



County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

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

Vacant
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

Tom Hanton
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

Fairfax County Athletic Council Minutes

June 15, 2022

Meeting Held via Microsoft Teams

Link to Video of the Meeting:

[Fairfax County Athletic Council - June 15, 2022 - YouTube](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District, Alternate
Bill Bright, Lee District, Alternate
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District
Kelly Ego-Osula, Providence District, Alternate
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large, Alternate
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
Tom Hanton, Town of Vienna
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Suzy Willemsen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Mark Meana, Football Council
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, Alternate
Rob Baily, Volleyball 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
Dan Sutherland, Park Management Branch Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority
Megan McLaughlin, Braddock District Representative, Fairfax County School Board
Bill Curran, Director of Student Activities, Fairfax County Public Schools
Paul Hatcher, Director of Administrative Services, Fairfax County Public Schools
Vicki Garner, Coordinator of Community Use, Fairfax County Public Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
Brian Luwis, Dranesville District, Alternate
Jeremy Lee, Hunter Mill District
Lisa Mickey, Lee District
Bob Kirk, Mount Vernon District, Alternate
Mark Heilbrun, Springfield District, Alternate
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large, Alternate
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Stew Clark, Basketball Council, Alternate
Ryan Buchanan, Fast Pitch Softball Council, Alternate
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Dave Paddock, Lacrosse Council, Alternate
Christine Idip, Slow Pitch Softball, Alternate
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

None

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

Mr. Meana shared the following narrative regarding the sudden passing of Steve McLaughlin and a motion renaming the annual Champions of Character Awards:

The purpose of taking time to address the full council is to recognize and reflect on the outstanding accomplishments, dedicated volunteer service, and inspiring leadership our friend Steve McLaughlin gave during his long career that spanned into four decades as a volunteer Athletic Council member, executive committeeman, and multi-term chairman.

Steve suddenly passed away last month while on vacation. In a conversation with him the Wednesday before he died, he said, "I'm going to practice this time off routine for my announced retirement as Director of Administration, US International Trade Commission, this July!" A very, very, sad day, that continues to shock everyone that knew him. He was the epitome of personality and physical activity with his routines of playing basketball twice a week, softball in season, and hiking trails throughout the country. The world is a lesser place without Steve, especially at our side in these meetings with his smiling face, and well-timed anecdotes!

Steve's service on the Athletic Council began when he was appointed by then ... Providence District Supervisor Gerry Connolly, to represent the Providence District on the Athletic Council where he has served in the same position under numerous leadership changes which is a tribute on its own!

Historically, the Athletic Council has been a MAJOR force of positive influence for Fairfax County citizens through the years. Over the past three decades, the AC has forwarded many important recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on programs, policies, procedures, budget impacts, etc., and Steve was right in the middle of each one of those big projects, as a member on committees or in leadership positions! He promoted logic, consensus, authorship, and presentation strategies to name a few of his talents.

I do not recall a single recommendation the Athletic Council has sent to the Board of Supervisors that was turned down; all have been adopted! Steve was a huge influence in those successes and a person that will be sorely missed going forward.

In view of that very brief resume on Steve McLaughlin, I believe we need to recognize, and never forget, his significant accomplishments of the past through an existing prestigious county award platform going forward, the "Champions of Character Awards."

By website definition, these awards "honor youth, coaches, and parents, for extraordinary service in pursuing victory with HONOR, on and off the field of competition. Instituted by the FCAC, this program aims to support the ennobling tradition of amateur athletics in cultivating TEAMWORK, LEADERSHIP, GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP, and COMMUNITY SERVICE, while modeling the basic traits of Good Character- Respect- Responsibility- Caring- Trustworthiness- Citizenship- Fairness. These words are Steve McLaughlin that honorably describes what he stood for in the service for Fairfax County.



Therefore, I make a motion to permanently name the current annual ceremony as follows:

THE STEPHEN A. McLAUGHLIN FAIRFAX COUNTY CHAMPIONS of CHARACTER AWARDS

Additionally, upon successful approval of this motion, I request the FCAC facilitate and monitor the swift movement of this action through NCS and its normal reporting structure, ultimately gaining BOS approval as a permanent part of their recognition programs as soon as possible. Thank you!

Mr. Thompson seconded the motion and it passed without objection.

Mr. Thompson suggested giving Mr. McLaughlin a posthumous award. Mr. Meana agreed and wanted to get ball rolling on changing the name of the ceremony and the committee can work together on an award for Mr. McLaughlin.

Ms. McLaughlin fully supported to motion. Ms. McLaughlin had the good fortune of serving on Synthetic Turf Task Force with Mr. McLaughlin. Ms. McLaughlin is grateful for Mr. McLaughlin's service to Fairfax County and his incredible legacy.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The meeting minutes from the virtual meeting on May 18 were approved

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Ms. Bauer reported the Community Outreach Specialist Chris Pulley had recently been reassigned in NCS. Ms. Bauer wanted to acknowledge Mr. Pulley's work with youth organizations throughout the County. Mr. Pulley was a huge asset to the community, especially during the heigh of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Pulley's work included food drives, free meals, sports equipment initiatives, etc. Ms. Bauer hopes that the County will recognize the importance of his work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Flather reported that the committee continues to meet. NCS is going to schedule another meeting that includes all the partners. The agenda will be developed by NCS, FCPS and Mr. Flather. Mr. Flather stated that the issue has not gone away and is still a problem. The committee will continue to move forward and meet.

Mr. Hahne stated he had put together a document with a list of solutions he is happy to share. Mr. Hahne is excited to be in the solution phase and looks forward to working together to help everyone.

Mr. Abbott echoed what had been said and it has been a challenge. In the end FCPS and youth groups serve the same kids. Mr. Abbott is cautiously optimistic we're heading in the right direction.

Ms. Bauer identified the economic impact on the community that late cancelations cause.

Ms. McLaughlin reported she spoke with Ms. Avvisato and Mr. Curran at the Sports Tourism Task Force meeting. Ms. McLaughlin Arranged meeting with Mr. Curran and Marty Smith, Chief Operating Officer for FCPS. Mr. Smith takes the issue seriously and wants to restore partnership. Ms. McLaughlin stated that solutions are going to have to include deadlines and accountability, as well as a change of mindset that community users are FCPS families. Ms. McLaughlin mentioned that FCPS will be looking at the



cancelation emails that are currently sent to include more information and support of finding an alternative location.

Ms. Garner reported her office is working with NCS and thanked Ms. McLaughlin for the data she shared. Ms. Garner stated that FCPS understand that there is an issue, and each cancelation affects individuals and families.

Field Allocation Policy

Mr. Thompson reported that the field allocation policy committee met and had a good conversation, about tournaments in particular. There are some additional issues that are longer term issues, including organizations not allowing kids that they can't play on school teams. Mr. Thompson reminded the Council that the allocation policy must go to BOS to be approved.

REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Baseball

Mr. Hahne is excited about the Patriot Park North development for baseball and softball. Mr. Hahne spoke with Ms. Willemssen regarding the issues at Falls Church HS and how they can work together. Mr. Hahne stated that the high school baseball season has concluded, and baseball is currently in little league all-stars season. Mr. Hahne is excited that Fairfax County will be hosting ABCA State of Baseball weekend workshop.

Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen thanked the Council for their support in reestablishing APRT committee. Ms. Willemssen mentioned an issue of high school football green days taking place on high school softball diamonds. Ms. Willemssen is frustrated that it is not being communicated and football should not be using a softball field for green days.

Ms. McLaughlin reported that she and Mr. Curran toured Woodson HS campus recently. They discovered on the baseball field dugout are flooding and there are issues with the press box. They also toured the softball field at Woodson HS and identified Title IX issues. At least 7 fields in the FCPS inventory have Title IX issues. FCPS has a plan in place to address the issues. Ms. McLaughlin reported they also looked at tennis facilities where there are some issues as well. Ms. McLaughlin explained that FCPS does not have dedicated fund to address outdoor athletic facilities and maintenance needs have gone unmet for too long.

Football

Mr. Meana had nothing to report

Soccer

Ms. Bauer had nothing to report

Volleyball

Ms. Swope reported the spring volleyball season has concluded. Schools are currently holding volleyball clinic and local clubs are playing at nationals.

STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

FCPS

Mr. Curran thanked the Council and Ms. McLaughlin for their tremendous support. Mr. Curran reported that the high school spring sports season had concluded. Fairfax County had multiple state champions that include:

Boys Lacrosse and Girls Softball: James Madison HS

Boys Soccer: Langley HS

Girls Track and Field: South County HS



Boys Track and Field: South Lakes HS

Boys Tennis: Oakton HS

Girls Tennis: Langley HS

Ms. McLaughlin continues to emphasize the high school stadium bathrooms issue. The School Board did pass a resolution like the BOS instructing the County Executive and Superintendent of FCPS to work on both a financial and installation plan. Ms. McLaughlin believes we'll need the continued support and vigilance from the Council.

FCPA

Mr. Thompson stated that there has been a huge demand for not only athletic fields, but for all park facilities. Mr. Thompson praised FCPA staff for keeping up with demand and thanked users for their patience. Mr. Thompson reported that the Patriot Park North construction continues to go well.

NCS

Mr. Tucker shared condolences with the Council regarding the passing of Steve McLaughlin. Mr. Tucker ensured the Council NCS will support and act on the requests made for the Champions of Character ceremony.

Mr. Tucker reported that Mr. Pulley's reassignment was not a reduction in force in anyway, rather a realignment in the agency to become more efficient. The way NCS is structured will help have a few more boots on the ground. Mr. Pulley is currently at the Mott Community Center where NCS wants to capitalize on his experience in the military, as well as his experience in Arlington running community centers.

Mr. Tucker is excited that the APRT has been reestablished and is looking forward to updated recommendations, policies, and practices to ensure equity.

Mr. Tucker informed the Council that he met with Chairman McKay and Supervisor Smith, Marty Smith and Chris Leonard SB member Kapersky. Big thing that came out of meeting was emphasis on relationships. Thanked the group for coming up with suggestions and recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lisa MicKey, Secretary

