



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 15, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

LINK TO VIDEO OF THE MEETING:

[Fairfax County Athletic Council Meeting](#)

[Recording - Sept. 15, 2021 - YouTube](#)

2021 Council Members

Magisterial Representatives:

Marcia M. Pape Daniels

Braddock District

Gregory Beckwith

Dranesville District

Jeremy Lee

Hunter Mill District

Lisa MicKey

Secretary

Lee District

Barbara R. Lowrey

Mason District

Lester Munson

Mount Vernon District

Stephen McLaughlin,

Providence District

Michael Thompson, Jr.

Springfield District

Gary Flather

Vice Chairman

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

Vacant

Adult Softball Council

Steve Bergstrom

Basketball Council

Mark Meana

Football Council

Mary Ann Wagner

Lacrosse Council

Lula Bauer

Chairman

Soccer Council

Rob Baily

Volleyball Council

Jenni Cantwell

Women's Sports

Non-Voting Members:

Michael Thompson

Park Authority

Kurt Louis

Park Authority

Megan McLaughlin

School Board

William Curran

Fairfax County Public Schools

Executive Agency:

Lloyd Tucker

Director

Neighborhood and Community Services

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Bill 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
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council
Rob Baily, Volleyball Council

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Lloyd Tucker, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Mark Martino, Branch Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
Jason Shelton, Analyst, Neighborhood and Community Services
Chris Pulley, Community Outreach Specialist, 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:

Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
Brian Luwis, Dranesville District, Alternate
Jeremy Lee, Hunter Mill District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District, Alternate
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
John Corley, Mt. Vernon District, Alternate
Mark Heilbrun, Springfield District, Alternate
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large, Alternate
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large, Alternate
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Stew Clark, Basketball Council, Alternate
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Ryan Buchanan, Fast Pitch Softball Council, Alternate
Mark Meana, Football Council
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate
Dave Paddock, Lacrosse Council, Alternate
Christine Idip, Slow Pitch Softball, Alternate
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs
Hillary Richardson, Women's Sports Programs, Alternate

MEETING OPENING

Ms. Bauer 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

Ms. Quinn introduced Tom Farrey, Executive Director, Sports and Society Program; The Aspen Institute. Mr. Farrey gave a presentation on the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports developed by the Aspen Institute. A link to the PowerPoint presentation can be found at:

[Children's Rights and Sports.pdf \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The meeting minutes from the virtual meeting on June 16 were approved.

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Ms. Bauer had nothing to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Flather encouraged the Council to form a committee to enhance the communication between FCPS, NCS and user groups. Mr. Flather explained that groups are receiving a lot of late cancellations, school programs are running later into community use time, lack of communication of construction projects, etc. were some of the issues groups were encountering across the County. Mr. Flather moved that the Council create a committee to look at improving communication between FCPS and NCS. The motion was seconded by Mr. McLaughlin and approved without objection.

Sports Tourism Implementation Committee

Mr. Flather stated that the Sports Tourism Task Force has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow. NCS has developed a survey for the tournament directors and community use groups displaced by the tournament pilot program to gather data on how the process worked for both parties.

REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Baseball

Mr. Hahne reported the baseball community is excited for the start of the fall season

Basketball

Mr. Bergstrom stated that basketball was in the planning phase for the winter. The biggest unknown is COVID-19 and different variants that may impact the season. There are also questions regarding masks, vaccine requirements, etc.

Soccer

Ms. Bauer reported the last few weeks have been stressful for the soccer community. The 3 weeks of rain caused a significant back up in the mowing schedule. Groups tried to explain to parents that heavy equipment used to mow the fields couldn't be used because it would damage the playing surface. Unfortunately, some grass fields weren't playable for the first weekend of games.



Ms. Bauer explained that walk-on groups are starting to be an issue again. The walk-on groups got used to accessing fields during the summer, however with organization practices starting it is becoming an issue. Police and school security, as well as NCS monitors help with the walk-on issues.

Volleyball

Mr. Baily stated that several groups were able to start boys' volleyball programs in the fall which consists of 12 teams consisting of elementary school and middle school players. Mr. Baily was also happy to report the Northern Virginia Boys High School Volleyball League had 250 boys registered from schools across the County. There have also been discussions with FCPS on what the next steps are to have boys' volleyball recognized as an official varsity sport. Boys' volleyball is currently sanctioned by VHSL, just not in northern Virginia.

STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

FCPS

Mr. Curran stated that all FCPS student athletes 16 years and older participating in winter sports must be vaccinated for COVID-19 by November 8, the first day of the winter athletic season. A FAQ (frequently asked questions) was distributed last Thursday and there will be another update on Friday to discuss operational functions. Mr. Curran explained that religious and medical exemptions will be provided, however those individuals must be tested weekly. Mr. Curran stated that they are still working on a vendor to provide testing, as well as a vendor to provide vaccines.

Fairfax County was the first jurisdiction in the state to announce the COVID-19 vaccine requirement, however several other jurisdictions have followed. Mr. Curran wanted to be clear that this is a Fairfax County directive, not a VHSL rule. Mr. Curran explained there has been mixed response from the community and his office has received several phone calls.

Mr. Curran reported that there is currently an enhanced diamond field maintenance program for the high school diamonds. However, there is no formal MOU or document that shows what the maintenance program entails. Mr. Curran would like a committee formed with diamond field users, NCS, FCPA and FCPS to look at the current diamond field maintenance program and draft a policy or MOU.

Mr. McLaughlin moved that the Council create a committee to document the current high school diamond field maintenance program and include all the appropriate parties. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson and approved without objection.

FCPA

Mr. Louis understands the frustration with the mowing, however the alternative of trying to mow on over-saturated fields would have caused more damage to the playing surface.

Mr. Louis reported that the synthetic turf projects at Holladay Field and Oak Marr Park were targeted to be completed by the end of September. However, delays in manufacturing, shipping and workforce shortages attributed to COVID-19 has caused delays and the target date for completion is now the end of October.

Mr. Thompson was happy to announce the Park Authority has hired a new Executive Director, Jai Cole. She comes to Fairfax County from Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Montgomery Parks (M-NCPCC, Montgomery Parks) where she served as Chief of the Park Planning and Stewardship Division since 2018. She has a long history in parks and grew up in Fairfax County. She was formally approved by the Board of Supervisors yesterday.



Mr. Thompson reported that the Patriot Park North diamond field complex is closer to becoming a construction site. By the next Council meeting construction should be underway with a projected ribbon cutting at the end of the first quarter 2023.

Mr. Thompson announced that the Park Authority recently held public meetings on Pickleball, as well as the Braddock Park masterplan.

NCS

Mr. Martino stated that the Fall 2021 field and gym seasons are underway. Mr. Martino thanked those who were able to attend the virtual meeting with the Fairfax County Health Department to review expectations of groups using FCPS gyms. The two main takeaways from the meeting are that masks are required for everyone in FCPS facilities regardless of vaccination status, except for athletes or referees that are engaged in physical activity. The Health Department also provided a link for groups to report any positive COVID-19 cases to the Health Department to assist with contact tracing.

Mr. Martino reported that Police and School Security have been hired to patrol select locations. If there are any areas where groups feel Police or School Security is needed, please contact NCS.

Mr. Martino was happy to announce that NCS Athletic Services has hired a new administrative assistant, Aran Muradi, who will start Monday.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thompson stated the Fairfax County Park Authority recently released a Draft Pickleball Study and are seeking additional public feedback. The following link has additional information on the Pickleball Study.

[Fairfax County Pickleball Study](#)

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lisa MicKey, Secretary

