



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
Franconia 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

Vacant
Park Authority

Dr. Ricardy Anderson
School Board

William Curran
Fairfax County Public Schools

Executive Agency:
Lloyd Tucker
Director
Neighborhood and Community
Services

Fairfax County Athletic Council Minutes

November 16, 2022

Meeting Held via Microsoft Teams

Link to Video of the Meeting:

[Fairfax County Athletic Council - Nov. 16 Meeting - YouTube](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Mark O'Meara, Braddock District, Alternate
Gregory Beckwith, Dranesville District
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District, Alternate
Barbara Lowrey, Mason District
Kelly Ego-Osula, Providence District, Alternate
Lester Munson, Mount Vernon District
Bob Kirk, Mount Vernon District, Alternate
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large, Alternate
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large, Alternate
Tom Hanton, Town of Vienna
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Suzy Willemsen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Ted Hollingsworth, Football Council, Alternate
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
Karen Avvisato, Athletic Services Manager, 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
Vicki Garner, Coordinator of Community Use, Fairfax County Public Schools

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Luwis, Dranesville District, Alternate
Jeremy Lee, Hunter Mill District
Lisa Mickey, Franconia District
Bill Bright, Franconia District, Alternate
Mark Heilbrun, Springfield District, Alternate
Mark Abbott, Sully District, Alternate
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
Stew Clark, Basketball Council, Alternate
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
Jenni Cantwell, Women's Sports Programs

Fairfax County Athletic Council
12011 Government Center Pkwy
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
703-324-5523





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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

Ms. Bauer reviewed the Virginia FOIA requirements and remote participation policy with the Council.

The Council discussed some of the circumstances in the remote participation policy and sought clarification on some of the items.

Mr. Thompson moved that the Council adopt the remote participation policy. Mr. Sohn seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Thompson proposed an amendment to the Council by-laws under Article IV – Meetings and adding the following as Section 5: Remote Participation

Allows electronic participation by a member when a quorum of the Council is physically assembled under certain circumstances:

- A member's disability or other medical condition prevents their physical attendance (no limit to # of meetings)
- A member's family member has a medical condition that requires the member's care (no limit to # of meetings)
- A BAC member's principal residence is over 60 miles away from the meeting location (no limit to # of meetings)
- A personal matter (limited to two or 25% of meetings, whichever is greater)

The Council may hold all-virtual meetings two times or 25% of meetings per calendar year (whichever is greater). All-virtual meetings cannot be held in consecutive months.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The meeting minutes from the virtual meeting on October 19 were approved

CHAIRMAN REPORT

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Mr. Flather explained that he had requested the fall 2022 cancellation data from NCS. Mr. Flather requested that NCS and FCPS staff put together a presentation to share with the Council at a future meeting of the cancellation data analysis. Mr. Flather stated that good steps have been made to improve the cancellations, however there are still many events that are known well in advance that are not being entered before community use permits are issued. The Council is interested in seeing the cancellation data and what types of

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events are causing the cancellations. NCS and FCPS will work together on a presentation of the cancellation data.

APRT

Ms. Avvisato reported the team is finalizing the APRT report and will provide a presentation to the Council at either the December or January Council meeting.

Stephen A. McLaughlin Champions of Character

Mr. Martino stated that the ceremony will take place in October 2023. NCS staff is securing the date based on the availability of the Government Center complex. Mr. Martino urged the Council to help with getting nominations.

Sports Scholarship Program

Ms. Avvisato stated that the Sports Scholarship committee will reconvene after the APRT report is finalized and complete.

REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Basketball

Mr. Bergstrom reported that the basketball council recently met and one of the goals was to report on the status of basketball in general. The impetus for this effort was a decline in girls basketball participation. Mr. Bergstrom thanked NCS for providing participation data for the last several years. Mr. Bergstrom explained the basketball council has been in discussion about the decline in girls' basketball participation during the pandemic and had hoped it would rebound. Mr. Bergstrom reported that some high schools in Prince William County were having issues forming girls' basketball teams. Lake Braddock Secondary School first-year girls' basketball team may not be able to form a team as well. Mr. Bergstrom and the basketball council is going to review the participation data and have discussions with several clubs to determine the cause in declining participation.

Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemsen reported that Mr. Hahne and herself would be meeting about the new Patriot Park North complex. Ms. Willemsen was pleased to announce that USA Softball had reached out and will be hosting two events in Fairfax County in the spring. Ms. Willemsen thanked Ms. Avvisato and NCS on behalf of the softball community for their dedicated work on the APRT report.

Football

Mr. Hollingsworth stated that the Fairfax County Youth Football League season has concluded, and participation was up 14%.

Soccer

Ms. Bauer and Ms. Moxie informed the Council there have been many reports of vandalism throughout the County. Ms. Bauer and Ms. Moxie also stated that walk-on groups have been active and conducting illegal activity such as having food trucks without proper permits, drinking alcohol, etc. The soccer council is going to send a form to members to ask them to what extent they have experienced issues this season.

Volleyball

Mr. Baily reported the high school volleyball season is wrapping up. Boys' recreation leagues have completed, and kids are looking for other opportunities of what they can do during the winter other than club volleyball. Club volleyball try-outs for girls will take place after the high school season is completed. Mr. Baily was pleased to announce that there were thirty-five high school club boys' volleyball teams this fall. They continue to work with Mr. Curran on getting boys volleyball recognized as an official VHSL sport.





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STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

FCPS

Mr. Curran informed the Council that the high school fall season is wrapping up. There was some concern about weather last Friday, but the high school football games were able to play with no issue. Mr. Curran was pleased to announce Fairfax High School won the VHSL field hockey state championship, as well as the Woodson High School boys and West Springfield High School girls cross country teams.

High schools are now in the second week of the winter season with try outs being completed and scrimmages being played. Mr. Curran reported that VHSL has approved girls wrestling as an emerging sport. Fairfax County high school wrestling teams have been a coed sport; however, this would create a separate state championship for female wrestlers.

Middle School Sports

Mr. Curran explained that FCPS has collaborated closely with middle school after-school specialists to develop athletic programming that falls within the middle school after-school program so that it does not need additional resources or funding but does provide intramural or inter-scholastic competition that is inclusive. Middle school principals have approved, and the proposal has been sent to FCPS leadership for approval this winter.

Council members inquired if there would be any impact on community use time. Mr. Curran stated that all the events would fall within the middle school after-school program time and would not affect community use.

The Council inquired what sports would be included. Mr. Curran explained that there would be basketball in the winter and soccer and track in the spring.

Mr. Flather inquired who would be coaching or instructing these teams. Mr. Curran indicated the middle school after-school specialists will support that piece, however in the future they are hoping to offset the high school seasons to allow for high school coaches to participate.

Mr. Flather asked how the track teams would operate without a track at most middle schools. Mr. Curran explained track practices would be at the middle schools themselves with fields already available and any track meets would be coordinated with the high schools to use the track during Saturday morning time designated for high school practices.

High School Coaching- Shortages, Funding, Issues

Mr. Curran reported that there is a shortage of high school coaches nationwide. FCPS established a committee of high school coaches, the coach advisory committee. The committee's goal is to find out what the high school coaches enjoy, what they do not, and how those issues can be addressed. One factor is there is also a teacher shortage which used to make up a large amount of the high school coaches. FCPS has a recruitment team that attend college job fairs. The Director of Student Activities (DSA) Association has a presence at all mentoring and Great Beginning sessions. FCPS is reaching out to local schools and talking to them about athletes who are finishing that are interested in going into education or otherwise remain in the area and coach outside of teaching to continue that piece of it.

FCPS has moved to the 3 Dimension Institute for coaches and principal course. One of the major points under the coaching education system programming is it provides coaches a platform to overcome some of the frustrations that you see as a coach. It gives them tools to manage challenging parents or administration. It goes much deeper into what you are doing and why you are doing it.





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FCPS continues to speak with colleagues at the state and national level to see how coaches can be recruited, retained, and supported.

Mr. Curran recommended the Council formally invite new FCPS Superintendent, Dr. Michelle C. Reid to a future Council meeting.

FCPA

Mr. Sutherland shared the following Park Authority projects with the Council

Athletic Field Improvement Projects Status for Sharing at Athletic Council

Updated 11/14/22

(New to the list or updated, highlighted in blue)

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 90% Complete. *Possible Opening mid-Dec *Lights on fields 1 and 2 are on. *Restrooms not likely till Dec July 1, 2021 - Winter 2023
2022	Great Falls Nike	4	Resurfacing	Complete
	Langley Fork	2 and 3	Replacing backstops and wing fencing expansion	Late Fall 2022
	Lewinsville	1	Replacing backstop and wing fencing	Late Fall 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	Cunningham	All Fields	Irrigation replacement	Spring 2023
	Scotts Run(name?)	1	New Lighted Synthetic - 180' x 220'	Winter 2023/2024
	South Run District	All Fields	Irrigation replacement	Spring 2023

Mr. Sutherland requested that any groups having issues with vandalism at Fairfax County Park Authority locations to please notify the individual area manager so they are aware and can keep an eye out for damage. Mr. Sutherland also encouraged anyone experiencing vandalism issues to report to the Fairfax County Police using their online non-emergency portal.





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Mr. Thompson reported that the Park Authority Board is in discussion with the BOS about the potential of bringing back park police that would be dedicated to patrolling the park system. It would help inform where to place these individuals if there is a pattern of vandalism at specific locations.

NCS

Ms. Avvisato reported NCS staff has been working on the APRT report. Ms. Avvisato informed the Council that FCPS and NCS staff continue to work together on improving processes and communication around the cancelations.

Mr. Martino reminded the Council that FCPS gyms are unavailable November 23-25 for Thanksgiving, however the weekend of November 26-27 is available. Mr. Martino urged groups that do not plan to use weekend gym space on November 26-27 to please let NCS know so they can remove the scheduled use from the calendar and let FCPS know.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lisa MicKey, Secretary

