



County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

2024 Council Members

Magisterial Representatives:

Marcia M. Pape Daniels
Braddock District

Ian Harper
Dranesville District

Harold Leff
Hunter Mill District

Lisa Mickey
Secretary
Franconia District

Scott Anderson
Mason District

Bob Kirk
Mount Vernon District

Kelly Ego-Osuala
Providence District

Michael Thompson, Jr.
Springfield District

Gary Flather
Vice Chair
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 Willemssen
Fast Pitch Softball Council

Vacant
Adult Softball Council

Steve Bergstrom
Basketball Council

Mark Meana
Football Council

MaryAnn Wagner
Lacrosse Council

Lula Bauer
Chair Soccer
Council

Rob Baily
Volleyball Council

Hillary Richardson
Women's Sports

Non-Voting Members:

Michael Thompson
Park Authority

Kim Eckert
Park Authority

Robyn Lady
School Board

William Curran
Fairfax County Public Schools

Executive Agency:

Lloyd Tucker
Director
Neighborhood and Community
Services

Fairfax County Athletic Council Minutes

February 21, 2024

Members Present:

Marcia Pape Daniels, Braddock District
Ian Harper, Dranesville District
Lisa Mickey, Franconia District
Bill Bright, Franconia District, Alternate
Harold Leff, Hunter Mill District
Scott Anderson, Mason District
Bob Kirk, Mount Vernon District
Kelly Ego-Osuala, Providence District
Dean Shepard, Providence District, Alternate
Michael Thompson Jr., Springfield District
Gary Flather, Sully District
Charles Davis, Sully District, Alternate
Eric Sohn, Diversity-At-Large, Alternate
Katherine Quinn, Member-At-Large
Roland Taylor, Town of Herndon
Tom Hanton, Town of Vienna
Rob Hahne, Baseball Council
Suzy Willemssen, Fast Pitch Softball Council
Mark Meana, Football 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

COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

Lloyd Tucker, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Pallas Washington, Deputy Director, Neighborhood and Community Services
Aimee Garcia, Division Director, Access and Economic Mobility, Neighborhood and Community Services
Karen Avisato, Athletic Services Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
Mark Martino, Branch Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
Jason Shelton, Analyst, Neighborhood and Community Services
Nancy Bush, Finance Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services
Kim Eckert, Park Division Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
Robyn Lady, Dranesville District Representative, Fairfax County School Board
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, Alternate
Mark Heilbrun, Springfield District, Alternate
Marc Fernandes, Diversity-At-Large
Annmarie Swope, Member-At-Large, Alternate
Jeff Stein, Town of Clifton
Steve Bergstrom, Basketball Council
Stew Clark, Basketball Council, Alternate
Ryan Buchanan, Fast Pitch Softball Council, Alternate
Mary Ann Wagner, Lacrosse Council
Dave Paddock, Lacrosse Council, Alternate
Christine Idip, Slow Pitch Softball, Alternate

GUESTS:

Fairfax County Athletic Council
12011 Government Center Pkwy
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
703-324-5533





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MEETING OPENING

Ms. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was present.

CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

None

PRESENTATIONS TO COUNCIL

NCS staff presented on the FY25 Advertised Budget. A link to the presentation can be found at [FY 2025 Advertised Budget Plan \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fy25-advertised-budget)

The Council requested financial support pieces from NCS, FCPA and FCPS to better understand the whole picture. One example is the custodial subsidy program from NCS.

The Council inquired when the budget public hearing slots are open to the public. NCS will send out the dates to the Council once they are released.

The Council requested that the County budget office attend a future Council meeting to understand economic projections.

There was some concern amongst Council members that the increase to the non-county application fee wouldn't be equitable. For example, organizations that are on borders with other counties are inherently going to have more non-county participants than those in the central part of the County. Also, adult organizations have more participants that live outside Fairfax County.

The Council requested adult and youth participant non-county data, as well as tournament data so the Council can see the impact.

The Council agreed to submit a letter to the BOS regarding the increase in application fees so that Ms. Bauer can testify in front of BOS. Council members also suggested using the April Council meeting to attend the County budget hearings.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

The meeting minutes from the January 17 Council meeting were approved.

CHAIRMAN REPORT

Ms. Bauer was pleased to introduce the new Mason District representative Mr. Scott Anderson





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COMMITTEE REPORTS

After-School Middle School Sports

Mr. Flather reported that the committee met on February 6. The FCPS middle school sports program was funded in the advertised budget, but no current additions to the program. Track and cross country will remain the only 2 sports offered currently. NCS sent out middle school participant data that was collected for the organizations in Fairfax County. The committee has put together a timeline for the next steps and when recommendations need to be made to BOS or School Board. This is a good chance to collaborate on what the program looks like moving forward. The committee has also researched other jurisdictions to see what has worked and what challenges others have come across.

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

Mr. Flather inquired if any other Council members are experiencing cancelations at elementary schools on weekends for the entire day for an event that is blocking all fields. Mr. Flather gave an example of an Easter Egg Hunt at one of his elementary schools that has blocked all fields for the entire day. Mr. Martino explained that when NCS receives questions from user groups about cancelations, they send the questions to FCPS to verify that block out is accurate. Ms. Garner stated this is accurate and a lot of the all-day cancelations are due to set-up for activities.

Ms. Ganer informed the Council that FCPS will be moving to a 2-hour custodial minimum on weekends, which is a change from the current 4-hour minimum.

Mr. Flather explained to the Council that NCS has been tracking the cancelations for roughly a year now and there were over 5,000 cancelations in 2023 after NCS issued permits to user groups.

REPORTS BY SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Baseball

Mr. Hahne reported that the spring high school baseball season started on Monday. Little League and travel tryouts are occurring, and the season is scheduled to start in mid-March.

Fast Pitch Softball

Ms. Willemssen stated that high school softball is underway.

Soccer

Ms. Bauer reported that high school tryouts started on Monday. Soccer is currently transitioning from winter training to the spring season.

Ms. Moxie stated that walk-ons are starting to use fields and that the soccer community needs to know which elementary schools are holding events on Saturdays so they can finalize their schedules. Mr. Martino reported that the NCS monitors, as well as Police and School Security will start patrolling to help with the walk-on issues. Mr. Martino has also sent the concerns about Saturday events at elementary schools to FCPS.

Volleyball

Mr. Baily reported volleyball is in the middle of the club season. There are a lot of local teams participating in the Capitol Hill Volleyball Classic in Washington DC. Local recreation organizations are getting ready for the spring season.

For high school, boys' volleyball and girls' wrestling were included in the proposed FCPS budget and Mr. Baily looks forward to meeting with Mr. Curran about the next steps.





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STATUS REPORT FROM COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

FCPA

Ms. Eckert reviewed the current synthetic turf replacement plan to make sure the Council had tangible numbers when talking to supervisors and community members.

Ms. Richardson inquired about the difference in pricing between FCPA and FCPS replacements that assume a 3% increase in costs each year.

Ms. Eckert explained that FCPA and FCPS replacements are different in how they're managed. FCPA is contracted with Field Turf and it's an open contract that allows for more volume in terms of how it's priced historically. FCPS bids out per project and that changes the cost and cost of replacement.

Ms. Pape Daniels inquired if the assumption is that there are not going to be any partners anymore on these fields.

Ms. Eckert stated that is not currently an assumption on the spreadsheet as there are currently no Partner/Matching funds moving forward.

Mr. Thompson explained that the Park Authority has changed the Mastenbrook Grant. Those are now limited to projects that are \$100,000 or less. That is a step towards trying to encourage smaller projects and projects in parts of the County that may have not been focused on in the past.

Mr. Thompson spoke to the FY 2026 South County HS example, but it applies to all high schools on the chart. South County HS has a Stadium Field plus a practice field. Both are treated differently for replacement with the Stadium Field replacement being FCPS responsibility and the practice field being done on the commitment that has been made from NCS and the BOS that partner groups would be limited to having to put up \$100,000 as the maximum and that the County would cover the difference. Mr. Thompson explained that they are two different responsibilities, and it doesn't appear that's fully reflected currently on the spreadsheet.

Mr. Meana inquired about whose responsibility it is to replace Water's Field / Vienna ES.

Ms. Eckert explained that there's an MOU that exists with the Town of Vienna, FCPS, the County and the user groups. A part of the MOU contains language that makes the field part of the replacement plan. The field is due to be replaced in FY25.

Mr. Meana stated there seemed to be some confusion at the January meeting regarding some areas participating in a matching program. The initial installation and some replacements were all part of a formal program that all users knew about. Everybody could apply and so on and so forth. When it came time to start replacing some of the initial installations, there seemed to be a question mark. Are the groups aware of the \$100,000 contribution to renew their MOU?

Mr. Thompson further explained that after all high school fields were complete, there was an ongoing conversation when Chris Leonard was still Director of NCS, that the maximum contribution needed for an outside group for the replacement of the practice field would max at \$100,000. The Council inquired if groups don't pay the \$100,000 to renew, do they still get usage at that location? You may still make use of the facility, but you don't get the 50% turf allocation as well.

Mr. Meana elaborated that this program was a formal program that the Council put out through NCS, and it needs to be looked at what these parameters are because people have changed and it's a different ball game from years ago.

Mr. Thompson responded that the School Board is responsible for the stadium field replacements, however the potential change in organic infill and the price difference need to be looked at. This could create different standards for fields throughout the County. If FCPS decides to go with more expensive infill, the minimum contribution is still \$100,000 and the County or FCPS would cover the difference.





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Ms. Avvisato stated that NCS and FCPA will work together to ensure that we have a process that we reach out to those partners and ask them if they want to contribute or not. NCS and FCPA will pull all the current MOUs to see who's in the queue over the next 4-5 years and reach out to those organizations. Believe the MOUs include language that three years before the end of the projected life cycle all parties begin to have those conversations.

Mr. Martino explained that several replacements occurred during COVID and when NCS went to the user groups to ask if they would like to contribute \$100,000 toward the replacement of the practice field, a lot of the groups weren't in a financial position to do so.

FCPS

Ms. Garner reported that Mr. Andy Mueck, Mr. Paul Hatcher, and herself met with the Regional Assistant Superintendents on January 31. Mr. Mueck presented and expressed the Council's concerns about the cancellations to them and that was well received.

Ms. Garner and NCS plan to meet in early April to discuss the first quarter's cancellations.

Ms. Avvisato was pleased to introduce the new School Board representative on the Council, Robyn Lady, Dranesville District Representative. Ms. Lady explained that she volunteered to be the School Board representative on the Athletic Council and looks forward to meeting and working with everyone. The Council gave a summary of the late cancellation issues and the frustration the community has felt for several years. Ms. Lady understands the frustration with the cancellations of community use groups and looks forward to working with Mr. Mueck and Ms. Garner to improve the situation.

NCS

Ms. Avvisato was pleased to announce that Ms. Bauer was inducted into the Virginia DC Soccer Hall of Fame and Ms. Willemssen will soon be inducted into the USA Softball Hall of Fame.

Mr. Martino announced that the 2024 Stephen A. McLaughlin Fairfax County Champions of Character award nominations are now open. Mr. Martino urged the Council to submit nominations for the fall and winter seasons. NCS will send the Council the nomination information.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Meana stated that September 24 is the Senior Olympics and inquired if any community use time would be impacted such as when the World Police and Fire Games were held in Fairfax County. NCS will research the event and see if there are any conflicts with community use.

Mr. Thompson moved that a committee be formed to look at the synthetic turf field replacements that he would chair. The committee will include the following members:

Mr. Mike Thompson
Ms. Lula Bauer
Mr. Gary Flather
Mr. Roland Taylor
Mr. Chris Leonard
1 Additional to be Named Later
NCS Staff
FCPA Staff
FCPS Staff

Mr. Taylor seconded the motion and the motion passed with no objection.





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OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully,

Lisa Mickey, Secretary

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