



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

Lester Munson
Mount Vernon District

Stephen McLaughlin,
Chairman
Providence District

Michael Thompson, Jr.
Springfield District

Gary Flather
Sully District

Katherine Quinn
Member-At-Large

Vacant
Diversity-At-Large

Town Representatives:

Jeffrey E. Stein
Town of Clifton

Roland Taylor
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

September 18, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
James Elder, Hunter Mill District
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Chris Leonard, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Keisha Dotson, Director Access Division, Neighborhood and Community Services
Karen Avvisato, Neighborhood and Community Services
Jason Shelton, Neighborhood and Community Services
Jeffrey Platenberg, Asst. Superintendent Dept. of Facilities and Transportation Services, Fairfax County Public Schools
Paul Hatcher, Director of Administrative Services, Fairfax County Public Schools
Vicki Garner, Coordinator of Community Use, Fairfax County Public Schools
Bill Curran, Director of Student Activities, Fairfax County Public Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Michael Thompson Jr, Springfield District
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Mark Meana, Football Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council
Carl Coan, Slow Pitch Softball Council
Chuck Pruitt, Volleyball Council
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Program

GUESTS:

Eric Kulczycky, Visit Fairfax
Matt McMahon, Ultimate Frisbee

MEETING OPENING

Mr. McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

None

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

None

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The July 17 minutes were approved

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin reminded the Council that the Champions of Character ceremony is Tuesday October 1 at 7:00pm. He stated that the Council will continue the progress on the sports-specific and overall Council by-laws. He also reminded the Council that there will be a large turnover amongst the Board of Supervisors and School Board and urged the Council to meet with the new members.

SPORTS TOURISM TASK FORCE

Mr. Leonard thanked those who were involved with the Sports Tourism Task Force focus groups conducted by CSL International. The feedback from the focus groups was positive and the Council is eager to see the next steps.

Supervisor Herrity has set up another Sports Tourism Task Force meeting for November. Mr. Leonard stated that the Council will continue to be updated and all the minutes from the meetings will be distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

SPORTS REPORT OUTS

Lacrosse

Ms. Wagner reported that the fall season was underway. There are several developmental clinics operating. There has also been an increase in "box lacrosse" which is an indoor version of the sport.

Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen stated that the softball council met recently, and recreation softball participation numbers have remained stable.



She also reported that she had spoken with Joel Feldman from CSL International to discuss the needs of the softball community. Some topics that were discussed include the fact that there is no designated softball facility, prohibition of using metal cleats and maintenance burden on the youth groups. A lot of tournaments and groups are moving to Loudoun County and she provided other contacts for Mr. Feldman to speak with.

Ms. Willemsen also praised FCPS and FCPA for the softball field upgrade at Ossian Hall Park which is used by Annandale HS softball teams. Justice Park is also in the process of being upgraded which is utilized by Justice HS softball teams.

Ms. Willemsen met with FCPA to discuss lighting of fields at Clermont Park. The current proposal was to light the 2 designated baseball fields, but not the softball fields at the park. Ms. Willemsen was concerned about a potential equity issue in lighting just the baseball fields and not the softball fields.

Ultimate Frisbee

Mr. McMahon reported that they had 8 registered coed high school teams for the fall season and 6 boys' teams.

Baseball

Mr. Hahne stated that baseball was starting up and he plans to meet with Mr. Curran to discuss a few FCPS issues that have impacted baseball.

MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM GOVERNING BODIES

FCPS

Mr. Curran praised the Park Authority for being flexible to the user's needs during the Ossian Hall Park and Justice Park softball field upgrades.

Mr. Curran reported that there have been positive results with the newly created turf field maintenance program. The program is a partnership with NCS, FCPA and FCPS for FCPA to do turf maintenance on FCPS turf fields. There is a huge benefit of having one entity doing the maintenance as all the fields will be kept at the same standard.

Mr. Curran brought to the attention of the Council potential bathroom issues at high schools. Currently there are only a few high schools that have bathroom facilities on campus. The other schools are spending a lot of money on porta john units which creates an inequity among the schools. There is currently no plan in place to remedy this situation, but Mr. Curran indicated that any creative ideas are welcome.

Mr. Curran stated that he is on an ad-hoc committee for the Virginia High School League (VHSL) that is looking at out of season practices and green days. The current policy impacts community use groups, encourages single sport athletes and burns out coaches. Mr. Curran indicated that the Executive Committee for VHSL acknowledged the issues presented and the committee will continue to work on the policy. The committee meets again in a month.



Mr. Hatcher reported that they have heard from NCS regarding space limitations. Design and Construction plans to open fields and gyms if they are not affected by renovation. Safety always comes first, but there is an ongoing effort to open fields and gyms during renovations when possible.

Mr. Jeff Platenberg, Assistant Superintendent Department of Facilities and Transportation Services, Fairfax County Public Schools spoke to the Council regarding concerns the Council has brought up. Mr. Platenberg stated he and FCPS are committed to keep communicating and connecting with users and NCS to alleviate any issues. The Council had several questions regarding community use including frustration that there is often short notice of the closure of facilities at Fairfax County Public Schools.

FCPA

None

NCS

Ms. Avvisato reminded the Council that the Champions of Character ceremony is on Tuesday October 1 at 7:00pm. She encouraged the Council members to attend and asked them to let NCS know if they could not attend.

The Champions of Character committee will also reconvene to look at ways to improve the ceremony. It was suggested the presenters dramatically shorten the bios they read to speed up the program (the full bios are in the printed program).

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Lowrey requested that someone from the One Fairfax initiative attend a future meeting. NCS will reach out to One Fairfax about presenting at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Taylor inquired about putting together a presentation for new Board of Supervisors and School Board members to inform them of the Council's role. A committee will be put together with Mr. Thompson and Mr. McLaughlin serving as co-chairs. A recommendation to send a letter to the School Board chairman stating that the Board has a seat on the Council was also discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully,

Barbara R. Lowrey, Secretary

Fairfax County Athletic Council
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