



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

January 19, 2022

MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

LINK TO VIDEO OF THE MEETING:

[Fairfax County Athletic Council Meeting:](#)

[Jan. 19, 2022 - YouTube](#)

2022 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 Willemsen
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
Jeremy Lee, Hunter Mill District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District, Alternate
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
Bill Bright, Lee District, Alternate
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District
Bob Kirk, Mount Vernon District, Alternate
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large, Alternate
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large, Alternate
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Mark Meana, Football Council
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Lloyd Tucker, 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
Megan McLaughlin, Braddock District Representative, Fairfax County School Board
Bill Curran, Director of Student Activities, Fairfax County Public Schools
John Chapman, Community Use Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
Brian Luwis, Dranesville District, Alternate
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District
Kelly Ego-Osuala, Providence District, Alternate
Mark Heilbrun, Springfield District, Alternate
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
Sam Althoff, Town of Vienna
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Stew Clark, Basketball Council, Alternate
Suzy Willemsen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Ryan Buchanan, Fast Pitch Softball Council, Alternate
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate
Dave Paddock, Lacrosse Council, Alternate
Christine Idip, Slow Pitch Softball, Alternate
Rob Baily, Volleyball Council
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs
Hillary Richardson, Women's Sports Programs, Alternate

MEETING OPENING

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

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

Ms. Megan McLaughlin, School Board Member for the Braddock District spoke to the Council about work that had started before the pandemic with Braddock District Supervisors Cook and Walkinshaw to bring to the Board of Supervisors and School Board attention that only 10 of 25 high school stadium fields in Fairfax County have permanent bathroom facilities. The other 15 high schools rely on rented porta johns on an annual basis with a cost of roughly \$7,000 that in most cases falls on the high school booster clubs to fund. Having permanent bathroom facilities is not only beneficial for the high schools, community use participants, spectators, etc., but also makes Fairfax County more admirable for outside athletic events to bring revenue to Fairfax County.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that the booster club presidents throughout Fairfax County will be sending a joint message to the Board of Supervisors and School Board asking that a model like the one used to fund the remaining synthetic turf fields at the high schools be investigated.

Ms. McLaughlin also serves on the Sports Tourism Task Force with Mr. Curran and Supervisors Pat Herrity and Kathy Smith. Recently State Senator Scott Surovell sponsored a bill and is hoping for strong lobbying efforts from Fairfax County. The bill asks the Virginia General Assembly to dedicate \$5.4 million from the Federal American Rescue Act Funds that Virginia received to help pay for water and sewage lines needed to construct the bathroom facilities.

Ms. McLaughlin explained this topic is very preliminary, but she wanted to get initial information to the Council to be aware. Ms. McLaughlin welcomes any thoughts and feedback to help bring information to decision makers.

Ms. Bauer stated that she is very supportive of the project. Ms. Bauer has coached teams that use multiple high schools that have porta johns and has seen firsthand the health and safety issues associated with porta johns.

Mr. Thompson inquired about zoning regulations that others have run into in the past. An example for Lake Braddock Secondary School was zoning required that there be enough stalls for men's and women's restrooms if the Stadium Field was at 100% capacity, event though the Stadium Field is rarely closed to full capacity. This made the project enormously expensive. Mr. Thompson added that if we are planning on using funding identified from the Sports Tourism Task Force, that there should be work done to look at ways to make school facilities available for tournaments.

Ms. McLaughlin explained when West Springfield High School went under renovation Supervisor Pat Herrity and School Board Member Elizabeth Schultz looked through all the zoning regulations and found that the 100% Stadium Field capacity was not a requirement for having permanent bathroom facilities. West Springfield High School has become a trailblazer for building permanent bathroom facility when high schools get renovated moving forward. Falls Church High School, Herndon High School and Oakton High School all recently underwent renovations and will receive permanent bathroom facilities at their Stadium Fields as well.



Ms. McLaughlin informed the Council that Jeff Platenberg, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Transportation Services indicated that permanent bathroom facilities will be part of educational specifications moving forward, however high schools get renovated every 35-50 years. Ms. McLaughlin agreed that the FCPS facilities need to be made available for tournament usage to bring outside athletic events to Fairfax County.

Mr. Meana stated this is something the Council should get behind and the School Board and Board of Supervisors need to work together and hash out the outstanding issues that have come up when this idea has been discussed before. Mr. Meana recommended using a similar approach to the Synthetic Turf Task Force.

Mr. Leff inquired if there was a total amount to get all the remaining high schools permanent bathroom facilities. Ms. McLaughlin stated that she has heard the high side could be \$1 million per Stadium Field, but nothing has been priced out yet since it is in early conversation between the two boards. Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Curran will continue to bring monthly updates to the Council.

Mr. Hahne stated that having permanent bathroom facilities at Westfield High School has been a huge difference maker. Visitors often comment how great it is to have access to permanent restroom facilities instead of porta johns.

Ms. McLaughlin stated having testimonials from coaches, players, parents, etc. who have experienced the difference between having permanent bathroom facilities and porta johns would be extremely helpful.

Mr. Kirk stated that he spearheaded an effort to bring permanent bathrooms and concessions to South County Little League. Mr. Kirk suggested to not only talk to high school athletes and parents, but also the community user groups who use the high school facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The meeting minutes from the virtual meeting on November 17 were approved

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Ms. Bauer had nothing to report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications with Fairfax County Partners - FCPS, FCPA, NCS and Community Users

Mr. Flather reported that the committee met on January 13 to discuss communication between the 3 agencies and the community users. The meeting was very insightful, and information provided by the 3 agencies was great. Some takeaways from the meeting were that NCS has trouble getting information from FCPS regarding school events, renovation projects, etc. like the community users that are frustrated when they get last minute cancellations or no notice at all. FCPA works directly with NCS for all their field closures, events, and projects. FCPS has Notice 8421 and 8423 which documents when school events are supposed to be entered and what the procedures are. All 3 agencies gave a brief overview of what their procedures are and what challenges they each face. There is a follow up meeting scheduled for February 7 to pull all the comments together and formulate a plan to move forward. One piece missing from committee is FCPS Design and Construction.

REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Baseball

Mr. Hahne reported that baseball is currently in its off season. The baseball community recently had a state of baseball dinner and will continue those moving forward. Looking for ways to better help all the different entities within baseball in Fairfax County and work together to grow and promote baseball.



Football

Mr. Meana had nothing to report

Lacrosse

Ms. Wagner reported that lacrosse was looking at preliminary registration numbers and right now it doesn't look like lacrosse participation has fully bounced back to pre-COVID numbers, however it is still early in the registration process. Ms. Wagner inquired if there would be any additions or changes to the COVID-19 restrictions that are attached to the NCS permits. Mr. Martino stated that NCS is following FCPS guidance for indoor gym use and the information currently on the NCS field permits has not changed.

Soccer

Ms. Bauer thanked NCS and FCPA for getting the daily synthetic turf field closures due to inclement weather out to the community users in a timely manner

Volleyball

Ms. Swope reported that high school volleyball open gyms are starting this month. 4th-12th grade volleyball leagues have also begun assessments and try outs. Club volleyball in the area has begun holding tournaments. Groups must stay on top of the different COVID-19 restrictions that can vary depending on facility, tournament, or league.

Ms. Swope was pleased to report an increased interest in starting high school boys' volleyball clubs.

STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

FCPS

Mr. Curran reported that games indoors are still limited to family members only. However, Mr. Curran stated there may be an updated announcement tomorrow so keep a look out for any updated news on restrictions.

FCPA

Mr. Louis reported that FCPA had sent NCS the list of 2022 Park Authority field closures. NCS blocks off any time unavailable on Park Authority fields in their scheduling system due to projects, Park Authority events, etc.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Louis will provide the Council with an updated list of the synthetic turf field replacement schedules.

Mr. Thompson reminded the Council to tell their community users not to try to remove ice or snow from synthetic turf fields because it damages the surface.

NCS

Mr. Martino stated NCS tries to get word out of any closures due to weather ASAP but encouraged everyone to check the FCPS website for updates as well.

Mr. Martino explained that some schools are short staffed due to COVID-19 and don't have custodians that can cover some shifts. When this happens, NCS is notifying groups ASAP and try to find alternate locations. Mr. Martino urged the Council to please let NCS know if a group is not planning on using scheduled gym space.

NCS is currently working on spring field scheduling and those permits will go out the beginning of February.

Mr. Martino thanked the Council for their assistance in getting nominations for the Champions of Character ceremony. This year's ceremony will be a YouTube watch party and the magisterial district representatives will be contacted shortly on what they need to do for the ceremony.



NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Flather reminded the Council of Mr. Meana's idea to hold a forum for officials of all sports to help recruit and retain officials. The Council agreed there needs to be buy in from all sports for this to be successful. The official's shortage is being felt across all sports and is causing significant logistical issues.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lisa MicKey, Secretary

