



# 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

**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

**Tom Hanton**  
Town of Vienna

### Sports-Specific Representatives

**Rob Hahne**  
Baseball Council

**Suzu 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

## FAIRFAX COUNTY ATHLETIC COUNCIL MINUTES

May 18, 2022

MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT

TEAMS LINK TO VIDEO OF THE

MEETING:

[Fairfax County Athletic Council Meeting](#)

[Recording - May 18, 2022 - YouTube](#)

### MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District  
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District  
Bill Bright, Lee District, Alternate  
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District  
Bob Kirk, Mount Vernon District, Alternate  
Stephen McLaughlin, Providence District  
Kelly Ego-Osula, Providence District, Alternate  
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District  
Gary Flather, Sully District  
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large, Alternate  
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large, Alternate  
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon  
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council  
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate  
Lula Bauer, Soccer Council  
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  
Brian Luwis, Dranesville District, Alternate  
Jeremy Lee, Hunter Mill District  
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District, Alternate  
Lisa Mickey, Lee District  
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District  
Mark Heilbrun, Springfield District, Alternate  
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large  
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate  
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large  
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton  
Tom Hanton, Town of Vienna  
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council  
Stew Clark, Basketball Council, Alternate  
Suzu Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council  
Ryan Buchanan, Fast Pitch Softball Council, Alternate  
Mark Meana, Football Council  
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council  
Dave Paddock, Lacrosse Council, Alternate  
Christine Idip, Slow Pitch Softball, Alternate  
Trish Moxie, Soccer Council, 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**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

The meeting minutes from the virtual meeting on April 20 were approved

### **CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Ms. Bauer reported that Ms. Willemssen has addressed the BOS regarding reestablishing the Girl's Fastpitch Softball Equity Action Plan Review Team (APRT). Ms. Willemssen has heard back from Chairman McKay and the Athletic Council is going to send a letter to the BOS in support of reestablishing the APRT committee.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Mr. Flather reported that there was a meeting last evening with FCPS, NCS and community users. Mr. Flather thanked FCPS for putting the meeting together and stated it was a good first step, but there is still lot of work to do. Mr. Flather stated that Mr. Hahne had sent an email to those who attended the meeting that touched on the main talking points. Mr. Flather requested the notes be entered into the official Council minutes and they are listed below:

#### **FCPS COMMUNITY USE**

### **LATE CLOSURES**

This is the major issue and the reason that the Athletic Council created the committee on community use. This wasn't really discussed at the initial meeting on 5/17/22. These late closures have progressively gotten worse over the past 3 - 4 years. We are focused on the non-emergency closures that occur after the deadlines. We all could list hundreds of non-emergency closures that occur at the last minute (homecoming, PTA meetings, football games...). There are actual records of this as well. This is well after deadlines and well after permits have already gone out. We aren't talking about inclement weather closures or other emergency closures here.

### **COVID**

COVID was discussed last night quite a bit. We all recognize that COVID has made everything more challenging. The core issues that we are discussing were all present before COVID. I do think community users understand how challenging it was for schools to manage schedules in 2021.



## **ACTIVITIES OFFICES**

Most of us recognize that the activities staff at a high school is the hardest working group in most any school. They are tasked with an overwhelming amount of work. I do think this group/committee can look at ways to help support our activities offices at high schools and admin staff at elementary/middle schools. More funding...

### **8420**

I know the community user groups are hoping to get some clarification on 8420. Specifically, are schools required to put in closures by certain dates? The answer to that question will lead us to the solutions.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Communication is the key. We need to encourage communication.

## **COMMUNITY USE OFFICE PRESENCE**

We all know that turnover is one of the root causes with all these issues:

- Turnover with ES and MS admin staff
- Turnover with activities offices staff at high schools
- Turnover with user group leadership
- Turnover with coaches at the youth/adult level- facility care

It has been great to see the engagement from the community use office over the past couple of months. That was a piece that has been missing over the past 3 – 4 years. It has been missing at athletic council meetings, DSA meetings, and more. I am not sure what the expectations are with presence at these meetings, so I am not looking to blame anyone. I am simply stating that we hope to get active engagement from the community use office so that we can all communicate effectively.

## **FACILITY ABUSE- COMMUNITY USERS**

This has been an ongoing issue. Our community users not taking care of school facilities as well as we could. This goes back to turnover in leadership and coaching ranks. It also is directly related to relationships. The community use office has discouraged these relationships recently which are critical to make this all work. We need to find mechanisms to hold teams, coaches, and user groups accountable for any facility abuse that occurs with community use.

## **FACILITY OWNERSHIP**

This is the elephant in the room. I can tell you that I feel like the Westfield HS baseball field is my baby so long as I am the head baseball coach there. I mow that field 3x a week from March – October. I spend countless hours on the upkeep and maintenance of it so that it is nice for both school and community use play. I get really upset when community users don't take care of it. I also feel like that WHS should always get priority on that field, but I know that is not fair and it is not realistic.

The underlying question is this:

- Should schools be able to close their facilities (gym, field...) anytime they want for anything?

There has been confusing communication on this topic. What is coming directly from the community use office to our schools regarding this topic? Have they been essentially told



that they can close down community use for school use at any point? Please let us know at the next meeting.

### **ADVOCATE- COMMUNITY USERS / NCS**

It was a surprise to many of the community user groups and even school staff when the change occurred on March 1st. This was a major change and to not include or communicate with the Athletic Council and others was surprising. The community users need an advocate. That advocate was always NCS (people like Mark Martino). They were the go between. They were the problem solvers. They did their best to hold all people accountable. That includes both user groups and schools. We need NCS to continue in that role. Working together to find solutions will benefit everyone. Ultimately, it should create less work for the community office and others.

Mr. Flather requested another meeting be scheduled and requested the following:

- Would like next meeting to be in person
- Mr. Flather would like to work directly with Ms. Garner on the agenda for the meeting and be sent out beforehand. Some who attended last night's meeting felt unprepared
- Additional information on Notice 8420
- Schedule a couple weeks in advance to maximize attendance

Ms. Bauer stated that there is also a financial and economic impact caused by late cancelations, especially in certain areas of the County. Ms. Bauer is hopeful data can be collected to drive decisions.

Ms. McLaughlin apologized to the Council regarding the issues they are experiencing. Ms. McLaughlin suggested there be some sort of moratorium on when school cancelations can occur. She also suggested that schools need to be more creative and shift usage to other areas of the building to not cancel community use.

Mr. Thompson thanked Mr. Hatcher and Ms. Garner for putting the meeting together. Mr. Thompson suggested having a committee meeting and invite FCPS versus having FCPS set up the meeting. Mr. Thompson stated that communication is key, especially with the high schools. Unforeseen events are always going to happen, but a lot of the can be handled with a phone call to a school.

#### Baseball

Mr. Hahne reported that baseball has seen a huge shortage of umpires. Mr. Hahne was pleased to announce that the State of Baseball luncheons that were started locally have gained momentum national as well. There will be a State of Baseball summit at the National Harbor to bring the baseball community together. The summit is being led by Fairfax County and Mr. Hahne will share additional information when it becomes available.

#### Football

Mr. Hollingsworth stated that football is currently in their offseason. Mr. Hollingsworth explained that football is preparing for the upcoming season this fall but has seen the same challenge as other sports with a shortage of officials.

#### Lacrosse

Mr. Diehl reported that lacrosse is entering postseason play and everything is going great.

#### Soccer

Ms. Bauer acknowledged that soccer is also dealing with referee shortages. Ms. Bauer explained that scheduling this spring was difficult with FCPS spring break, Easter holiday weekend, Memorial Day, and school cancelations. Ms. Bauer was happy to report that

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**12011 Government Center Pkwy**  
**Fairfax, Virginia 22035**  
**703-324-5523**



user groups are working together to fill in scheduling gaps and then letting NCS know to update the scheduling system.

Volleyball

Mr. Baily stated that the recreation volleyball season is ending shortly and are preparing for the fall season. Mr. Baily plans on meeting with Mr. Curran regarding high school boys' volleyball.

**STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

FCPS

Ms. McLaughlin updated the Council on adding permanent bathroom facilities to the remaining high school stadium fields. Chairman McKay has taken a leadership role along with Mt. Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck. A working group has been assembled that Ms. McLaughlin and Mt. Vernon District School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders are a part of. Chairman McKay is preparing a formal presentation to the BOS to garner their full commitment on setting a plan in place to get the remaining high school stadium field bathrooms installed. There are currently 15 high schools without stadium field bathroom facilities. Ms. McLaughlin explained that getting joint support from both the BOS and School Board like the Synthetic Turf Task Force is key. The goal is to have the remaining high schools have stadium bathroom facilities in the next 1-2 years.

Ms. McLaughlin requested a formal letter from the Athletic Council in support of the high school stadium field bathroom project. Chairman McKay plans to present to the BOS next Tuesday. Mr. Thompson moved that Ms. Bauer and Mr. Flather be empowered to draft a letter on behalf of the Fairfax County Athletic Council in support of the stadium bathroom project. The motion passed without objection.

FCPA

Mr. Sutherland shared the following projects with the Council.

Year	Park	Field	Type of Work	Status
2021	Patriot Park North	All Fields	Re-development of the entire park: lighted synthetic fields ((4) 90's and (2) 50/70's), restrooms, shelter, playground and parking areas	Update: Approximately 55% Complete July 1, 2021 - Winter 2023
2022	Cunningham	1	Replacing backstop and dugout fencing; adding bleacher pad and ADA access trail	Spring/Summer 2022
	Franconia	4	Installing fencing behind goal on synthetic field	Complete
	Franklin Farm	1	Replacing dome backstop	Complete
	Great Falls Nike	4	Resurfacing	Update: Fall 2022
	Greenbriar	All Grass Fields	Irrigation is being replaced; infields will be renovated at the same time	Complete
	Langley Fork	2 and 3	Replacing backstops and wing fencing expansion	Early Summer 2022
	Lewinsville	1	Replacing backstop and wing fencing	Early Summer 2022
	Loisdale	1	Raised and expanded fencing behind goal	Complete
	Olney	1 and 2	Replacing backstops	Early Summer 2022
	Reston North	1 and 2	Replacing dome backstops	Complete
Rolling Valley West	1	Replacing backstop and sideline fencing	Spring/Summer 2022	



	Winterset Varsity	1	Renovation of Police Administration Building will close field; Irrigation will be installed before reopening of field	Spring 2022 - Fall 2024
2023	Scotts Run (?)	1	New Lighted Synthetic - 180' x 220'	Winter 2023/2024

Mr. Sutherland and Mr. Thompson explained that Mt. Vernon Recreation Center will be undergoing renovation that will shut the facility down. The renovation will include adding a 2<sup>nd</sup> sheet of ice, as well as upgrading locker rooms and restrooms. Additional information on the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center project can be found at the following link: [Mt. Vernon Rec Center Renovation and Fitness Addition | Park Authority \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/mt-vernon-recreation-center-renovation-and-fitness-addition).

**NCS**

Ms. Dotson stated that NCS fully supports the Athletic Council and communities' concerns and are available to help with scheduling and coordinating. NCS has also been meeting with FCPS on how to improve the issues addressed and coming up with solutions.

Mr. Martino reported that NCS is finishing up the spring field and gym seasons. Police and School Security coverage will also end in the next few weeks. NCS is working on summer field and gym scheduling and permits will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. McLaughlin inquired about the status of the Audrey Moore Rec Center renovation. Mr. Thompson explained that FCPA is working through bond cycles with BOS. Those conversations will have a direct impact on Audrey Moore Rec Center renovation. Audrey Moore was originally included in next bond; however, the bond may get pushed back 2 years. Ms. McLaughlin is concerned that Audrey Moore Rec Center is the oldest rec center in the County and doesn't understand how the renovation can keep being pushed back when the condition of the facility is not good.

Ms. Bauer requested the Park Authority gather more information on the Audrey Moore Rec Center renovation and bond cycles and report back at the June Athletic Council meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Flather inquired about meeting in person for committee meeting and Council meetings. NCS will check and update the Council if in person meetings are a possibility.

Mr. Thompson allocation policy committee is scheduling a meeting soon.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lisa MicKey, Secretary

