



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

October 21, 2020

MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

LINK TO VIDEO OF THE MEETING:

[October 21 Athletic Council Meeting](#)

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
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Clarke Gray, Providence District, Alternate
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
Suzy Willemssen, 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

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
John Chapman, Community Use Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Elder, Hunter Mill District
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council

GUESTS:

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

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

Kurt Louis
Park Authority

Melanie Meren
School Board

William Curran
Fairfax County Public Schools

Executive Agency:

Christopher A. Leonard
Director
Neighborhood and Community Services

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

Mr. McLaughlin stated Elections were unable to be conducted in the spring due to the pandemic. Mr. Thompson moved that the current leadership retain their roles for the remainder of the term. The motion was approved.

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin stated that at the September meeting there was a discussion regarding walk-on issues. Mr. Martino informed the Council that NCS had a meeting with Ms. Bauer and Ms. Moxie from the Soccer Council regarding the various issues they are seeing, and which locations see the most incidents. Several "hot spots" were identified throughout the County and NCS has directed its field monitors to focus on these locations. Police and School Security has also been hired to help supplement the NCS monitors at the "hot spots."

Mr. Beckwith reported an issue on October 15 at Great Falls Nike Park. A girl's lacrosse coach confronted a group of adult soccer players who were walking on the field. After the disagreement, the coach took photographs of the soccer players' license plates. A member of the walk-on group threw a soccer ball at the coach which caused his glasses to fall on the ground. Another member of the walk-on group proceeded to step on and break the glasses. Ms. Wagner also reported that a player's bag was stolen during the incident and the police were called.

Ms. Wagner stated that the walk-on issues are daily and constant. The walk-ons are destroying property, cutting locks on goals, and dragging goals across turf fields. When asked to leave, the walk-ons become belligerent and refuse to leave. The walk-ons also do not abide by COVID-19 protocols such as social distancing and mask wearing. The overall environment is not good for the kids.

Ms. Bauer reported her issues have improved; however, the walk-ons are still disrespectful and do not always abide by COVID-19 protocols. Ms. Bauer stated that the adult games have been scheduled later to help with the transition between her group and the adult organization.

Mr. McLaughlin updated the Council on the Nottoway Park light curfew issue that was discussed at the October meeting. Mr. McLaughlin, Mr. Meana, FCPA and NCS met with the Providence District Supervisor Palchik and the neighboring homeowner associations. Mr. McLaughlin is hopeful the issue will be resolved with education of how field parameters are established at the time fields are developed.



SPORTS REPORT OUTS

Basketball

Mr. Thompson revisited the idea of having the outdoor basketball courts permitted in the spring if it ends up there is no gym use this winter. Mr. Leonard stated that NCS, FCPA and FCPS have had preliminary discussions on inventorying and scheduling outdoor basketball courts. Mr. Leonard explained that NCS had submitted a proposal to FCPS to conduct a condensed winter gym season if high school sports are able to start. The proposal is currently with FCPS leadership.

Mr. Leonard stressed the importance to report any COVID-19 issues to NCS. Clubs are running the risk of having coach's conducting practices outside the organization's insurance coverage.

Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen stated the travel and recreation programs are going well. The softball community is privileged to be able to use fields. Ms. Willemssen is concerned about indoor sports impacting spring sports again if there is a spike in COVID-19 cases.

Football

Mr. Meana reported frustration from the football community in seeing other sports playing. There is frustration about the inconsistency of what can and cannot happen.

Slow Pitch Softball

Mr. Coan reported the season is wrapping up and they have had no new COVID-19 issues. Mr. Coan inquired if the user groups were being included in the Nottoway Park discussion since Fairfax Adult Softball is a major user. Mr. McLaughlin has kept Fairfax Adult Softball in the loop, but the issue is currently at an education phase.

Soccer

Ms. Bauer stated that parents are concerned about other sports not abiding by social distancing guidelines. She informed the Council that her organization had a player attend an outdoor basketball practice, but there was no prescreening or following of guidelines. The soccer team they were part of had to stop activity and quarantine. Since no prescreening measures were taken at the basketball practice, contact tracing was difficult to conduct. Ms. Bauer reported seeing widespread basketball usage on outdoor basketball courts. Mr. Meana stated that individuals are starting up for-profit organizations since some facilities are not currently permitted. This issue is not isolated to only the basketball community.

STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

FCPS

None

FCPA

Mr. Louis informed the Council that the Park Authority Board has approved irrigation replacements at Beulah Park, Greenbriar Park and Nottoway Park that will be completed this fall into the spring.

Mr. Louis stated that all fields at Hoes Road Park will receive a deep tine and top dressing to help with drainage issues. Mason Neck West Park 60 #1 will be getting the same thing done.

Mr. Louis reported the following Park Authority field projects:

- Nottoway Park 90 #6 is receiving irrigation replacement and infield redone
- Ossian Hall 60 #2 is receiving infield renovation and fencing



- All field at Pine Ridge Park are receiving ADA improvements
- Poplar Tree Park RF #1, 60 # 4 and 90 #5 will receive irrigation replacements and infields redone

Mr. Louis reviewed the following Park Authority basketball court projects to be completed hopefully done by end of November:

- Loisdale Park
- Mason District Park
- Newington Heights Park
- Rolling Valley West Park

Mr. Louis reviewed the following Park Authority tennis court projects:

- Rolling Valley West Park
- Roundtree Park

Both will have 2 pickleball courts as well

Mr. Thompson reminded the Council that the Park Authority has a Park Bond on the ballot this fall. There are a lot of projects people in the athletic community care about. Encourage everyone to support.

Mr. Flather, Sully District representative was supportive of the idea scheduling the outdoor basketball courts this spring.

NCS

Mr. Martino reported that NCS is trying to address all walk-on and COVID-19 issues that arise. NCS is in the process of hiring a region 1 scheduler to replace Taylor Dixon who is now with the Fairfax County Park Authority. Mr. Martino reported that winter field scheduling is being finalized and they are waiting to hear back from FCPS regarding the potential for community use in the gyms this winter.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Thompson reminded the Council about the services NCS offers for those in need. Mr. Thompson stressed the importance to identify people in communities that may need assistance. Ms. Dotson provided the Council with the NCS Coordinate Services Planning (CSP) phone number 703-222-0880. CSP can assist with such things as rent, mortgage, food needs, prescriptions, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara R. Lowrey, Secretary

