



County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

2018 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

Douglas Phung
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

Elizabeth Schultz
School Board

William Curran
Fairfax County Public Schools

Executive Agency:

Christopher A. Leonard
Director
Neighborhood and Community Services

FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

February 21, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District, Alternate
Karin Stamper, Lee District, Alternate
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Clarke Gray, Providence District, Alternate
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Mark Meana, Football Council
Carl Coan, Slow Pitch Softball Council
Rebecca Frece, Slow Pitch Softball Council, Alternate
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Bill Curran, Fairfax County School Board
Dan Sutherland, Fairfax County Park Authority
Christopher Leonard, Neighborhood and Community Services
Karen Avvisato, Neighborhood and Community Services
Mark Martino, Neighborhood and Community Services
Jason Shelton, Neighborhood and Community Services

MEMBERS ABSENT:

James Elder, Hunter Mill District
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
Salvatore Colangelo, Mount Vernon District
Douglas Phung, Diversity-At- Large
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Dave Vennergrund, Basketball Council
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council

GUESTS:

None

MEETING OPENING

Mr. Hahne called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called and a quorum was present.

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

Mr. Leonard addressed the upcoming budget stating that there should be no athletic impact in the proposed budget.

Ron and Peggy Tugwell, Northern Virginia Pickleball Ambassadors gave a presentation on the what Pickleball is and the growth in Fairfax County. Here is the link to the YouTube video used to explain how pickleball is played:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KNrIB-PsE88>

- Fastest growing sport in US
- Currently 29 pickleball communities in Northern Virginia with 3-4 thousand people participating
- Not a seasonal sport, can be played year around
- Would like dedicated pickleball courts. Currently Fairfax County Park Authority is painting pickleball lines on current tennis courts so that both sports can be played.
- Would like more indoor space, currently being played in senior and community centers around Northern Virginia.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The January 17, 2018 minutes were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. Hahne reported that the Steering Committee met and focused on diversity and community outreach. The committee discussed possible approaches to breaking through the various barriers; language, economic and cultural. Chris Pulley was in attendance and gave an update on how F.A.S.T. (Fairfax Athletes Stand Together) was working with the groups on community outreach. The scholarship program and how it is a 3-prong program was discussed:

1. 95% comes from the youth leagues supplementing the program
2. \$150,000 per year is given to NCS to allocate to the youth groups. A recommendation was made to approach the Board of Supervisors about increasing this amount. The clubs are given an estimated \$23 per player and the clubs absorb the rest of the player fee.
3. Finding a way to funnel privately donated funds into the scholarship program. Mr. Thompson mentioned that the Park Foundation maybe an option.



Mr. Thompson indicated that if the Council wants to take a position and advise the Board of Supervisors that the fund should be increased then a decision will need to be made at the March meeting. Public budget meetings start in April. He went on to say that while it may be too late for this budget cycle making the Board aware is important. He recommended between now and the March meeting that the magisterial reps meet with their respective board members and gauge the receptiveness to an increase.

Mr. Leonard stated that the fund has been static for 10 years. The fund is made up of \$75,000 county funds and \$75,000 participation fees. While he agrees asking for an increase, he cautioned that the Board could come back and ask for the fees to be raised to help offset the increase.

Moving forward Mr. Hahne would like to take 15 mins at each meeting and brainstorm other ideas on how to break through the various barriers.

Mr. Hahne gave an update on the Herndon/Oakton HS field closures during renovation. Three weeks ago, FCPS Design and Construction recommended that the rectangular fields be kept open, except in the summer and the diamond fields be closed at this time. Mr. Hahne and Ms. Willemssen, as the baseball and softball reps were concerned about the equity issue and drafted letters from the softball and baseball council that were distributed to FCPS, BOS and School Board. As of 2/20/2018 FCPS has made the decision to close all fields for the duration of the renovation due to safety concerns. Mr. Leonard contacted Mr. Platenberg at FCPS to express his concern that this decision was made after the permits have already been issued to the groups. Mr. Leonard explained that having all the fields open will not be an option. That a proposal with reduced use needs to be presented to FCPS. Mr. Thompson recommended that the Council not take a position because if we do it cannot be changed; the situation is to fluid. He recommends that the groups involved, the sports councils and NCS come up with a reduced use solution.

Mr. McLaughlin put forth a motion that Mr. Leonard "Express the views of the Athletic Council that some use of the fields should occur during construction that balances the need of user groups to access the field with legitimate safety and volume control. NCS will work with the user groups to establish equitable distributed time amongst all the user groups. Mr. Flather seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

SPORTS TOURISM TASK FORCE

Mr. Flather gave a summary of the Jan 25th Sports Tourism Task Force meeting.

Scott Sizer gave an update on the Loudoun County DC United Facility. It will include a 5,000-seat stadium, a 40,000 sq. foot headquarters/training facility, and 4 full size soccer fields 2 of which will be designated to DC United for training and the other 2 will be available for county use. The MOU has been agreed upon and delivery is expected in Spring 2019.

Visit Fairfax gave a presentation of the 4 sports tourism organization models:

1. Independent, Non-profit Corporation
2. Government Agency
3. Chamber of Commerce



4. Destination Marketing Organization (Such as Visit Fairfax Supervisor Herry requested the Visit Fairfax team to provide more information on how each organization structure interfaces with the Boards.

Visit Fairfax also presented the five economic impact modes that are typically used:

1. Destinations International
2. National Association of Sports Commissions
3. Internal Calculator
4. Independent Study
5. Other Methods

One of the five will need to be selected to move forward with. Agreeing on which model the task force will use is critical to deciding what sports tourism will look like in Fairfax County. Will we make small improvements to existing fields/facilities or make an investment toward a new facility? Scott Sizer gave a presentation on funding. Using existing complexes as examples. Scott will provide more detailed information at the next meeting. Fairfax is no longer in running for the NCJAA Headquarter. The indoor ski training facility is still being considered. Minutes of meetings are being sent out electronically.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

SPORTS REPORT OUTS

Soccer

None

Football

Mr. Meana reported that spring flag football is being organized. He also reminded everyone that the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on March 4th at the Mclean Hilton.

Slow Pitch Softball

Ms. Frece thanked the Park Authority for the work they are doing on getting the fields ready for the spring.

Fast Pitch -Softball

Ms. Williemsen thanked Mr. Hahne for being proactive on the equity issue at Herndon and Oakton

Volleyball

None

Lacrosse

None

Basketball



None

Baseball

Mr. Hahne reported that there will be a baseball coaches' clinic on March 4, open to all leagues and parents. It will be held at a conference center in Sterling.

MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM GOVERNING BODIES

Fairfax County Public Schools

Mr. Curran reminded the Council to use him as an advocate when dealing with FCPS. Winter sports are wrapping up. Basketball playoffs are underway. Spring sports have started. The superintendent has removed the activity fee from next year's budget.

Fairfax County Park Authority

Mr. Sutherland reported that the Nationals have partnered with Reston Little League to build a field of dreams at Crabtree Park. The improvements will be like those done last year at Mason District Park. The field will open mid-July during MLB All-Star week.

Mr. Thompson reported that the Park Authority is still working on the drone policy. There is strong community opposition to have drone flying at any park that does not already have athletic facilities. The Park Authority voted unanimously to name a field at South Run Park after Jack Nolan. The ceremony will be mid-April. More details to follow.

Neighborhood and Community Services

Mr. Leonard stated that a letter will no longer be needed from the Council in reference to proposed turf field legislation. The bill did not make it out of committee.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully,



Jenni R. Cantwell
Secretary



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