troubling.

Football

Mr. Meana reported that football is waiting to see how the fall season will develop.

Soccer

Ms. Bauer explained that her organization was attempting to do "Drop and Go" food donations. However, since parks are now closed, she inquired if using a FCPS parking lot would be an option. Mr. Curran informed Ms. Bauer that all FCPS facilities and grounds are closed. NCS informed Ms. Bauer that any NCS community center parking lot is available to use, and Gum Springs Community Center would work.

Ms. Bauer explained that soccer was suspended on March 12 and the spring soccer season has been canceled and refunded. She has reached out to all the local soccer organizations to check-in. Ms. Bauer is concerned some of the smaller organizations may not return. She informed the Council that some organizations were able to receive financial assistance through the Paycheck Protection Program, but some were not able to. Ms. Bauer is concerned the fall season may not start back until October and some of the smaller organizations may need a financial stimulus of some sort.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully,
Barbara R. Lowrey, Secretary

