



County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL MINUTES

November 18, 2020

MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

LINK TO VIDEO OF THE MEETING:

[November 18 Athletic Council Meeting](#)

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 Willemsen
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

Kurt Louis
Park Authority

Melanie Meren
School Board

William Curran
Fairfax County Public Schools

Executive Agency:

Christopher A. Leonard
Director
Neighborhood and Community Services

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District, Alternate
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
William Bright, Lee District, Alternate
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large Alternate
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Suzy Willemsen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Mark Meana, Football Council
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Carl Coan, Adult Softball Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs
Hillary Richardson, Women's Sports Programs, Alternate

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Chris Leonard, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Keisha Dotson, Division Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Karen Avvisato, Athletic Services Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
Mark Martino, Branch Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
Jason Shelton, Analyst, Neighborhood and Community Services
Michael Thompson Jr., Fairfax County Park Authority Board
Kurt Louis, Director of Park Operations Division, Fairfax County Park Authority
Melanie Meren, Fairfax County School Board, Hunter Mill District
Bill Curran, Director of Student Activities, Fairfax County Public Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Elder, Hunter Mill District
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna

GUESTS:

Eric Kulczycky, Visit Fairfax
Jeff Diehl, Chantilly Youth Association Lacrosse

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

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The meeting minutes from the virtual meetings on April 22, June 24, July 27, September 16, and October 21 that were distributed to the Council were approved.

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin informed the Council that Mr. Leonard had accepted the position as Deputy County Executive of Health, Housing and Human Services (HHS). The Council thanked Mr. Leonard for his years of service and continued support of the Council.

WINTER GYM USE UPDATE

Mr. Curran informed the Council of the Governor's most recent orders at his press conference today. The new order reduces spectators to 25 per event, indoor and outdoor. The 25-spectator limit does not include personnel, coaches, officials, and players.

Mr. Curran explained the intent was to migrate FCPS athletics indoors this week for out of season workouts. That plan was delayed due to the growing number of COVID-19 cases.

The Virginia High School League VHSL released all return to play protocols by sport. The return to play protocols can be found on the VHSL website. FCPS also provided staff a logistics guide to help start operations in buildings. Mr. Curran is hopeful and looking forward to VHSL sports starting in December. Arlington County recently rejoined for the winter season, except for wrestling. Alexandria schools will not participate in any winter season.

FCPS continue to work closely with NCS on what winter gym use for community use will look like.

Mr. Leonard stated that NCS has made clear to community users that NCS will follow what FCPS does and monitor situation.

Mr. Bergstrom inquired if the proposed January 4 start date for indoor community use is still accurate. Mr. Curran confirmed that January 4 is the planned start date for community use in school gyms, but FCPS is constantly monitoring the COVID-19 situation. Mr. Curran explained the standards and expectations for community users are going to be strict.

Mr. Bergstrom asked if Mr. Curran anticipated an impact on Saturday gym usage in schools. Mr. Curran stated that there will be an impact due to way to schedules are constructed, official's availability, etc., however, they will try to minimize competition on Saturdays. Sundays will still be available for community use as there has been no waiver for FCPS to practice or play on Sundays.

Ms. Meren and Mr. Curran informed the Council they hosted a virtual town hall for parents regarding sports returning in FCPS. There was a large attendance and a lot of good information and questions. Ms. Meren also thanked all staff and members for reminding the community of

Fairfax County Athletic Council
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Fairfax, Virginia 22035
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guidelines and protocols to be able to keep the fields open.

REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Baseball

Mr. Hahne praised Mr. Curran and all the high school staff for their hard work. Mr. Hahne stated that the baseball season was completed a week ago. Due to college recruiting shutting down, several high school baseball coaches helped juniors and seniors with free combines and recruiting tools to send to colleges.

Basketball

Mr. Bergstrom reported that private basketball groups and facilities such as the St. James and Hoops Plus are experiencing growth. High school players who want to prepare for the upcoming season are using these facilities since FCPS gyms are currently closed. Mr. Bergstrom stated he would be attending a countywide planning meeting for basketball this winter and establishing return to play guidelines.

Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen congratulated Mr. Leonard on his new position and thanked him for his continued support. The softball community is thankful they were able to play modified games in the summer and fall. Ms. Willemssen is hopeful the high school seasons get completed.

Football

Mr. Meana had nothing to report.

Slow Pitch Softball

Mr. Coan reported that Fairfax Adult Softball finished their season at the end of October. There were a reduced number of teams, but all teams that wanted to play were accommodated. Mr. Coan is looking forward to the spring season.

Lacrosse

Mr. Diehl inquired if FCPS anticipates any restrictions at school facilities this spring? Mr. Curran stated that FCPS is trying to avoid Saturdays as competition days, however, there will be some impact with the new high school sports schedule.

Soccer

Ms. Bauer stated that soccer was thankful to get their season completed. Ms. Bauer thanked the NCS monitors for helping calm parents and enforcing County and CDC guidelines.

Ms. Bauer expressed concern that many organizations are seeing mental health issues in youth athletes. Mr. Leonard and Ms. Meren agreed that this is a growing concern and will put together resources to help organizations that are experiencing issues with mental health.

Volleyball

Mr. Pruitt reported that volleyball is in a similar situation to basketball. The primary season for youth recreation volleyball is the spring. Mr. Pruitt will convene the volleyball council to discuss plans and protocols. Mr. Pruitt reported that 80% of club volleyball programs moved forward with playing and held tryouts earlier this month with strong participation numbers. Mr. Pruitt stated that USA Volleyball had mandated all players wear masks even while playing and that is something that volleyball may do at the youth level to be consistent.



STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

FCPS

None

FCPA

Mr. Louis reported that the field replacement at the Graham Road Community Building is underway.

Mr. Louis informed the Council that staff continue to measure and perform condition assessments of outdoor basketball courts in case they are needed in the spring.

Mr. Thompson thanked members for their support on the Park Authority bond. Mr. Thompson informed the Council that the work plan for the Patriot Park North diamond field complex will go out for contract during the 1st quarter of 2021. The projected completion date of the project is June 2023.

NCS

Ms. Avvisato stated that NCS held a virtual meeting with all community gym users to review the proposed community use winter gym season, expectations, and requirements.

The community use policy for winter 2020-21 can be found below:

Community Use Policy Winter 2020-2021
January 4 – March 15
Time- M-F 5:30-9:15 S/S 8:00-9:15
Primary Season- Youth House Basketball, Fairfax County Youth Basketball (FCYBL), Youth “Club” Volleyball <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrestling will be coordinated and scheduled through Fairfax County Public Schools • No adult use during the week • No secondary season sports use
Practice Hours Per Week- 1 Game Hours Per Week- 1 ¼
Teams Per Gym Practice- 1 Teams Per Gym Game- 2

Guidelines:

1. All permit holders will strictly abide by the [Virginia High School League Return to Participation Guidelines](#) for their respective sports.
2. There must be a 15-minute transition time built into all practices and game schedules. First group must vacate the facility completely before next group enters. Second group must remain in their cars until first group is completely out of gym. Separate entrances and Exits should be used where possible.
3. Permit Holder is responsible for disinfecting balls, player benches and scorer tables before and after each use.
4. Masks must always be worn in the gym by spectators and coaches. Masks must be worn by kids on the bench but do not have to be worn while playing.
5. Hand Sanitizer is recommended for each kid to bring their own and use accordingly.



6. Spectators must be limited and must socially distanced. Spectators not from the same household must sit at least 6 feet apart. If no space is available, newly arriving spectators must be asked to remain in their cars due to capacity limits.
7. Only Coaches and players allowed in the gym for practices. Minimum 2 coaches required.
8. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to administer the health and safety assessment to all persons entering the gymnasium, to include all coaches, players, referees, spectators, and administrative staff. Anyone that refuses to participate in the assessments must be denied entry.
9. Permit holder is responsible for **immediately** reporting all positive Covid-19 Cases to NCS at AthleticServices@fairfaxcounty.gov. Report must include name and telephone number of the positive case.

The following links are additional resources to help guide you in implementing a safe and successful season.

- [CDC Considerations for Youth Sports](#)
- [Forward Virginia Phase 3 Guidelines for Recreational Sports](#)

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara R. Lowrey, Secretary

