

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
January 14, 2015**

The Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Room 941, Fairfax, Virginia.

Board Members:

William G. Bouie, Chairman
Ken Quincy, Vice Chair
Kala Leggett Quintana, Secretary
Frank J. Vajda, Treasurer
Edward R. Batten, Sr.
Mary Cortina
Linwood Gorham
Faisal Khan
Harold L. Strickland
Michael Thompson, Jr.
Anthony J. Vellucci
Grace Han Wolf

Staff Present:

Kirk Kincannon, Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Barbara Gorski
Judy Pedersen, PIO
Deborah Babcock-Daley
Barbara Nugent
David Bowden
Todd Johnson
Cindy Walsh
Sandy Stallman
Don Sweeney

Guests: Ron Pearson
Mark Pearson
Paul Emerick, County Attorney

Mr. Bouie welcomed Boy Scouts from Troop 1100 in Burke, Virginia, their leader, and parents.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Bouie announced that the Closed Session would take place following the Administrative Items.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No speakers were present.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM

ADMIN-1 Resolution Honoring Ronald Pearson upon His Retirement from the Park Authority

Mr. Quincy made a motion to approve the resolution honoring Ron Pearson upon his retirement from the Park Authority; seconded by Mr. Vajda. The motion passed unanimously.

ADMIN-2 Resolution Honoring Mark Pearson upon His Retirement from the Park Authority

APPROVED AND SIGNED JANUARY 28, 2015

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the resolution honoring Mark Pearson upon his retirement from the Park Authority; seconded by Mr. Vajda. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMIN-3 Resolution Honoring Mary Dettra for Two Decades of Dedicated Service
Mr. Vajda made a motion to approve the resolution honoring Mary Dettra for two decades of dedicated service; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried unanimously.

ADMIN-4 Adoption of Minutes, December 10, 2014 Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Quincy made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2014, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Ms. Quintana. The motion carried unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS:
CLOSED SESSION**

At 7:42 p.m. Ms. Quintana MOVED the Park Authority Board convene in closed session for:

- a) Consultation with legal counsel, pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A)(7).

Seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried unanimously.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Quintana MOVED the Park Authority Board certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia Code 2.2-3712 and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Board; seconded by Mr. Quincy. The motion carried unanimously.

C-1 Baron Cameron Park
No action was necessary.

INFORMATION ITEMS

I-1 Cultural Resource Management Plan – FY 2014 Accomplishments and FY 2014 Implementation Plan
No action was necessary.

I-2 Natural Resource Management Plan – FY 2014 Accomplishments and FY 2014 Implementation Plan

- No action was necessary.
- I-3 American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Reaccreditation Update
No action was necessary.
- I-4 FY 2015-FY2015 Strategic Plan Implementation Plan
No action was necessary.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS:

- With regard to the upcoming Park Board elections to be held on January 28, Mr. Bouie stated that he would appoint the following Board Members to the Nominating Committee and asked for the Board to approve his choice of the following:
 - Mr. Batten, Chair
 - Mr. Thompson, Vice Chair
 - Mr. Khan
 - Ms. CortinaWithout objection the Board approved Mr. Bouie's selections.
- Mr. Bouie welcomed everyone back for a new year and added that holiday reception was very nice. It was good to see the County Executive at the event as well as many members of the Board of Supervisors.
- In the recent past Mr. Bouie had noted that the Park Board would hold a joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors to discuss the resident curator program. Staff has been given the responsibility to work through the process making that joint meeting unnecessary. Staff will make a presentation to the Park Board and the information will be brought back to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- Mr. Bouie received a letter, which he has every year, from Supervisor Penny Gross thanking the Board for the Annual Facility Use Pass, which he read. She added that she works out a couple of times a week which has helped her to improve her health. She only wishes she had taken advantage of the RECenters years ago.
- The second letter Mr. Bouie received was from the National Park Service notifying Parks of its intent to initiate fee rate changes. Mr. Bouie indicated that he would ask staff to send a copy of the letter to the Park Board.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS:

- Mr. Kincannon reminded the Board that Riverbend Park is in close proximity to Great Falls Park and the C&O Canal and is often used by the public for parking. The Board of Supervisors has been reluctant to charge parking fees and we need to think about charging fees.

- With regard to the budget, it looks like the county will take \$235,000 in FY15; and for FY16 we are receiving indications that they will take \$705,000 in reductions and other costs savings. The LOBs team will be meeting over a 15-month period and he will bring more information back to the Board as it becomes available.
- Mr. Bouie added that there is major development at Tysons and in Reston that Parks can take advantage of for its financial sustainability.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Strickland recalled Larry Fones, who passed way in December. In the 70s and 80s he was one of the major players in Fairfax County in support and leadership in the development of the viable Youth Athletic Programs that exist today.

Mr. Fones served as Director of Recreation for Fairfax County, now the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. He has a staff of two, Lennie Gunsior and Betty Powell. Mr. Strickland remembers that Mr. Fones' office was two rooms and they used the hallway for meetings in the basement of a building in Fairfax City.

Mr. Fones helped Mr. Strickland put together and establish the Chantilly Youth Association in 1972, which now has 13 sports and over 15,000 registered.

Mr. Fones provided guidance in establishing the Athletic Council in the mid-70s. At the time it consisted of 12 members representing eight Supervisory Districts and three towns (Clifton, Herndon and Vienna). There are now 46 voting members, six non-voting members, or 52 seats at the table.

Mr. Fones helped the Athletic Council solve some of the early issues:

- Use of fields – no allocation policy in the 70s or 80s
- Splinter groups – status – mostly soccer
- Poor/non-existing facilities – add lights
- Policy and definitions – non-existent
- Recognition/support in partnership with the Board of Supervisors if volunteers to provide the programs then county provide the facilities

In the mid-70s there were only about 10 sport organizations. Today there are now 200+ leagues with 25 sport/seasons.

The last time Mr. Strickland spoke with him Mr. Fones was amazed how large and complicated these programs had become, but he was very proud of his positive involvement and accomplishments, which he so rightly deserved to be!

Mr. Fones was a good and dedicated public servant. He was just right for that era!

He was 84 at his passing.

- Ms. Wolf stated that she is looking forward to working on the Park Board.

Ms. Wolf is part of the Economic Advisory Commission Implementation Committee along with Mr. Kincannon which has been working to develop an economic strategic plan to facilitate Fairfax County's economic success. The plan is currently high level and she would be willing to share it with the Board if it is interested.

Ms. Wolf attended the opening of the Spring Hill RECenter. She stated that it is a lovely facility.

- Mr. Vellucci commented that Ms. Wolf did a wonderful job as master of ceremonies at Spring Hill and it is a gorgeous facility. He recalled visiting the site during the Board tour of the Dranesville District which was hosted by Mr. Sullivan.

Mr. Vellucci shared the Braddock District 2014 Accomplishments and his Plans for 2015.

At the December Board meeting, he asked the Board members to identify what would be important to them and what some of their goals might be in 2015. The following reflect 2015 goals and objectives for the Braddock District and some of goals for the Park Authority which he shared for information and consideration.

First, Lake Accotink. 2014 was pretty significant for the Accotink Watershed with the following:

- A stated commitment by three district supervisors (Supervisor John Cook (Braddock), Supervisor Jeff McKay (Lee), and Supervisor Pat Herrity (Springfield)), and Chairwoman Bulova that county resources will be put into Lake Accotink Park to keep the lakefront park a lakefront park.
- A resurgence of the Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) with an influx of new members and new leadership and new projects such as Accotink Raiders of the Lost Trash; and
- The establishment of the Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley who now watch over 2.5 miles of the Long Branch Stream Valley that feeds into Lake Accotink.

For 2015 Mr. Vellucci is looking forward to the completion of the Lake Accotink Use Study using carryover funds approved by the Board of Supervisors, and for the kickoff of the master planning process sometime in late spring. That should line up so that the completion of the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan will dovetail nicely with the 2016 bond package and

so he trusts that several projects contained in that master plan will make their way into the 2016 bond referendum package. Our other two lakefront parks, Burke Lake Park and Lake Fairfax Park have seen significant investments these past few years in park amenities, and while he realizes that Lake Accotink has seen about \$8M for dredging, we have not done much for park amenities, and so he looks to your support investing in Lake Accotink Park.

Second, he looks forward to providing a new physical fitness activity in the Park Authority for a demographic he believes Parks has not paid enough attention to - youth not involved in organized sports. This spring should mark the installation of our first slack line station at Wakefield Park. Hopefully, Park Services will be able to develop classes and programs that support this activity to provide additional revenue generation. After the initial installation at Wakefield and after Parks gets some initial lessons learned under its belt, slack line stations will be installed at up to five other Braddock District parks.

Third, the installation of a new playground at Olde Forge / Surrey Square. As with many other communities built in the 50s and 60s, the playground there was installed prior to the Chesapeake Bay Act being enacted, and is now within an RPA. Further compounding this community's plight, the builder placed several pieces of playground equipment directly atop an existing sanitary sewer line easement necessitating removal. The community has been a model in working with the Supervisor's office and the Park Authority in identifying an alternate location, getting community consensus for, and then raising funds to help cover the cost of a new playground. To date they have raised over \$13,500 and have pledges for \$2,000. They will soon be submitting a Mastenbrook grant application for matching funds and so I look to your support for approval of the Mastenbrook Grant.

Fourth, he is looking forward to the installation of new outdoor fitness equipment at Royal Lake sometime this summer to replace stations that were installed in the early 1980s through a Wells Fargo/Gametime grant, and which have seen their better day. A new Friends group has formed - the Friends of Royal Lake - who have developed a proposal, and met with Park Operations staff on January 6 to kick off the replacement process. They are looking to buy 16 pieces of equipment at a cost of about \$18.5K, and have started raising funds. They too will soon be submitting a Mastenbrook Grant application for matching funds and so I look to your support for approval of that Mastenbrook Grant.

We have talked about the importance of our parks to fitness and health and he believes we have a golden opportunity here to demonstrate our support for the county's Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax and Aging in Place programs by promoting the installation of outdoor fitness stations, in our parks. To that end, he asked the Board to consider modifying the Mastenbrook Grant policy. For a limited time, let's increase the match for those applications seeking to install outdoor fitness equipment implementing a three for two, or better yet, a two for one match capped at a certain dollar amount. Park Ops can develop specific recommendations for board approval.

Next, he is looking forward to the continuation of P&D planning efforts for the first Braddock District Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA) at Monticello Park. If I may convey a couple of messages from many of my dog-owning constituents – “the sooner the better” and, “it can’t come soon enough.”

These next two years, DPWES will dredge two Braddock District lakes – Woodglen Lake and Royal Lake – The Park Authority has developed some significant working relationships with DPWES and much of that is due to the personal and professional relationships that have been developed between key individuals in each organization. Mr. Vellucci would like Parks to codify those working arrangements in either a Memorandum of Understanding or Memorandum of Agreement so that as individuals change positions, detailed information about the organizational relationships are captured for the next generation of key players.

As DPWES dredges these lakes, it will also make significant investments in the reforestation of lands surrounding these lakes to provide for riparian buffers. This provides Parks several public stewardship opportunities. We note that we are the single largest landowner in the county and as such, he is looking to the Park Authority to be a responsible property owner and steward of public land by addressing encroachment infractions.

- If your neighbor came onto your property and into your backyard and to put up a shed, or he started taking down trees on your property, you would most likely take action to curb his actions and perhaps even seek damages. The principle is no different with public land. Our efforts should be primarily educational encouraging adjoining property owners to respect legal property boundaries. Education and awareness first, but in those cases where we do not have success with education, we may need to take more forceful action, and with the county attorney, we should do so as stewards of public land, and for the sake of the many other county residents who adjoin public lands and do abide by established property boundaries.
- The next public stewardship opportunity he would like Parks to move forward with is to partner with DPWES in the installation of trash traps in the waterways of our parklands so that our parks are attractive and not trash magnets. There are many lessons learned we can leverage from the Anacostia Watershed. To that end, he would like to see what Parks can do to partner with DPWES for the installation of a trash trap at Flag Run. This stream empties into Lake Accotink and captures trash both from an industrial park and from the beltway. It is an excellent candidate.

Next, these past two years, he has advocated with some success to have the Director make certain operational decisions rather than this board – for example, the approval of contracts now rests with the Director. There is no doubt that this board, and its standing committees consume significant staff support resources, and he believes there are many more decisions that can and perhaps should be made at the Director vice the committee/board level. With the budget constraints that have become the new normal, he thinks – as a board – we need to

look at how we do business and what decisions can be pushed down to the Director's level to free up staff support resources, reduce costs and increase organizational effectiveness. Now that the Director has been here a full year, let's ask him for his recommendations, realizing that they may not be popular. At worst, we continue with the status quo; at best, we streamline activities and increase organizational efficiency.

Lastly, he wants to acknowledge the contributions of our volunteers and especially our Friends groups. The Braddock District is getting traction with Friends groups. This past year has seen the beginnings of three new Friends groups: The Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley, the Friends of Royal Lake, and the Friends of Audrey Moore RECenter, who will have their first meeting Tuesday, February 5, at Braddock Hall. He is committed to friends groups, and other friends groups are in the works. We need them— especially in and around our lake parks and in our Stream Valley parks given the limited resources of the Park Operations Division.

- Mr. Thompson thanked staff for the briefing in Supervisor Herrity's office in reference to the Burke Lake driving range. It was very much appreciated.

The community is looking forward to the new turf field at Rolling Valley West Park. He is hoping for an early spring ribbon cutting.

- Mr. Vajda commented that he and his wife enjoyed the holiday event; however it had been a number of years since he had gone to Twin Lakes and got lost on the way there. He added that some folks commented that the entrance to the facility could use some lights.
- Mr. Quincy reported that he attended public comment meeting on Eakin Park. The Friends Group has formed to support the park.

Andi Dorlester had a telephone meeting with Planning Commissioner Ken Lawrence about the Tysons Plan. Overall he liked the plan very much.

Mr. Quincy attended the Town of Vienna's holiday party. He spoke with the mayor, who had many complementary things to say about the Park Authority. Parks has a good relationship with the Town and a good partnership.

Mr. Quincy seconded the comments about the Spring Hill RECenter, which was on time and on budget. It is the only recenter that has an elevated track. Providence Community Center has an open house on Saturday and Supervisor Smyth was there.

Mr. Quincy told the scouts that Providence District uses scouts quite a bit. They have contributed three significant projects in the Providence District.

- Mr. Khan said that there is fun stuff going on in Vienna all the time.

He thanked School Board Liaison Sandy Evans and Mr. Quincy for their presence at Luther Jackson Middle School in the pilot project for cricket.

Mr. Quincy thanked Mr. Khan for the presentation which was received by the School Board.

- Mr. Gorham stated that he wanted to be the favorite of the scouts in the gallery so he welcomed everyone and wished them all a Happy New Year.
- Ms. Cortina thanked Ms. Pedersen and her team for the holiday reception and suggested that the School Board be invited in the future.

She thanked Mr. Bowden, Ms. Nugent and their teams for the Spring Hill RECenter renovation adding that it is a beautiful facility and was on time and on budget. This is a significant project.

Mr. Bowden added that all the divisions in the Park Authority made this project happen.

Ms. Cortina thanked Ms. Wolf for joining the Board, stating that it is a great organization, is fun and a lot of work.

Ms. Cortina thanked Ms. Walsh and Mr. Stokely for their work on the presentation for EQAC. Mary is going to represent on behalf of the Park Board at EQAC's meeting on January 21.

The Federation of Friends group will meet in February. Ms. Cortina noticed that there is not a lot of diversity of age in the group, which is comprised mostly of seniors. They need to talk about bringing more youth into the friends groups. They are going to invite youth leaders including Boy Scouts. Youth are encouraged to speak up about what they want in our parks. They should go online and use the online forum to share their thoughts.

Mr. Strickland added that Supervisor Foust was very effective in getting the bond ceiling raised and has been very helpful with parks.

ADJOURNMENT

Without objection Mr. Bouie adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Kala Leggett Quintana, Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on January 28, 2015

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant