



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

## 2017 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**  
*Mason District*

**Salvatore Colangelo**  
*Mount Vernon District*

**Stephen McLaughlin,**  
*Vice Chairman*  
*Providence District*

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

**Gary Flather**  
*Sully District*

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

**Clement Chan**  
*Diversity-At-Large*

### Town Representatives:

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

**Nichole Lopes**  
*Town of Herndon*

**Sam Althoff**  
*Town of Vienna*

### Sports-Specific Representatives:

**Rob Hahne**  
*Chairman*  
*Baseball Council*

**Suzy Willemssen**  
*Fast Pitch Softball Council*

**Carl A. S. Coan, III**  
*Adult Softball Council*

**Dave Vennergrund**  
*Basketball Council*

**Mark Meana,**  
*Football Council*

**Mary Ann Wagner**  
*Lacrosse Council*

**Lula Bauer**  
*Soccer Council*

**Chuck Pruitt**  
*Volleyball Council*

**Jenni Cantwell**  
*Secretary*  
*Women's Sports*

### Non-Voting Members:

**Michael Thompson**  
*Park Authority*

**Todd Brown**  
*Park Authority*

**Tom Wilson**  
*School Board*

**William Curran**  
*Fairfax County Public Schools*

### Executive Agency:

**Christopher A. Leonard**  
*Director*  
*Neighborhood and Community Services*

## FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL MINUTES November 15, 2017

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District  
Rachel Huhn, Braddock District Alternate  
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District  
James Elder, Hunter Mill District  
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District Alternate  
Lisa Mickey, Lee District  
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District  
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District  
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District  
Gary Flather, Sully District  
Mark Abbott, Sully District Alternate  
Eric Sohn, Diversity Member-At-Large  
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large  
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton  
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council  
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council  
Mark Meana, Football Council  
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council  
Rebecca Frece, Slow Pitch Softball Council Alternate  
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council  
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

### COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Bill Curran, Fairfax County School Board  
Todd Brown, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Christopher Leonard, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Mark Martino, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Jason Shelton, Neighborhood and Community Services

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Salvatore Colangelo, Mount Vernon District  
Clement Chan, Diversity-At-Large  
Nichole Lopes, Town of Herndon  
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna  
Dave Vennergrund, Basketball Council Alternate  
Carl Coan, Slow Pitch Softball Council  
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council  
Karen Avvisato, Neighborhood and Community Services

### GUESTS:

None

## **MEETING OPENING**

Mr. Hahne called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

## **PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL**

None

## **CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

None

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

The September 20, 2017 minutes were approved.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Mr. Hahne opened a discussion regarding diversity in youth sports; How do we engage the different ethnic communities in youth sports at a younger age and what can we as a council do to facilitate this?

Mr. Sohn recommended giving guidance to the different ethnic communities on how to apply for a permit and what programs are currently available in the county.

Mr. Abbott discussed how Chantilly Youth Club holds a Hispanic night at Brookfield ES. Interpreters are available for parents and coaches to use. This has helped engage the Hispanic population in the western part of the county.

Mr. Flather recommended reaching out to the churches.

Mr. Leonard stated that the youth groups need to capture ethnicity data to see if we are reaching all the different ethnic communities and if not, what communities are being missed. This information will help the clubs and this council determine where we need to focus our education.

Ms. Willemsen recommended starting at the elementary school level to reach kids that don't play sports and get them engaged prior to high school. Mr. Flather explained that this is difficult due to FCPS rules regarding flyers being distributed in "backpack folder". He has had better luck developing relationships with the counselors and having them recommend the different sports programs offered in the area. Mr. Curran recommended communicating through the PTA/PTSA's. They are not under the same rules as the schools and have a separate web-site and newsletter that is sent home in the backpacks.

Mr Hahne is going to re-convene the steering committee and pull in Chris Pulley, Athletic Services Community Outreach Specialist, to help decided how we will proceed.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Fairfax County Sports Tourism Task Force

Mr. Flather reported that the task force met on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Visit Fairfax gave a presentation identifying sports tourism models and opportunities.

The task force discussed potential tournament complex sites, Patriot Park North and Laurel Hills. Fairfax County does not have a large multi-field complex. Because of this there is a challenge balancing sports tourism and league sports using the current facilities. Supervisor Herrity is very interested in new development making it easier to block weekend use because there is not historical use by groups. The weekday use can be used for league play.

Mr. Leonard explained that Supervisor Herrity is looking at targeting Niche sports and making Fairfax county a “destination” location. Mr. Leonard stated that Athletic Services will begin capturing where teams are coming in from for tournaments.

Minutes from the September 14<sup>th</sup> and October 26<sup>th</sup> meetings were distributed. Moving forward all minutes and presentations will be emailed to the council.

If you have any questions regarding the task force, please contact Gary Flather or Chris Leonard.

### By-Laws Committee

Mr. Martino reported that he, Ms. Allen and Ms. Avvisato will have a final meeting with the County Attorney to go over changes and finalize the document. Once that is complete the by-laws committee will review the document before it comes before the council.

## SPORTS REPORT OUTS

### Soccer

None

### Football

Mr. Meana reported that FCYFL is finished and post season play is underway.

### Slow Pitch Softball

Ms. Frece reported that the season is over and they will be working with the Park Authority to get the fields ready for spring.

### Fast Pitch -Softball

Ms. Willemsen reported that the season is over.

### Volleyball

Mr. Pruitt reported that the fall season is finishing. Langley HS is in the State Championship.

### Lacrosse

Ms. Wagner reported that fall lacrosse has finished and spring prep is underway.

Fairfax County Athletic Council  
12011 Government Center Parkway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22035  
703 324-5523



Basketball

None

Baseball

None

**MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM GOVERNING BODIES**Fairfax County Public Schools

Mr. Curran reported that the budget recommendations are in the final stages and will be moving forward. The superintendent is still committed to removing the activity fee. The standardize artificial turf maintenance program is moving forward. Fall sports are wrapping up.

The Stuart High School name change is progressing. The name will be changed to "Justice" High school. There is a push to have the change made by August 1, 2018.

Fairfax County Park Authority

Mr. Brown reported the Master plan will be sent to the Park Authority Board in December. Park Authority staff are currently working on a strategic plan to implement the master plan. Several Mastenbrook Grant applications have been submitted for field improvements.

Mr. Thompson explained that a plan has been brought forward by independent consultants to keep the rec centers competitive long term and revenue generating. This plan would require a \$200 million investment by the County and Park Authority for improvements and expansions to the rec centers. All the money would be spent in 5 years. Analysis show that if the investment is not made the rec centers will start running at a deficient. This matter has not been brought to the board at the time.

Neighborhood and Community Services

Mr. Martino reported that the fall season is wrapping up and the winter season is getting ready to start. Police and school security patrols will end on November 18<sup>th</sup>. If groups are still having issues, please have them contact NCS directly.

The new application system is up and running. Staff is still working through some glitches but most of the feedback from user groups has been positive.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Leonard reminded the council that Pat Harrison, Deputy County Executive, is retiring on January 19, 2018. He is recommending the Athletic Council recognize her dedication to the athletic community at the January 17, 2018 meeting with a plaque and refreshments.

Mr. Thompson further recommended naming a new Champions of Character award after Pat. He is going to put together a write up of the award and present it at the December meeting.

**Fairfax County Athletic Council**  
**12011 Government Center Parkway**  
**Fairfax, Virginia 22035**  
**703 324-5523**



Mr. Thompson moved that we recognize Pat Harrison at the January 17, 2018 meeting. Ms. Pape seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hahne reminded everyone that the December meeting was moved to December 13, 2017.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Thompson reminded the council that NCS and FCAC were being given the Harold L. Strickland Partnership and Collaboration Award at the 2017 Elly Doyle Park Service Awards. The ceremony will be November 17<sup>th</sup> at the Fair Oaks Waterford.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully,



Jenni R. Cantwell  
Secretary

