



County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

2019 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

Thomas Wilson
School Board

William Curran
Fairfax County Public Schools

Executive Agency:

Christopher A. Leonard
Director
Neighborhood and Community Services

FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL

MINUTES

January 16, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Clarke Gray, Providence District, Alternate
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Douglas Phung, Diversity-At- Large
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Mark Meana, Football Council
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
James Elder, Hunter Mill District
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District
Salvatore Colangelo, Mount Vernon District
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Charles Williams, Town of Herndon
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Carl Coan, Slow Pitch Softball Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council

GUESTS:

None

MEETING OPENING

Mr. McLaughlin 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 December 19 minutes were approved

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he had drafted a letter to Fairfax County Public Schools leadership regarding the ongoing issues regarding community use and FCPS. A few of the items in the letter include high schools using more elementary/middle schools during community use time, lack of notifications for concerts, school events, etc., no knowledge of upcoming renovation projects, as well as an overall change in attitude with FCPS regarding community use of the facilities.

Mr. Curran responded by stating that he understands the frustrations presented and that there are several factors at play. Demand for school facilities has increased on both the FCPS and community use side without more facilities being added to the inventory. Mr. Curran indicated that no policies or regulations have changed in regards to community use of FCPS facilities. However, frequent change in staff at schools can be detrimental to cancellations being sent in a timely manner. Mr. Curran did state that the renovation projects should be transparent with community users and believes that process will be tweaked moving forward.

Mr. Curran reiterated that the School Board has many demands as well, especially regarding Fine Arts programs receiving adequate facility space. He agrees that there is a balance that needs to be met so both sides can be successful. Mr. Curran stated that the communication from the high schools has become significantly better over the years and he stressed good collaboration and communication to address the issues we are seeing. Mr. Curran pointed to "the later school start time" issue as a good example of collaboration. In closing he urged the Council to look at the specific things in the letter that they would like to see approved.



Mr. McLaughlin stated that the Council would fine tune the issues in the letter but are looking for satisfactory responses to the issues. He reported that there are three FCPS members assigned to the Council, but Mr. Curran is the only one that attends. Mr. McLaughlin will distribute the draft letter to the Council before sending and urged the Council members to communicate to their School Board members the issues we are seeing.

SPORTS TOURISM TASK FORCE

The Sports Tourism Task Force PowerPoint presentation was distributed to the Council. It was recently presented to the Economic Advisory Commission. Ms. Avvisato stated that the field and gym allocation policies will need to be looked at if Fairfax County wants to support complexes. Currently the polices are focused on community use time, while the Sports Tourism Task Force looks at economic impact.

Mr. Bergstrom inquired if acquisition of land would be a necessary requirement for one of these complexes? Mr. Thompson stated that land the Park Authority already owns land that will need to be redeveloped and there are parks open for fields.

The next steps for the Task Force will be to give the PowerPoint presentation to the Board of Supervisors, followed by the School Board and Park Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Martino reported that the by-laws committee had attended the fast pitch softball and volleyball council meetings to review the sports-specific by-laws. They are working on setting up meeting for the remainder sports councils.

Ms. Avvisato reminded Mr. McLaughlin that the Steering Committee needs to meet before the February meeting to set goals for the other Council committees.

SPORTS REPORT OUTS

Football

Mr. Meana stated that he had spoken to Tom Cove, the President and CEO of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association recently and inquired if the Council would like Mr. Cove to give a presentation at a future meeting? The Council stated a presentation at the March meeting would be great.

Mr. Meana reported that John Keast, who was a former commissioner in the Fairfax County Youth Football League has moved to a government position where he oversees the governing bodies of sports for the Olympic Games.

Baseball

Mr. Hahne stated that he attended a national coaches convention in Dallas, Texas that were looking at how sports are run and if any changes need to be made.



Mr. Hahne reported that they would be hosting a coaching clinic the first week of March.

In closing, Mr. Hahne shared that he had returned from Puerto Rico where they are setting up an equipment exchange program to help those affected in Puerto Rico. He hopes to involve local high school coaches as well as the Fairfax County Park Authority.

Volleyball

Mr. Pruitt reported that club volleyball season is currently underway

Ultimate Frisbee

Mr. Phung stated that their registration opens in 2 weeks. Mr. Phung also highlighted the Ultimate Peace organization that depends on donations to give youth in the Middle East a chance to build friendships while playing ultimate frisbee.

Soccer

Ms. Moxie stated that most teams are practicing indoors except for a few teams.

Basketball

Mr. Bergstrom reported that basketball season was in full swing, except for a few closures due to inclement weather.

MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM GOVERNING BODIES

Fairfax County Public Schools

Mr. Curran introduced the Council to Aaron Cannon who is currently the after school specialist at Glasgow MS. Mr. Curran stated that Mr. Cannon was looking for the next step in his career and is currently working his master's degree in Athletic Administration. Mr. Curran invited him to the Council meeting to see how everything operates.

Mr. Curran told the Council that the first notification for any weather closures will be on the FCPS Twitter site.

Mr. Curran stated that VHSL has realigned again and there are new districts and regions. Mr. Curran will review the new districts and regions at a Council meeting in the spring.

Fairfax County Park Authority

Mr. Brown reported that the following synthetic turf projects will be taking place this summer.

- Lee District Park RF #4 (resurface)
- Greenbriar Park RF #5 (resurface)
- Nottoway Park 60 #1 (new turf)
- Nottoway Park 60 #5 (resurface)
- Larry Graves Park (new turf)

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



Mr. Brown stated that the Park Authority had met with Fairfax Adult Softball to discuss field closing procedures. They looked at other counties/jurisdictions polices and procedures in the area, as well as nationally and found that several used Fairfax County's policies and procedures.

Regarding Adopted Field agreements, Mr. Brown urged the Council to contact him if they have any questions regarding their agreements or are interested in adopting a field.

Mr. Brown and Mr. Thompson explained the unprecedented amount of rain affected the Park Authority revenue budget. Mr. Hahne inquired if this will cause issues with field maintenance? Mr. Brown stated that Mr. Kincannon, the current Director of the Park Authority, is committed to not touching any funds dedicated to maintenance and does not believe there will be a difference in field maintenance moving forward.

Mr. Bergstrom inquired how the Council could contribute to Park Authority facility renovations? He gave the example of Wakefield RECenter and how one would go about petitioning for more basketball courts to be added? Mr. Thompson replied saying there is a process in place to receive public comments and feedback and that would be the appropriate place to make recommendations.

Neighborhood and Community Services

Ms. Avvisato highlighted the Athletic Mental Health Symposium that was organized by Chris Pulley. She strongly encouraged the Council to share the event details with coaches and parents. The event will focus on exploring the mental pressure facing athletes today, the warning signs to help you recognize and identify mental health issues in athletes, and tips/resources to render aid through a panel discussion featuring some of the area's top professionals. The guest list includes:

Jon Solomon – Editorial Director of the Sports & Society Program / Aspen Institute

Brian Monday – President, Eric Monday Foundation

Dr. Mary Schumann – Psychology Professor / George Mason University

Kyle Simmons – Head Football Coach, Westfield High School

Ken Tyler – Athletic Director, The St. James

Dr. Melissa Womble – Director of Inova Sports Medicine Concussion Program / Sports Psychology

John Reynolds – Student Activities / FCPS



NCS stated that they would send the Mental Health Symposium flyer to the Council electronically. NCS will also be sending a flyer for the Stuff the Bus program, which supports local nonprofit food pantries as they work to provide assistance for individuals and families in need throughout the community.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara R. Lowrey
Secretary

