



County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

2024 Council Members

Magisterial Representatives:

Marcia M. Pape Daniels
Braddock District

Ian Harper
Dranesville District

Harold Leff
Hunter Mill District

Lisa Mickey
Secretary
Franconia District

Vacant
Mason District

Vacant
Mount Vernon District

Kelly Ego-Osuala
Providence District

Michael Thompson, Jr.
Springfield District

Gary Flather
Vice Chair
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

Tom Hanton
Town of Vienna

Sports-Specific Representatives

Rob Hahne
Baseball Council

Suzy Willemsen
Fast Pitch Softball Council

Vacant
Adult Softball Council

Steve Bergstrom
Basketball Council

Mark Meana
Football Council

MaryAnn Wagner
Lacrosse Council

Lula Bauer
Chair Soccer
Council

Rob Baily
Volleyball Council

Hillary Richardson
Women's Sports

Non-Voting Members:

Michael Thompson
Park Authority

Kim Eckert
Park Authority

Robyn Lady
School Board

William Curran
Fairfax County Public Schools

Executive Agency:

Lloyd Tucker
Director
Neighborhood and Community Services

Fairfax County Athletic Council Minutes

January 17, 2024

Members Present:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate
Ian Harper, Dranesville District
Lisa Mickey, Franconia District
Kelly Ego-Osuala, Providence District
Dean Shepard, Providence District, Alternate
Gary Flather, Sully District
Charles Davis, Sully District, Alternate
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large, Alternate
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
Tom Hanton, Town of Vienna
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Mark Meana, Football Council
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate
Hillary Richardson, Women's Sports Programs

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Pallas Washington, Deputy Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Aimee Garcia, Division Director, Access and Economic Mobility, 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
Nancy Bush, Finance Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
Kim Eckert, Park Division Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
Taylor Dixon, Athletic Field Contract Administrator, Fairfax County Park Authority
Randall Farren, Park Planning Branch Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority
Samantha Hudson, Senior Planner, Fairfax County Park Authority
Vicki Garner, Coordinator of Community Use, Fairfax County Public Schools
Pete Bendorf, Property Management Specialist for Synthetic Turf Fields, Fairfax County Public Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Luwis, Dranesville District, Alternate
Bill Bright, Franconia District, Alternate
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District
Jeremy Lee, Hunter Mill District, Alternate
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District
Bob Kirk, Mount Vernon District, Alternate
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Mark Heilbrun, Springfield District, Alternate
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large, Alternate
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Stew Clark, Basketball Council, Alternate
Suzy Willemsen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Ryan Buchanan, Fast Pitch Softball Council, Alternate
Dave Paddock, Lacrosse Council, Alternate
Christine Idip, Slow Pitch Softball, Alternate
Rob Baily, Volleyball Council

GUESTS:

Jeremy Purcell, FXA Sports

Fairfax County Athletic Council
12011 Government Center Pkwy
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
703-324-5533





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MEETING OPENING

Ms. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

Fairfax County Park Authority staff gave a presentation on the current Fairfax County Park Authority and Fairfax County Public Schools Synthetic Turf Maintenance program. The presentation can be found at the following link: [FCPS Synthetic Maintenance \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcps/synthetic-maintenance)

Ms. Eckert and Mr. Dixon discussed the current state of the synthetic turf replacement program. Ms. Eckert informed the Council about the Synthetic Turf Task Force (STTF) created in 2013. Ms. Eckert explained the replacement program is no longer sustainable and starting FY25 they will be in the red. FCPS is currently requesting one-time funding as of FY25. Some fields have been replaced by organic infill which is more expensive, as well as a growing inventory and inflation causing higher prices than originally forecasted. Ms. Eckert strongly advised looking at reconvening the STTF to look at all the issues that have come up since the original task force met.

Mr. Taylor stated Council members can certainly talk to their representatives, however we need some sort of strategic plan that outlines what the ask is short-term and long-term. Mr. Flather echoed Mr. Taylor and FCPA staff will put together a plan with how many fields need replacement and price estimates.

Mr. Bendorf provided an overview of the high school stadium fields. Mr. Bendorf explained that these fields are relatively new assets and there is no current budget line item. The new infill being used, Elia, is more costly, and a shock pad must be installed, however the shock pad will last through multiple replacements. Mr. Bendorf explained that Woodson HS and Falls Church HS practice fields were not replaced this summer and are beyond their 10-year life cycle. There are currently 5 practice fields that need to be replaced in the next cycle so it is very important to know what infill will be used as the cost difference is significant. Mr. Bendorf reported that they are currently gathering data from athletes and coaches about new infill.

Mr. Meana requested that NCS research if there is anything in the new budget regarding synthetic turf maintenance or replacement.

Ms. Avvisato stated that NCS will reconvene the STTF and invite all parties involved.

Ms. Pape Daniels inquired about the role of user groups and organizations moving forward. Some organizations are still partners, but several did not reup their MOUs. Mr. Meana asked if the funds contributed by organizations were formal contributions that are signature bound and reviewed by the County attorneys. Mr. Meana asked if organizations were given guidelines like the turf grant program before?

Mr. Martino explained a lot of the synthetic turf replacements with partner groups occurred during the pandemic and when NCS reached out to the organizations asking if they wanted to contribute to the replacement, most did not have funding at that time.





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Mr. Hahne reported that he is currently working with McLean Little League baseball/softball on improvements at Linway Terrace Park. Mr. Hahne received a quote on a 60' diamond field that already exists for \$1.3 million which seems extremely high based on bench marking by contacting several turf providers and received quotes of roughly \$500,000. Ms. Eckert stated managing stormwater management and design and permitting may be included in the cost.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The meeting minutes from the December 20 Council meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Ms. Bauer reported on the proposed replacement of the Franconia Government Center on Telegraph Road, and they are seeking input on what to put there. The Franconia district community wants some sort of athletic structure. There is a public information meeting scheduled for Tuesday January 23 at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center. Additional information can be found here: [Franconia Governmental Center Redevelopment | Procurement and Material Management \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

After-School Middle School Sports

Mr. Flather and Ms. Quinn reported that the committee plans to reconvene now that the holidays are over. The committee has been working on gathering information on what surrounding jurisdictions are doing with middle school sports and will report at the February Council meeting.

Communications with Fairfax County Partners – FCPS, FCPA, NCS and Community Users

Mr. Flather thanked NCS for providing updated cancelation data. Mr. Flather had a follow-up meeting with Dr. Reid and Mr. Mueck. Mr. Mueck's plan was to meet with the Regional Assistant Superintendents to discuss the cancelations after permits are issued and making sure schools recognize the importance of entering their school events before NCS permits are sent out. They also plan to review the current FCPS policies and make sure they are being adhered to. Mr. Flather is looking forward to follow-up about what steps are being taken.

REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Baseball

Mr. Hahne reported that Babe Ruth and Little League are finishing up registration for the spring season.

Mr. Hahne and Mr. Flather met with Mr. Tim Lander from FCPA who schedules the Patriot Park North complex. Mr. Hahne reported that there are currently 33 weekends booked at Patriot Park North with tournaments.

Mr. Hahne and Ms. Willemssen are still working on the APRT and the ongoing project at Wakefield Park. Mr. Hahne stated the softball community is way behind on synthetic turf compared to other sports.

Soccer

Ms. Moxie reported that travel teams have started practices.





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Ms. Bauer inquired if organizations should expect anything in the budget that would have an impact on their budget for the upcoming year. Mr. Curran and Ms. Washington provided the Council with the FCPS and County budget timelines which can be found at the following links:

[FCPS Budget Timeline](#)

[County Budget Timeline](#)

Ms. Washington explained that County Executive Bryan Hill will release the proposed FY25 budget on Tuesday February 20. NCS will address the proposed FY25 budget with the Council at the February 21 meeting.

Volleyball

Ms. Swope reported spring recreation league registrations are now open. High school open gyms are also underway. The volleyball club season is in full swing with the first big tournaments this past weekend. Ms. Swope stated that boys' high school volleyball is still on the table for becoming a varsity sport but will depend on the county budget.

STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

FCPA

Ms. Eckert shared the following Park Authority projects with the Council.

Year	Park	Field	Description	Status
2022	Winterset Varsity	1	Renovation of Police Administration Building will close field; Irrigation will be installed before reopening of field	Spring 2022 - Fall 2024
2023	Scotts Run	1	New Lighted Synthetic - 180' x 220'	Winter 2023/2024
	Wakefield	1-4; 7-8	Softball Diamond Field Improvement Projects (Dugouts, Bullpens, Infield Renovations, Irrigation, Fencing, Improve Outfield Turf/Drainage, Bleacher Pads, Lighting Field #1)	Spring 2024
2024	Rolling Valley West	1 & 3	Irrigation Replacement	Summer 2024
	Loisdale	1	Synthetic Turf Replacement	Summer 2024
	Sully Highlands	1 & 2	Synthetic Turf Replacement	Summer 2024
	EC Lawrence	2 & 3	Synthetic Turf Replacement	Summer 2024
	Ken Lawrence	1 & 2	Synthetic Turf Replacement	Summer 2024

Mr. Farren shared information on the Tysons Comprehensive Plan, following up on his previous presentation to the Council at the September 2023 meeting. 4 main questions came out of the discussion with the Council at the September meeting.





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- Is there potential to buy-out of proffers? If so, is it a set amount or case by case?

The projection for athletic field needs in Tysons assumes that every 4.5 million square feet of new development generates a need for 1 athletic field in Tysons. Historically, rezoning applications generating a need of more than 1/3 of an athletic field have proffered land or facilities in kind contribution. Rezoning applications generating a need of less than 1/3 of an athletic field have proffered a cash contribution to the Park Authority so they may construct new fields or upgrade existing fields in Tysons. The athletic field cash proffer is based on a formula that's based on land and construction costs in Tysons and it has been updated from time to time over the years. Currently the proffer formula calls for a contribution of \$2.54 per square foot of new construction. Once a proffer is committed to through rezoning, if the applicant has proffered land or a facility, they cannot later buy out of their proffer commitment. That would require taking a new application to the BOS to amend their proffers.

- How many athletic fields have been fulfilled?

12 fields have been proffered through the rezoning process, but very few of them have been triggered. Only the equivalent of 3 fields have been constructed to date. That includes 2 full size synthetic rectangular fields, one at Ken Lawrence and the other Quantum Field. 1 interim youth synthetic rectangular field at Ken Lawrence, as well as the upgrade to the diamond field at Westgate Park.

- Where does the County stand on promised proffers?

Applicants have cumulatively proffered \$31.6 million in cash contributions to construct new fields or upgrade fields in Tysons. To date the Park Authority has received approximately \$3.7 million or roughly 12%. Proffers are not triggered until the project gets off the ground so there is always some lag between proffer approval and delivery.

- Who has met their commitment and who is delinquent?

For developers to build or occupy the buildings that are approved through the rezoning process, they must comply with their proffer commitments. Proffers are typically structured so we know a field is going to come online before most of the impact of their developments. Currently not aware of any developers that are delinquent.

FCPS

Mr. Curran reported that weather has impacted schedules. FCPS tries to make decisions whether to close as early as possible, but it is a complex decision.

Mr. Curran reminded the Council members to tell their groups DO NOT attempt to shovel snow off synthetic turf fields. This violates the warranty, takes the infill up and leads to a variety of different issues.

Mr. Curran stated that high school sports are currently in the mid-winter season. Due to weather, there has been rescheduling of high school games, but FCPS tries not to have the make-up games impact weekends.

Mr. Curran reminded the Council that nothing in the budget is final until May. Dr. Reid plans on releasing the proposed FCPS budget on January 25.

Ms. Garner stated that there will be some increases in staffing personnel in the budget, however there is no plan for raising rental rates at this time.





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NCS

Ms. Avvisato reported that NCS is working hard to get spring permits out to user groups. Ms. Avvisato shared that NCS staff met and need to be consistent in holding permits if there are outstanding fees that need to be paid. NCS can set up payment plans, if necessary, but NCS needs to be consistent with prior fees needing to be paid before permits are released.

Ms. Avvisato plans on meeting with the Council's Executive Committee to discuss the Council's strategic initiative for the year and will also reconvene the Synthetic Turf Task Force.

Mr. Martino asked to have groups please check their permits for no use dates due to school events. Mr. Martino reminded the Council if groups do not plan on using gym space, especially on weekends, please let NCS know so they can inform FCPS.

Ms. Bauer inquired when fields are closed, is there a process to turn lights off to prevent walk-ons from using the fields? NCS shuts down all lights they program when fields are closed, and Fairfax County Park Authority will make sure their area managers shut down lights if fields are closed due to snow/ice.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lisa MicKey, Secretary

