



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

## FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL MINUTES

October 20, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

LINK TO VIDEO OF THE MEETING:

[Fairfax County Athletic Council Meeting:](#)

[Oct. 20, 2021 - YouTube](#)

### 2021 Council Members

#### Magisterial Representatives:

**Marcia M. Pape Daniels**  
Braddock District

**Gregory Beckwith**  
Dranesville District

**Jeremy Lee**  
Hunter Mill District

**Lisa MicKey**  
Secretary  
Lee District

**Barbara R. Lowrey**  
Mason District

**Lester Munson**  
Mount Vernon District

**Stephen McLaughlin,**  
Providence District

**Michael Thompson, Jr.**  
Springfield District

**Gary Flather**  
Vice Chairman  
Sully District

**Katherine Quinn**  
Member-At-Large

**Marc Fernandes**  
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

#### Vacant

Adult Softball Council

**Steve Bergstrom**  
Basketball Council

**Mark Meana**  
Football Council

**Mary Ann Wagner**  
Lacrosse Council

**Lula Bauer**  
Chairman  
Soccer Council

**Rob Baily**  
Volleyball Council

**Jenni Cantwell**  
Women's Sports

#### Non-Voting Members:

**Michael Thompson**  
Park Authority

**Kurt Louis**  
Park Authority

**Megan McLaughlin**  
School Board

**William Curran**  
Fairfax County Public Schools

#### Executive Agency:

**Lloyd Tucker**  
Director  
Neighborhood and Community Services

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District  
Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate  
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District  
Jeremy Lee, Hunter Mill District  
Lisa Mickey, Lee District  
Bill Bright, Lee District, Alternate  
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District  
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District  
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District  
Kelly Ego-Osuala, Providence District, Alternate  
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District  
Gary Flather, Sully District  
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large  
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large, Alternate  
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton  
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council  
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council  
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council  
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council  
Hillary Richardson, Women's Sports Programs, Alternate

### COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Keisha Dotson, Division Director, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Mark Martino, Branch Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Jason Shelton, Analyst, Neighborhood and Community Services  
Michael Thompson Jr., Fairfax County Park Authority Board  
Kurt Louis, Director of Park Operations Division, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Bill Curran, Director of Student Activities, Fairfax County Public Schools

### MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Luwis, Dranesville District, Alternate  
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District, Alternate  
Mark Heilbrun, Springfield District, Alternate  
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate  
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large  
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large, Alternate  
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon  
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna  
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council  
Stew Clark, Basketball Council, Alternate  
Ryan Buchanan, Fast Pitch Softball Council, Alternate  
Mark Meana, Football Council  
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate  
Dave Paddock, Lacrosse Council, Alternate  
Christine Idip, Slow Pitch Softball, Alternate  
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate  
Rob Baily, Volleyball Council  
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

## MEETING OPENING

Ms. Bauer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

## CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Ms. Sharri Clifford, a Southwestern Youth Association baseball parent reported that with the construction of Patriot Park North, SYA baseball team practices have been significantly impacted. The 90' diamond at Patriot Park was able to be scheduled 7 nights a week for practices supplemented with the 90' field at EC Lawrence Park. This fall season SYA Babe Ruth was allocated EC Lawrence 90' field 2 nights a week and a couple of nights at Centreville HS baseball field. This fall SYA Babe Ruth had no practices scheduled during the week. Ms. Clifford explained this lack of practice time was detrimental to player development and hurt the team's ability to be competitive. Ms. Clifford understands the huge task of scheduling but is hopeful the situation can be addressed.

Mr. Martino stated that NCS will go back and look at the baseball allocations for this fall. Mr. Flather from SYA stated he will reconvene with his fellow board members and baseball members. Mr. Flather thought that scheduling may be tight in the spring due to the construction but was unaware of the no practice slots issue. Mr. Hahne from the baseball council stated that he will also reach out to SYA Babe Ruth and see what can be done to fix the issue for the remainder of the season.

## PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

None

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The meeting minutes from the virtual meeting on September 15 were approved

## CHAIRMAN REPORT

Ms. Bauer had nothing to report

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Sports Tourism Task Force

Mr. Flather reported that the Sports Tourism Task Force met on September 15. One item from the meeting is the Alpine X Indoor Ski Complex has been approved. The facility will be located at the Old Lorton Reformatory site and is exciting news for sports tourism in Fairfax County.

Visit Fairfax also gave a presentation and reported they are creating a multi-County program for sports tourism that is going well.

The Patriot Park North construction is underway. The water line has been completed and groundwork is being done now. The two 60' diamonds have a targeted completion date of August 2022 and will hopefully be available for the fall 2022 field season. The entire project is expected to be completed in 2023.

Supervisor Herrity stated that he would like to convene subcommittee to look at holiday weekend scheduling that includes FCPS sites.

The next step for the task force is putting together the right team for governance and direction for scheduling of tournaments at new tournament facilities.

Mr. Flather stated that the Fairfax County Park Authority has an MOU in place with the Washington Capitals for an indoor skate rink at Lake Fairfax Park.



Mr. Flather reported that the tournament scheduling pilot test has made it through 2 holiday weekends, Labor Day, and Columbus Day. Mr. Flather is working with NCS staff on the survey questions that were sent to user groups and tournament directors. Mr. Flather will have more information from the survey results at the next Council meeting.

Mr. McLaughlin informed the Council that he is working with all involved parties to develop a diamond field maintenance document between FCPA and FCPS. Mr. McLaughlin asked that any examples of current MOUs and current issues with diamond field maintenance be sent to him so he can put a template together.

Mr. Flather reminded the Council that the subcommittee to discuss communication between NCS, FCPA and FCPS will meet before the next Council meeting.

## **REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES**

### Baseball

Mr. Hahne stated that the fall baseball season is wrapping up in the next couple of weeks.

### Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen reported that there will need to be conversations regarding the potential closure of Falls Church HS, Madison HS, South Lakes HS, and Louise Archer ES softball fields due to school renovations. Losing these fields would be a huge blow to the softball community.

### Football

Mr. Meana reported that the football season is 75% complete. Issues have been minimal consistent with youth sports. Major concern amongst all sports is the shortage of referees/officials.

Mr. Meana inquired if there was any formal program or policy for sanitization of bleachers, player benches, handrails, etc. Mr. Curran and Mr. Louis stated they follow the Health Department guidelines and for outdoor areas the sun acts as a natural sanitizer.

The Council echoed Mr. Meana's statement on a shortage of officials which has made scheduling challenging for all sports. Mr. Meana stated that the Council or the County should promote a forum for all sports officials. Get the heads of all sports officials together and discuss where the future lies, what issues they are seeing and how we can increase the number of officials moving forward.

### Lacrosse

Ms. Wagner stated the lacrosse season is winding down and had nothing else to report

### Soccer

Ms. Bauer praised the NCS field monitors for being responsive and able to find solutions to issues. Soccer is experiencing a huge referee shortage as well. Referee certification courses haven't been available due to COVID-19. The soccer community is trying to make the referee certification courses available to help alleviate the referee shortage. Ms. Bauer agreed with Mr. Meana's idea of having a forum for sports officials.

## **STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

### FCPS

Mr. Curran reported they have been working hard on what the roll out for winter sports will look like. Any student athletes' 15 and younger or student athletes with religious and medical exemptions are not required to be vaccinated. FCPS has found a vendor, LSI, to perform weekly COVID-19 testing for those winter student athletes that are unvaccinated. Mr. Curran stated that the fall sports season is winding down and less than 1% of athletes have had COVID-19 cases.

### FCPA

Mr. Thompson stated that the new director Park Authority Director Jai Cole has officially started. She has been out visiting parks and will attend a future Council meeting.



## NCS

Mr. Martino reported that NCS is continuing with the fall field and gym seasons. There have been some hiccups along the way, but for the most part has been positive. Winter field and gym permits will be going out soon. Police, School Security and NCS monitors are still patrolling until mid-November. Mr. Flather inquired if groups will have to sign a commitment form in the winter like groups did in the fall? Mr. Martino stated that he believes the policy for winter will be the same as the fall. Any required document will be sent out with the winter gym permits. indoor users.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Thompson reminded the Council to help in the community. There are a variety of ways to get involved including partnering with NCS on food drives or with Chris Pulley and his F.A.S.T. program.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lisa MicKey, Secretary

