



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

SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

LINK TO VIDEO OF THE MEETING:

[SEPTEMBER 16 FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District, Alternate
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
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
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
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council
Rob Baily, Volleyball Council, Alternate

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Chris Leonard, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Mark Martino, Branch Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
Karen Avvisato, Athletic Services 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
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
Judy Pedersen, Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority
Stephanie Leedom, Director of Planning and Development, Fairfax County Park Authority
Anna Bentley, Manager, Park Planning, Fairfax County Park Authority
John Burke, Natural Resource Branch Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority
Adam Wynn, Engineer, Planning and Development, Fairfax County Park Authority
Hanna Kras, Public Information Assistant, Fairfax County Park Authority
Melanie Meren, Fairfax County School Board, Hunter Mill District
Bill Curran, Director of Student Activities, Fairfax County Public Schools

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Elder, Hunter Mill District
 Lisa Mickey, Lee District
 Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
 Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
 Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

GUESTS:

Eric Kulczycky, Visit Fairfax
 Matt McMahon, Fairfax Ultimate

MEETING OPENING

Mr. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present. Mr. McLaughlin welcomed Melanie Meren, who is the new School Board representative on the Council.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

Fairfax County Park Authority staff gave a presentation on the 2020 Park Bond. A link to the presentation and other Park Bond materials can be found at

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/2020-bond>

Mr. Meana inquired on how recipients were selected for the Needs Assessment survey. Ms. Anna Bentley, Park Planning Manager for FCPA explained FCPA retained a consultant to conduct the surveys. Mr. Meana requested the methodology the consultant used in the surveys. Discussion of the community survey begins on page 51, the first section is 8.1 Methodology [2016 Park Authority Needs Assessment](#).

Mr. Munson inquired if there was data that shows the proportion of the bond by magisterial district. The Park Authority provided a map that shows a breakdown of the projects by magisterial district which can be found here [2020 Park Bond Project Map](#).

Mr. Leff inquired about the number of respondents in the Needs Assessment survey that reported using parks, specifically if the data is broken down by whether groups or individuals use the park.

Ms. Bentley indicated there were several follow-up questions that sought to gather that information. The Park Authority asked a couple questions about key facilities that people use, and they could indicate up to four important activities per question. The summary graphics for these questions start on page 53, in section 8.2.3 Important Facilities [2016 Park Authority Needs Assessment](#)



CHAIRMAN REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin reported that Mr. Meana, NCS, FCPA and himself would be meeting with Providence District Supervisor Palchik regarding a lighting curfew issue at Nottoway Park. Mr. McLaughlin shared the letter he sent on behalf of the Council.

Mr. McLaughlin stated the Council will continue to hold virtual meetings through the end of the year and possibly into next year. Mr. McLaughlin is seeking clarity regarding conducting regular business during virtual meetings. One item of business that needs to move forward are Elections which were supposed to occur in June.

RETURN TO PLAY COMMITTEE

Mr. McLaughlin reported the committee had not met since the July Athletic Council meeting and there are no updates to report

SPORTS REPORT OUTS

Baseball

Mr. Hahne stated roughly 90% of baseball organizations are playing a fall season. Many of the organizations did not have a summer season, however roughly 25% did participate in summer. The baseball community is ensuring everyone is safe and adhering to all guidelines.

Basketball

Mr. Bergstrom reported that there was no summer or fall basketball because of the closure of Fairfax County Public School gyms. There is some private gym use occurring; however, it is mostly limited to clinics.

Basketball is awaiting a decision from the Virginia High School League regarding high school winter sports and whether gyms will be open for community use.

Mr. Thompson reported a suggestion had been made to FCPA, FCPS and NCS to inventory the outdoor basketball courts for scheduling to try to salvage a season.

Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen stated the fall season is underway and groups are doing a good job following guidelines.

Football

Mr. Meana reported there is no tackle football occurring throughout the County; however, there are some touch and flag football leagues operating.

Lacrosse

Ms. Wagner indicated there is still confusion on the social distancing guidelines and what sports can and cannot occur. Ms. Wagner inquired if the COVID-19 signage at the fields were provided by the County. Mr. Louis from the Fairfax County Park Authority stated that FCPA staff had placed the signage at all parks to inform citizens of social distancing guidelines. Ms. Wagner reported that most lacrosse occurring during the fall are small developmental leagues.

Slow Pitch Softball

Mr. Coan reported that Fairfax Adult Softball is completing a 10-week summer season and is preparing for a 5-week fall season. Two players from the same team in the summer session self-reported COVID-19 diagnoses. Their team, as well as the opponents and umpire had their scheduled games postponed for 2 weeks.



Soccer

Ms. Bauer informed the Council that soccer has resumed practices and games. She explained that the soccer leagues have strict guidelines that organizations must follow including separate entrances and exits, hand sanitizing stations, signage, and pre-screening. Ms. Bauer reported that Montgomery County had recently changed its guidelines so that players are not required to wear a mask to play.

Ms. Bauer reported that the walk-on issues through the County have become worse than ever. Groups are walking onto fields while other teams' practices are occurring, and they are not abiding by social distancing guidelines. She stated the soccer community is seeking help to minimize the issues as she is concerned about violating the soccer league's guidelines, as well as keeping everyone safe if contact tracing is necessary.

NCS explained they are receiving reports of some groups doing a good job abiding by guidelines, while others are not. NCS will conduct an emergency electronic meeting on Thursday September 17 with the Soccer Council representatives to discuss possible solutions to the issues throughout the County.

Volleyball

Mr. Pruitt reported that volleyball was awaiting a decision regarding the opening for Fairfax County Public School gyms. He mentioned there is some private gym use occurring.

STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVESFCPS

Mr. Curran reported that the out-of-season work outs with high school athletes have gone well, as well as the virtual start of school. Mr. Curran stated that as of September 8, there have been 1,900 individual student athletes that have attended work outs, of which 60% were returning student athletes.

Mr. Munson inquired if high school booster clubs could resume fundraising activities. Mr. Curran stated that the high school booster clubs are independent, but nothing can occur on school property at this point. Mr. Curran is looking into the possibility of using outdoor FCPS property such as parking lots for fundraising activities.

FCPA

Mr. Louis informed the Council that Taylor Dixon has started as the new Athletic Fields Contract Administrator for FCPA. Mr. Dixon was previously a scheduler with NCS.

Mr. Louis reviewed ongoing and future projects that include in the following:

- Rolling Valley basketball and tennis courts: Targeting completion in early October
- Mason District basketball courts: Targeting completion mid-October
- Loisdale basketball court: Targeting completion end of October
- Newington Heights basketball courts: Targeting completion end of October
- Roundtree tennis courts: Hope to begin end of September with targeted completion early November
- Hideaway basketball courts: Waiting on estimate and hoping to complete in the fall
- Spring Hill Park RF #4 replacement of synthetic turf: Summer 2021



- Linway Terrace RF #1 replacement of synthetic turf: Summer 2021
- Ken Lawrence RF #2 replacement of synthetic turf: Summer 2021
- Holladay Field conversion to synthetic turf: Currently in design phase. Hope for May 2021 start

Mr. Thompson reported that golf usage at Park Authority courses is up 35%-38%. To keep up with demand, FCPA needs to dedicate resources to keep golf courses in good shape.

Ms. Pape inquired if Pickleball lines are taken into consideration when tennis courts get redone? Mr. Louis reported that FCPA is awaiting results and recommendations from the Pickleball study to decide next steps.

NCS

Ms. Avvisato reported staff has been directed to schedule FCPS gyms for winter season in case they open.

NCS is collecting data on what field monitors are seeing and it is addressing serious issues when they arise.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thompson reminded the Council there are still individuals and families in need and that NCS does not only schedule athletic facilities. NCS provides a wide range of services for those seeking assistance. NCS staff will put together a document with NCS resources to send to the Council.

Ms. Quinn informed the Council that she and NCS Community Outreach Specialist Chris Pulley had been working with Step Up 4 Kids, an organization that assists children who witness domestic violence. Step Up 4 Kids will be holding a social media event on October 1 and Ms. Quinn will send out additional information about the event.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara R. Lowrey, Secretary

