



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

JANUARY 21, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

LINK TO VIDEO OF THE MEETING:

[January 21 Athletic Council Meeting](#)

2021 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:

Sarah Allen
Acting Director
Neighborhood and Community Services

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
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
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
Mark Meana, Football Council
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate
Carl Coan, Adult Softball Council
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council
Hillary Richardson, Women's Sports Programs, Alternate

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Sarah Allen, Acting Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Keisha Dotson, Division Director, 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:

Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council

GUESTS:

Eric Kulczycky, Visit Fairfax
Jeff Diehl, Chantilly Youth Association Lacrosse
Joe Morice, Fairfax Adult Softball

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

Mr. Jesse Ellis, Prevention Manager for Neighborhood and Community Services reported on the impact COVID-19 has had on young athletes' mental health. Mr. Ellis also provided the Council with information regarding reporting child abuse and neglect. The documents for the presentation can be found here.

[Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

[young athletes, covid and mental health.pdf \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Mr. Meana recommended that future agendas include this topic to reinforce its importance.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The meeting minutes from the virtual meeting on November 18 were approved.

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin welcomed new Council members Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate and Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large.

WINTER GYM USE UPDATE

Mr. Martino reported that winter gym use started on January 4 for a small collection of youth groups and a couple of adult leagues on the weekend. Mr. Martino is happy to report the gym season has proceeded successfully. There have been a few miscommunications, but for the most part the groups are doing a great job following all the guidelines they must adhere to. Mr. Martino praised FCPS community use in helping to coordinate the NCS gym use.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Sports Tourism Implementation Committee

Mr. Flather explained the Sports Tourism Task Force received the final report from the vendor CSL. Supervisor Herrity and others requested a pilot program be performed for scheduling tournaments. A small committee met to establish parameters for the pilot and is looking for input from the Council. Some parameters include defining the goal of the pilot test, utilizing a few holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day), identifying a limited number of turf spaces for the pilot. The committee will meet and come to the February meeting with a proposal to proceed with the pilot test. The Sports Tourism Task Force is still in full operation, but they plan to do a pilot test in the interim.

Allocation Committee

Mr. Thompson stated while looking at the pilot program, the allocation committee will need to meet to define a long-term tournament complex policy. There is a need to understand different ways a complex can be allocated and what kind of issues will be raised.



REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Baseball

Mr. Hahne reported the baseball council will meet at 8:00 p.m. The baseball council plans to announce a series of virtual workshops for baseball families that focus on educational materials, mental health, etc. The baseball community is trying to keep kids engaged until baseball starts back up.

Football

Mr. Meana informed the Council that football is still in a wait and see mode to see how everything plays out. Mr. Meana stated the new crossover schedule for scholastic sports will be interesting. All football organizations continue to plan alternatives.

Slow Pitch Softball

Mr. Coan reported that they are doing planning for the spring season.

Lacrosse

Ms. Wagner informed the Council, lacrosse is planning for the spring season and tackling obstacles that come with COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines.

Volleyball

Mr. Pruitt reported that volleyball is preparing for the spring season. Club volleyball programs are running in private facilities. Only 4 of 8 Fairfax County organizations have announced a spring season as most are using a cautious approach. Mr. Pruitt plans to meet with volleyball council next month and review the challenges for the upcoming season. Mr. Pruitt added that McLean Youth Volleyball had 235 registrants which is great even if there were no COVID-19.

STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

FCPS

Mr. Chapman stated the FCPS is focused working with NCS and its winter gym season. Community use is supporting groups entering buildings safely and ensuring compliance with all guidelines. FCPS understands the importance of using facilities and is trying to be flexible while being safe.

FCPA

Mr. Louis stated that all fields are ready to go for spring. Mr. Thompson informed the Council Kirk Kincannon, Director of the Park Authority, is retiring. Mr. Kincannon has been a strong advocate of youth sports programs. The Park Authority has begun the process to search for a replacement and hopes to have a new Director in place by August or September.

NCS

Ms. Allen informed the Council she has replaced Mr. Chris Leonard and is the acting Director of NCS. Ms. Allen informed the Council that a staff shortage had caused delays for scholarship reimbursements, but they will be resolved soon.

Mr. Martino informed the Council that the biggest issue/complain NCS has received is the wearing of masks while engaged in physical activity. Mr. Martino stated this decision was made in accordance with FCPS policy as they are requiring athletes to always wear masks. If the FCPS regulations change NCS will update its policy.



NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Flather informed the Council that his organization has participated in the County's scholarship reimbursement program. Over last 8-10 years, reimbursement has dropped significantly. Reimbursement started at around 65% and now in 2019 was 18%. With COVID-19, scholarship requests have increased significantly. Mr. Flather inquired if there is a way to distribute the funds more efficiently or seek additional funding.

Ms. Allen believes the overall amount of scholarship money available has gone down as well as the number of participants submitting scholarship requests has increased which has caused the percent reimbursement to decline. NCS will go back and look at the scholarship data to see what it shows.

Mr. Meana inquired if there was stimulus or CARES Act money available for this purpose? Ms. Allen will see if there are any possibilities; however, earlier CARES Act money was for rental assistance and a few other things. The Act is specific on what the money can be used for.

Mr. Thompson moved to give Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Flather authority to draft and submit a letter to the BOS and County Executive Brian Hill for more money for the scholarship reimbursement fund. The motion was approved.

Mr. Elder informed the Council that he recently took the online course SafeSport. Coaches have a huge role and impact on youth and the training covered mandatory reporting, sexual misconduct awareness and emotional/physical misconduct. The Council had a discussion regarding the different platforms available for organizations to use.

The Council determined the best course of action is to form a committee that will look at best practices for sports organization which will include background checks, concussion awareness, mental health, etc.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara R. Lowrey, Secretary

