



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

## 2026 Council Members

### Magisterial Representatives:

**Marcia M. Pape Daniels**  
*Braddock District*

**Ian Harper**  
*Dranesville District*

**Bill Bright**  
*Franconia District*

**Harold Leff**  
*Hunter Mill District*

**Scott Anderson**  
*Mason District*

**Tom Fitzpatrick**  
*Mount Vernon District*

**Kelly Ego-Osuala**  
*Providence District*

**Michael Thompson, Jr.**  
*Springfield District*

**Gary Flather**  
*Vice Chair*  
*Sully District*

**Katherine Quinn**  
*Member-At-Large*

**Waria Salhi**  
*Diversity-At-Large*

### Town Representatives:

**Jeffrey E. Stein**  
*Town of Clifton*

**Roland Taylor**  
*Secretary*  
*Town of Herndon*

**Tom Hanton**  
*Town of Vienna*

### Sports-Specific Representatives:

**Vacant**  
*Baseball Council*

**Scott Zucker**  
*Basketball Council*

**Ted Hollingsworth**  
*Football Council*

**Vacant**  
*Lacrosse Council*

**Lula Bauer**  
*Chair*  
*Soccer Council*

**Suzy Willemssen**  
*Softball Council*

**Rob Baily**  
*Volleyball Council*

**Hillary Richardson**  
*Women's Sports*

### Non-Voting Members:

**Michael Thompson**  
*Park Authority*

**Kim Eckert**  
*Park Authority*

**Melanie Meren**  
*School Board*

**Tom Horn**  
*Fairfax County Public Schools*

### Executive Agency:

**Lloyd Tucker**  
*Director*  
*Neighborhood and Community Services*

## Fairfax County Athletic Council Minutes

**June 17, 2026**

### MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District  
Ian Harper, Dranesville District  
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District  
Tom Fitzpatrick, Mount Vernon District  
Dave Sanford, Mount Vernon District, Alternate  
Dean Shepard, Providence District, Alternate  
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District  
Gary Flather, Sully District  
Charles Davis, Sully District, Alternate  
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large/Volleyball Council, Alternate  
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon  
Scott Zucker, Basketball Council  
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council  
Mike Warbel, Football Council, Alternate  
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council  
Hillary Richardson, Women's Sports Programs

### COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Kim Eckert, Park Division Director, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Melanie Meren, Hunter Mill District Representative, Fairfax County School Board  
Tom Horn, Director of Student Activities, Fairfax County Public Schools  
Vicki Garner, Coordinator of Community Use, Fairfax County Public Schools  
Karen Avvisato, Athletic Services Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Mark Martino, Athletic Services Operations Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Jason Shelton, Neighborhood and Community Services

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate  
Brain Luwis, Dranesville District, Alternate  
Bill Bright, Franconia District  
Dan Dolan, Franconia District, Alternate  
Jeremy Lee, Hunter Mill District, Alternate  
Scott Anderson, Mason District  
Leanne Cole, Mason District, Alternate  
Kelly Ego-Osuala, Providence District  
Mark Heilbrun, Springfield District, Alternate  
Waria Salhi, Diversity-At-Large  
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large, Alternate  
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large  
Jeffrey E. Stein, Town of Clifton  
Tom Hanton, Town of Vienna  
Brendan Crane, Baseball Council, Alternate  
EJ Thomas, Basketball Council, Alternate  
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council  
Ryan Buchanan, Fast Pitch Softball Council, Alternate  
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate  
Rob Baily, Volleyball Council

### GUESTS:

Ka'eo Joshua Martin, George Mason University and Southwestern Youth Association

**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 THE COUNCIL**

None

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

May 20 minutes were approved

## **CHAIRMAN REPORT**

None

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Allocation Policy

Mr. Thompson reported that the committee has met roughly a dozen times. The committee continues to meet and at this point they're hoping to have something to present to the County Attorney's office soon. Once the County Attorney's feedback is received, the committee will reconvene to review the County Attorney's feedback and try to finalize the document.

### By-Laws Committee

Mr. Thompson was pleased to announce the BOS has approved the updated Council by-laws.

The committee will once again reconvene and start working through some of the standard operating procedure issues that were discussed previously and begin to finalize and formalize those so that they are in place as soon as possible.

Ms. Avvisato added that with the by-laws being approved, we can move on filling the vacant seats on the Council. The Sports Councils will follow the same nomination process as the magisterial district representatives, where NCS or anyone can nominate someone, it will go through NCS for vetting and then go before the nomination committee that Mr. Thompson will chair. Once the nomination committee approves, they will bring it to the Council for a vote. Once they are approved by the Council, the individual will be forwarded to the BOS for final approval.

Mr. Thompson informed the Council that the nominating committee will also go through the formal process for all sports, even ones without vacancies, because technically the new by-laws require all members to be nominated and approved.

Mr. Thompson reminded the Council that in October, the Council is now required under the by-laws to submit names for the officers of the Council that we will then vote on in January or the first meeting of the year in case there's any snow or weather issues.

Mr. Thompson and Ms. Avvisato explained that one of the things for the standard operating procedures should be a welcome kit that can be delivered to any new member of the Council.





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

Mr. Flather reported that NCS and FCPS are continuing to meet, and he has been invited to those meetings, which is very appreciative. Mr. Flather unfortunately could not attend the meeting with Chairman McKay, but asked Ms. Bauer if she could do a report out.

Ms. Bauer updated the Council on the meeting with Chairman McKay. Ms. Bauer reported the cancellation numbers have decreased. One thing that was identified were the numbers of preventable cancellations (Back to School Nights, Concerts, Homecoming, etc.) that are scheduled well in advance but sometimes aren't put on the calendar. There was a conversation of perhaps creating a live Google Doc or something similar that would serve as a checklist and reminder to ensure all known school events are entered on the calendar. Chairman McKay recommended using technology as much as possible to help address, but also to keep in mind the human factor, and having a reminder notification would be useful.

Ms. Bauer explained there was also a discussion in separating the cancellations out by weekday and weekends. Although there is an understanding that some sports play games during the week, the weekend cancellations are the ones that create a financial impact on more families.

## Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character

Ms. Bauer announced that she and Ms. Willemssen have agreed to co-chair this year's committee. Ms. Bauer explained that she has created a timeline and a process to leverage the Council's nine magisterial district representatives on taking on the responsibility in terms of getting nominations in.

Ms. Bauer explained she is creating a Google Doc with all the County organizations and contacts, broken down by magisterial district, to help the magisterial district representatives reach out and solicit nominations.

The other piece Ms. Bauer is looking for assistance with is ensuring the magisterial representatives reach out to their BOS member about attending this year's ceremony.

## **REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES**

### Basketball

Mr. Zucker reported that most competition during the summer focuses on AAUs and a slew of tournaments in the area and beyond during most weekends throughout the summer. One of the ultimate goals of the Fairfax County Youth Basketball League is to create a county-level summer basketball league for the county residents, mainly in 5th to 8th grades. At this point, the efforts have been more localized, including a league over at Lee Mount Vernon, where Mr. Fitzpatrick has invited clubs from all over the County to participate. We feel it's an if you build it, they will come kind of initiative, and we're expecting it to grow in the coming years.

Mr. Zucker thanked NCS for all their efforts providing gym space throughout the year, not just in the winter months. Clubs all over the County are getting summer gym space when they need it and it's much appreciated.

### Football

Mr. Hollingsworth explained that the spring season has wrapped up, which includes flag football and 7v7. Registration for tackle football in the fall is ongoing in the summer. Tackle football starts practices the first week of August and many clubs will be holding skills camps the week before.

### Soccer

Ms. Bauer reported that soccer is currently in the tryout stage and organizations are still sorting through the birth date change implemented by US Soccer across the nation.





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## Volleyball

Ms. Swope stated that the volleyball spring season is ending, championships have been held and All-Stars are also underway. The clubs in the area are finishing up their practices for the year, and they're going to be competing at nationals, AAU nationals or USAV nationals.

Ms. Swope was pleased to announce there are a lot of local clubs and high school camps for kids throughout the summer. The participation in volleyball is exploding and we're trying to find all opportunities for a lot of these kids. Volleyball is also receiving requests from individuals asking if they can start volleyball at a younger age which they're looking into.

## Women's Sports Programs

Ms. Richardson reported that she and Mr. Taylor had an opportunity to talk to some of the folks at the Herndon Optimist Club to get a good understanding of what they do from a format perspective, the size of their teams, as well as the types of sports that they support. They did identify some concerns, which are very much concerns that the rest of the sports teams have, which are field space, indoor space, things of that nature. It was good to reach out to them to get an understanding of activities such as field hockey, which is pretty much a female dominated sports. There are a couple males that do play field hockey in the Herndon Optimist Club, which is interesting and very supportive from that perspective. They did have some questions about field use and specifically about the new high school coming online and the ability to potentially use some of those facilities.

Mr. Taylor added that Herndon Optimist Club has a large cheer program and they wanted to make sure we understood that was an activity that they covered as well that requires facility space.

## **STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

### FCPA

Ms. Eckert shared with the Council information on the ribbon cutting ceremony at Wakefield Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority is hosting a ribbon-cutting ceremony at **Wakefield Park** (located at 8100 Braddock Road in Annandale, VA). The event celebrates major upgrades to the softball fields.

### **Event Details:**

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, June 30 at 6:00 p.m.

**Location:** Field 8 at Wakefield Park

### **What's New:**

- A brand-new synthetic turf surface on Field 8
- Upgraded LED field lighting
- New dugouts and batting cages
- Restored playing surfaces, new fencing, and new picnic tables

After the official ceremony, attendees are invited to stick around for a friendly girls' softball game and be the first to break in the newly upgraded facilities. You can find additional details on the [Fairfax County Park Authority News](#)





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Ms. Eckert shared the following FCPA projects

| <b>Athletic Field Improvement<br/>Projects Status<br/>Updated 06/15/2026<br/>(Project items in bold are new or updated)</b> |                      |                  |                                                 |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Year                                                                                                                        | Park Name            | Field #          | Description                                     | Anticipated Completion |
| 2026                                                                                                                        | Hilltop              | 1 & 2            | New Grass Rectangle and Diamond                 | TBD                    |
|                                                                                                                             | <b>Braddock</b>      | <b>2 &amp; 4</b> | <b>Backstop and Fencing Replacement</b>         | <b>Summer 2026</b>     |
|                                                                                                                             | Braddock             | 5                | Dugout roof replacement                         | <b>TBD</b>             |
|                                                                                                                             | <b>Dulles Corner</b> | <b>1</b>         | <b>Perimeter Fence Replacement</b>              | <b>Summer 2026</b>     |
|                                                                                                                             | Sully Highlands      | 3,4,5            | Backstop netting replacement                    | <b>COMPLETED</b>       |
|                                                                                                                             | Poplar Tree          | 4                | Backstop & Sideline Fencing Replacement         | Summer 2026            |
|                                                                                                                             | Mason District       | 3                | Synthetic Turf <b>&amp; Fencing</b> Replacement | Summer 2026            |
|                                                                                                                             | Pine Ridge           | 6                | Synthetic Turf Replacement                      | Summer 2026            |
|                                                                                                                             | Lewinsville          | 1                | Synthetic Turf Conversion                       | Summer/Fall 2026       |

## NCS

Ms. Avvisato updated the Council on the FCPS Stadium Bathroom pilot program. It is going well, people are out using the bathrooms, and everything is working great. NCS staff are working on launching a volunteer facility director program. There will be a mechanism for groups to submit reports that will help supplement the NCS field and gym monitor reports being collected.

Ms. Avvisato inquired with FCPS about the process of synthetic turf field replacements. NCS found out today that four synthetic turf fields, Hayfield SS, Annandale HS, and two fields at South County MS are going to be replaced this fall. Ms. Avvisato explained that normally for Park Authority synthetic turf replacements, they've work diligently with NCS to coordinate the best time, so that it is not as impactful to community user groups. Ms. Avvisato stated that if NCS were to lose access to scheduling these fields this fall, it would have an incredible impact because there are no replacement fields to put these groups. NCS is currently talking about waitlists and other possible solutions. Ms. Avvisato stressed that if there is any flexibility at all, such as starting in November, that would be greatly appreciated.

Ms. Meren inquired if it was FCPS or the County leading the projects?

Ms. Avvisato explained it was FCPS and that Mr. Martino received a call today notifying him that those four fields would be out of service this fall due to synthetic turf replacements.





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Ms. Meren agreed that the situation does not sound good. Ms. Meren explained that she had received a draft of a memorandum of agreement for maintenance, replacement and scheduling of synthetic turf fields between the two boards and FCPA.

Ms. Avvisato confirmed that the MOA Ms. Meren referenced has been signed recently and NCS will share the final version with the Council.

Ms. Meren was pleased to hear that the MOA was signed. Ms. Meren is meeting with Superintendent Reid and will bring the MOA and these projects to her attention for discussion.

Mr. Horn added that it is the first he has heard of these projects as well. Mr. Horn stated that because the money hasn't been released yet, and the MOA was just signed a week ago, no bid packages have gone out. Mr. Horn explained that the four schools impacted would not want to lose those fields either during the fall. Mr. Horn understands FCPS is trying to catch up on synthetic turf replacements due to the delay in the signing of the MOA, however they do not want to catch up at the expense of community programs. Mr. Horn will find out more information and set up a call with all parties involved.

Ms. Eckert reported that FCPS scheduled a meeting with FCPA that took place this morning after the MOA was signed. Ms. Eckert confirmed that they have not gone out for bid yet for these projects so there is still a little flexibility. However, Ms. Eckert cannot speak on FCPS plans for these fields.

Mr. Flather is confident that the parties involved will come back to the Council with good information. Mr. Flather reminded the Council that not only would the loss of four fields impact on NCS' ability to schedule regular use but would also have an impact on tournament play as well.

Mr. Thompson pointed out that there is also a ripple effect if these fields go offline, as the high school sports teams will need to practice at alternate locations, which could include FCPA fields.

Ms. Eckert wanted to confirm that FCPA does not manage the FCPS synthetic turf replacements, FCPA just transfers the funding. Since the MOA was recently signed, FCPS scheduled the meeting to inquire about funding and FCPA let them know the funding is there. It is up to FCPS to figure out the planning and scheduling of the projects. FCPA has been maintaining them to extend life as much as possible and will continue to do so.

## FCPS

Ms. Meren followed up on the note from the May minutes, and the request for Ms. Bauer to ask Mr. Mueck about the regulation about non-profit organizations and charging entry fees.

Ms. Bauer confirmed that Mr. Mueck followed up within 48 hours and he is absolutely committed to looking into that policy.

Ms. Meren inquired if the recently signed MOA would resolve the maintenance, scheduling and replacement issues? Mr. Horn stated that it absolutely should and believes this situation is an anomaly and not the normal process of how the replacement process has flowed before.

Ms. Meren is committed to assisting with the Champions of Character award nominations as well. Ms. Meren is more than happy to put information in a newsletter or share information with both boards.

Ms. Meren informed the Council that in July the School Board does reassignments of committees. Ms. Meren is unsure yet whether she will continue to serve on the Council but thanked the Council for including her in discussions and for the hard work to keep athletics accessible to students in the community. Ms. Meren thoroughly enjoyed working with the Council and has learned a lot.





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Mr. Flather identified one of the problems that the Council has had over the last 30 years has been representation from the School Board members on a regular basis. Mr. Flather praised Ms. Meren for her dedication and interest and inquired if she could promote the fact that the Athletic Council greatly appreciates when School Board members are active and engaging. However, changing the School Board representative to the Council every year loses a lot of information and knowledge, and the Council has had to provide new School Board members with updates and information to educate them on certain things. Mr. Flather would appreciate it if Ms. Meren could stay on with the Council at least another year. Ms. Meren thanked Mr. Flather and will investigate and advocate for that.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Thompson stated that with the schools considering new calendars and with the survey that was sent out, Mr. Thompson is hopeful the schools to consider not only the parents, but also the partner organizations that could be impacted depending on how the calendar is changed.

Ms. Meren responded that despite what may have been in national news, FCPS are not canceling Christmas or Memorial Day. FCPS was looking to get clarity in their calendar policy, and they did adopt a clearer policy. Ms. Meren ultimately did not vote for it because it didn't resolve some of the problems. Ms. Meren does not believe the changes are going to be very drastic. The changes that are coming up are about being more transparent about when school is going to be released early and being clear about what days school is closed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully,

Roland Taylor, Secretary

