



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

## 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

**Marc Fernandes**  
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

## FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

LINK TO VIDEO OF THE MEETING:

[February 17 Athletic Council Meeting](#)

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District  
Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate  
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District  
Lisa Mickey, Lee District  
William Bright, Lee District, Alternate  
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District  
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District  
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District  
Kelly Ego-Osuala, Providence District, Alternate  
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  
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council  
Mark Meana, Football Council  
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate  
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council  
Carl Coan, Adult Softball Council  
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council  
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council  
Rob Baily, Volleyball Council, Alternate  
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

### 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  
Bill Curran, Director of Student Activities, Fairfax County Public Schools

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large  
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna  
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council

### 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 meeting on January 21 were approved.

## CHAIRMAN REPORT

No report

## WINTER / SPRING GYM USE UPDATE

Mr. Martino reported the winter season ends soon and things have gone relatively smoothly. All groups are doing a great job following protocols and NCS monitors are out addressing any issues that arise.

Mr. Martino reported he is unsure how the spring gym will proceed. NCS has received multiple gym cancelations since kids are starting to come back to school. Gyms are being blocked out for storage, cafeteria set-up, additional classroom space, etc. Mrs. Lowrey inquired if this meant the gyms were unavailable on weekends as well? Mr. Martino confirmed the gyms blocked are unavailable for the remainder of the school year.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Sports Tourism Implementation Committee

Mr. McLaughlin stated a committee had been formed to consider a pilot program for scheduling tournaments to benefit sports tourism in Fairfax County. The committee was formed out of the Sports Tourism Task Force.

Mr. Flather reported the committee met several times and had engaging conversation with a lot of questions being asked. Mr. Flather read the following proposal to the Council:

**Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill and Pat Herrity requested the FCAC provide feedback and a recommendation on the request to run a pilot program that gives tournaments priority scheduling on three designated holiday weekends (Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Columbus Day). The sub-committee has met 3 times and held substantive conversations to address many concerns and ensure an overall solid game plan is in place.**

**Some parameters have been established for the pilot test. Those are to run the pilot for 2 years to start Labor Day this year, to utilize 9 designated 2-field complexes at Park facilities and to establish goals to determine economic impact (will request assistance from Visit Fairfax to use existing models) as well as to gain useable data from surveys from both Tournament Directors as well as facility permit holders who may or may not be affected by the Pilot.**



The part of discussions focused on some concerns which are identified as the following. Ensuring that the 2-year time from is not perceived as impacting the Sports Tourism consultant's findings of the largest critical need which is to build a multi field complex / facility. We also addressed concerns for the identified Holiday weekends selected which would disproportionately affect Fall sports. Other concerns were that the pilot test may be too small to adequately reflect impacts on the two goals. There is also a concern with the selection of the nine designated sites and that no partner sites were selected nor High School sites. High School sites were not selected due to the VHSL sports consolidation plans. FCPS will stay involved with the Pilot to monitor the results. Though partner sites were not selected for this pilot, partner sites will be included later, and the 9 sites should be considered as minimum sites.

Notification of the Pilot Test, if approved, will go to all rectangular field permitted users outlining both the test as well as the need for survey completion at the end of each Holiday weekend. Additionally, there will be the ongoing need to identify and establish a distribution chain for the data collected at the end of each Holiday so that the Pilot Test is monitored as we progress.

Mr. McLaughlin proposed a motion and stressed this pilot program should not hold up discussion of sports tournament complex. The committee wants to be comprehensive and transparent with sharing data collected.

There were no additional comments and the motion passed.

#### Best Practices for Sports Organizations

Mr. McLaughlin explained there had been some interest in putting together resources for sports organizations being able to share best practices for such things as criminal background checks, mental health, mandated reporting of domestic abuse, concussion training, etc. checklist/document. Members are encouraged to volunteer for the committee and contact NCS if they are interested.

### **REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES**

#### Baseball

Mr. Hahne reported that there will be a virtual meeting this Monday February 22 at 5:00 p.m., with the baseball community to discuss COVID-19 protocols. The baseball community is trying to get more specific protocols in place on a local level. Masking consistent with high school practices is one topic that will be discussed.

#### Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen stated that the diamond field communities are requesting FCPA adjust the opening and closing dates for grass fields.

#### Football

Mr. Meana reported the community is excited that high football is starting on Monday.

#### Lacrosse

Mr. Diehl reported several organizations have had issues receiving their lacrosse permits for the spring season. Mr. Martino stated that spring field permits have been sent out and encouraged Mr. Diehl to have the organizations contact their scheduler.

Mr. Diehl stated that groups in Vienna had been denied Saturdays time at Madison HS and Marshall HS. Mr. Martino asked that they reach out to their scheduler to see why the space is unavailable.

#### Slow Pitch Softball

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



Soccer

Ms. Bauer had nothing to report.

Volleyball

Mr. Pruitt was pleased to announce that 7 of the 9 Fairfax County youth volleyball leagues will move forward with a spring program. There have been several meetings to come up with best practices and protocols amongst the volleyball community.

Mr. Pruitt stated that it is very concerning to hear that middle school gyms may be unavailable in the spring as volleyball relies on those heavily. Volleyball is looking at the feasibility of using outdoor fields for volleyball. Mr. Pruitt understand there is a policy that indoor sports cannot use outdoor fields, however the volleyball community is looking at possibly getting an exception. The volleyball groups would provide their own equipment if field space were available.

Mr. Thompson stated FCPA is looking at some open field spaces instead of rectangular fields which are in high demand. Mr. Thompson suggested there may be some FCPA gym facilities available as well. Mr. Flather indicated that between Chantilly Youth Association and Southwestern Youth Association, there may be some open field space to conduct outdoor volleyball games as a pilot.

Mr. Flather inquired if NCS is still looking at the feasibility of scheduling outdoor basketball courts this spring and summer? NCS and FCPA will discuss and look at obstacles and feasibility.

**STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**FCPS

Mr. Curran reported that the high schools are wrapping up their winter season. All things considered; the season went smooth. Mr. Curran stated that there were pauses due to COVID-19, however FCPS proceeded with an abundance of caution and remained below community infection rates. Mr. Curran is happy to share detailed data from the winter season and thanked the Health Department for their tremendous support.

Mr. Curran reported that the state tournaments have all been delayed due to weather. The high school fall season started on February 4 and the first football game is Monday February 22. Some information came out regarding spectators for outdoor sports. Originally, there were 2 spectators allowed per participant, but now the spectator limit has been raised to 250. Cheerleading, band, and dance do not count against the spectator count and can participate. High schools plan on limiting ticketing and spectators.

The high school spring season starts April 12. FCPS has made the decision to keep all high school diamond fields closed until April 12 to preserve them for the season.

Mr. Thompson clarified that the 250 spectators is for all outdoor sports not just football. Indoor sports still have a limit of 25 spectators.

Mr. Hahne discussed the closure of the high school diamond fields. This highlights the discrepancy in synthetic turf fields between the diamond and rectangular fields. The diamond field community has requested FCPA grass field opening and closing dates be looked at.

FCPA

Mr. Louis reported that FCPA is reviewing the proposal from the diamond sports community regarding the opening and closing dates of grass fields.

Mr. Louis stated that Patriot Park North is out for bid until end of the month, and they hope to start building this year.



Mr. Louis reported the following projects have been completed this winter:

- Pine Ridge Park diamond fields received ADA improvements, dugout improvements and new fencing.
- Beulah Park field had irrigation replaced and infield replaced.
- Nottoway Park 90 #6 had infield renovation and irrigation replaced.
- Alabama Drive Park 60 #2 had the old dome back stop replaced.
- Rutherford Park 60 #1 had backstop replaced.

FCPA is still trying to do infield work, weather dependent.

Mr. Louis reported that all outdoor basketball courts have been assessed.

Mr. Thompson reminded the Council that FCPA currently has an acting director, Ms. Sara Baldwin.

Mr. Thompson stated there is a public meeting on Braddock Park and there are some options to improve the facility which has a significant diamond field complex. Mr. Thompson urged the community to attend and participate. NCS will send out meeting dates and times.

### NCS

Mr. Martino stated that spring field permits have been sent out and this spring scheduling has been different due to the hybrid schedule for high school sports. High schools are blocking more time due to COVID-19 protocols and games. Varsity and JV teams would normally practice together, but now they are practicing separately, so more time is need for practices. NCS is working closely with the high schools to figure out what they need.

Ms. Allen reported that the advertised budget will be released on February 23. Public hearings for the budget will take place April 13-15. The budget mark-up will be on April 27 and the budget will be adopted on May 4.

Mr. Martino gave a brief overview of the scholarship data NCS compiled. The amount of money available for the scholarship program has always been \$150,000. What has changed is the number of people applying for scholarships which reduces the amount of money available for each organization. NCS will give a more detailed presentation on the scholarship program at the March meeting and the Council can use that data if it wishes to request additional funds for the scholarship program in this year's budget.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Coan inquired if there was an update on the Nottoway Park light and sound issue. Mr. McLaughlin reported the issue has been dormant during the winter, however, additional sound testing may be requested on the rectangular field in the spring.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara R. Lowrey, Secretary

