



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
Secretary
Mason District

Salvatore Colangelo
Mount Vernon District

Stephen McLaughlin
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

Charles Williams
Town of Herndon

Sam Althoff
Town of Vienna

Sports-Specific Representatives:

Rob Hahne
Baseball Council

Suzy Willemssen
Fast Pitch Softball Council

Carl A. S. Coan, III
Adult Softball Council

Steve Bergstrom
Basketball Council

Mark Meana
Football Council

Mary Ann Wagner
Lacrosse Council

Lula Bauer
Soccer Council

Chuck Pruitt
Volleyball Council

Jenni Cantwell
Vice Chairman
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

September 19, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
James Elder, Hunter Mill District
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Clarke Gray, Providence District, Alternate
Gary Flather, Sully District
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate
Douglas Phung, Diversity-At-Large
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Rebecca Frece, Slow Pitch Softball Council, Alternate
Trish Moxie, Soccer 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
Chris 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:

Salvatore Colangelo, Mount Vernon District
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Charles Williams, Town of Herndon
Dave Vennergrund, Basketball Council
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Mark Meana, Football Council
Carl Coan, Slow Pitch Softball Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council

GUESTS:

None

MEETING OPENING

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

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

Ms. Toni Zollicoffer from the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence gave a presentation on domestic violence and how youth sports participants can be impacted.

Ms. Zollicoffer requested that a member of the Council be part of a coalition on domestic violence. She also asked to attend a future Council meeting to have a working session on opportunities to impact children positively and use our resources.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Mr. Phung had an amendment to the May 16 minutes. The original minutes read "Mr. Phung reported that there were 500 competitive players and 800 pick-up ultimate Frisbee players this spring." The word competitive was replaced by youth.

The May 16, 2018 and June 28, 2018 Special Meeting minutes were approved.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin explained that now is a good time to review all the Council positions and overall Council by-laws. There are a lot of new members on the Council so now is a good opportunity to review the rules and responsibilities of each seat on the Council.

Mr. McLaughlin also reminded the Council that all sports, regardless of whether they have a seat on the Council, have a direct connection to at least two members of the Council. All community members live in a magisterial district and can be represented by the member-at-large or the diversity-at-large member. Mr. McLaughlin mentioned Ultimate Frisbee as an example with Mr. Phung being appointed as the Diversity-At-Large member. The by-laws committee will be responsible for looking at this issue.



SPORTS TOURISM TASK FORCE

Mr. Flather reported that the group had not met since May. The group is currently working on a final report and will look to reconvene in October.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Allocation

Ms. Avvisato stated that the Allocation Committee needed to reconvene to discuss several matters including the allocation and fees for Pickle Ball as well as the current NCS scheduling seasons.

By-Laws for Sports Councils

Mr. McLaughlin reported that the by-laws were approved by the Council at the June 28 Special Meeting. The by-laws go before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday October 25 to be voted on. Once they are officially approved, NCS staff will attend each sports council's meeting in the fall to educate and implement the sports-specific by-laws. Mr. McLaughlin reminded the Council that the sports-specific councils are approved by the BOS and they must follow the rules of the BOS.

SPORTS REPORT OUTS

Lacrosse

Ms. Wagner reported that the fall developmental league was underway. She also stated that the Northern Virginia Youth Lacrosse League had voted a new chair and she believes he/she will be a good liaison.

Slow Pitch Softball

Ms. Frece expressed frustration because of all the rain that has impacted their schedules. They are in the process of refunding teams summer fees because of all the cancellations.

Ms. Frece explained that their group is a partial adopter of fields and have been having difficulty prepping fields to be made playable. She indicated that they are receiving pictures from teams of fields that are closed, but look playable in the pictures. Ms. Frece explained that they met with the Park Authority and are still experiencing issues with being able to do field maintenance and fields being closed early in the day. She plans on convening the softball council to discuss possible solutions.

Ms. Frece also noted that they have had three field-light transformers blow and the Fire Department was called. She suggested having an on-call after hours' person for either NCS or FCPA who has the capability to control lights. Ms. Frece closed by thanking NCS for their help with fall allocation.

Mr. Brown responded to the field closure issue explaining to the Council that the Park Authority has safety standards that they must abide by. He also stated that the Park Authority is open to speak with anyone regarding possible solutions.



Ultimate Frisbee

Mr. Phung informed the Council that their boys team teamed up with Arlington and defeated a team from Minnesota to be crowned national champions. The girls team was also runner-up after playing a team from Seattle in the national championship.

Mr. Phung shared that he would like to bring a Mid-Atlantic Regional Tournament to Fairfax County on Memorial Day weekend 2019. He is looking to work with Eric Kulczycky of Visit Fairfax. Ms. Avvisato suggested that Mr. Phung set up a meeting with her(self) and Mr. Martino to discuss the tournament.

Volleyball

Mr. Pruitt reported that high school volleyball is in full bloom. The recreation leagues are reporting increased participation numbers this fall. He inquired to NCS if they have seen an increase in fall volleyball applications? NCS staff will look at the number of requests and send Mr. Pruitt that information. Mr. Pruitt stated that there are 14 elementary/middle school boys' volleyball teams across the County as well as 13 high school boys' volleyball teams.

Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen recognized two annual softball tournaments for their charity work. One organization's annual tournament in July raised \$40,000 for Children's National Hospital. Another organization's tournament this weekend is called "Help Save the Next Girl" whose proceeds will be donated to Help Save the Next Girl which is a national non-profit organization formed in honor of Morgan Dana Harrington, a 20-year-old Virginia Tech student who was abducted and murdered in 2009.

Basketball

Mr. Bergstrom reported an increase in participation at the travel and recreation levels. The basketball community is concerned by the loss of gyms in the area due to renovations. He indicated that the BOS needs to keep gym facilities in mind when investing money in development projects. Mr. Bergstrom is also looking for an inventory of all gyms in Fairfax County. Mr. Leonard stated that the new Sully Community Center will have basketball courts to help address the need. Mr. Brown also stated that he would send anyone interested in the planning process information on how that process works.

Soccer

Ms. Moxie reported that the soccer community has had several issues.

- Porta johns were not being serviced/cleaned at several Fairfax County Park Authority athletic fields
- Grass is not being cut at several locations
- Lights are out on turf fields

Ms. Moxie appreciated the communication regarding the varsity football games being rescheduled due to weather.



MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM GOVERNING BODIES

Fairfax County Public Schools

Mr. Curran stated that the rain has impacted all fall sports, however the schedule is pretty much up to date. Mr. Curran reported that football participation increased in FCPS last year by around 300 players. He will share the participation numbers for this year once they are available. Although overall participation in football increased, Mr. Curran reported that some school's sub-varsity programs were struggling.

Justice High School (formerly JEB Stuart HS) officially opened this fall. The synthetic turf field was re-painted and new logo (Wolves) was placed on the field.

Mr. Curran was also happy to report that after a petition to VHSL, Langley High School would be competing in 6A instead of 5A moving forward.

Mr. Curran ended by stating that the winter sports season starts a week early this year and the first date of practice is Monday November 5.

Fairfax County Park Authority

Mr. Brown stated that the field dedication of Bryce Harper Field at Fred Crabtree Park between FCPA/MLB/Washington Nationals/Reston-Herndon Little League went exceptionally well. MLB and the Nationals were impressed with how smoothly things went and Mr. Brown was appreciative of how accommodating all parties involved were.

Mr. Brown was also pleased to report that all the synthetic turf field installations this summer are complete and the fields are now open. Those projects included Franconia Park, Patriot Park and Spring Hill Park.

Upcoming synthetic turf projects include Nottoway Little League field, Lee District Park and Baron Cameron Park. They will also be partnering with the City of Falls Church to turf the rectangle field at Larry Graves Park.

Mr. Brown addressed the porta john issue with the Council. He indicated that the Park Authority had received more funds for additional cleanings of the units, however the contractor simply isn't abiding by the contract. Mr. Brown stated the mowing is also under contract and they are having similar issues. They are currently looking at what options are available to them to move forward.

Mr. Brown echoed the Council's frustration that the weather has been difficult. He indicated to the Council he is more than willing to meet to discuss any issues and urged the Council members to reach out to him if they have any questions or concerns.



Mr. Brown brought to the attention of the Council the increasing issue of trash, especially on athletic fields. He explained that the Park Authority is receiving more resident comments (BOS, individuals, neighbors, etc.) in regards to trash than they have ever before.

Mr. Brown informed the Council that the Park Authority is forming a team to talk about education and enforcement and urged any Council members that are interested to contact him. NCS also said they would also inform its field monitors and field users of the increasing problems.

Neighborhood and Community Services

Ms. Avvisato reminded the Council that the Champions of Character ceremony is scheduled for Monday October 15. Several BOS and FCPS School Board members are planning to attend and there will be a keynote speaker this year.

Ms. Avvisato and Mr. Abbott also highlighted the work Chris Pulley was doing with the F.A.S.T. program and the new facility that Chantilly Youth Association now operates. CYA now has The Fieldhouse (formerly known as Hoops Magic and other names). Mr. Abbott explained that CYA participated in an outreach program that collects gently used equipment. The proceeds went to Jamestown, Tennessee and everyone including coaches, parents and players were beyond appreciative.

Mr. Abbott explained that CYA plans to develop Instant Replay at the Fieldhouse which will serve as a type of store to redistribute gently used equipment. With the help of Chris Pulley and the F.A.S.T. program, Mr. Abbott hopes to create hubs like this across the County that can all funnel to a central location. There is a significant need in this County that few people know about.

Ms. Avvisato informed the Council that Sarah Allen had been promoted to NCS Deputy Director.

Mr. Martino was pleased to announce that NCS Athletic Services is now fully staffed and Lori Barb is the new region 3 scheduler. He praised staff for seamlessly covering while the office was short staffed.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Flather inquired NCS and FCPS if the Friend of the Gym program has changed? Mr. Curran and Mr. Martino stated they would contact Vicki Garner to check.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Elder inquired about the Sports and Fitness Industry Association presentation that was discussed several meetings ago. Mr. Curran said he would reach out to Tom Cove and see if he would like to present at a future meeting.



ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara R. Lowrey
Secretary

