

**Fairfax County Park Authority
Board Meeting
January 13, 2016**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Room 941, Fairfax, Virginia.

Board Members:

William G. Bouie, Chairman
Ken Quincy, Vice Chair
Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary
Walter Alcorn
Edward R. Batten, Sr.
Mary Cortina
Maggie Godbold
Linwood Gorham
Faisal Khan
Frank S. Vajda
Anthony J. Vellucci
Grace Han Wolf

Staff Present:

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Judy Pedersen, PIO
David Bowden
Todd Johnson
Barbara Nugent
Cindy Walsh
Janet Burns

Guests: Everett 'Butch' Loughry

AGENDA CHANGES

There was no need for a closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker: Carrie Sawicki
Moirra Callaghan

Subject: Baron Cameron Dog Park
Baron Cameron Dog Park

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMIN-1 Resolution Honoring Everett Butch Loughry upon His Retirement from the Fairfax County Park Authority

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the resolution honoring Everett Butch Loughry upon his retirement from the Fairfax County Park Authority. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

ADMIN-2 Adoption of Minutes – December 16, 2015, Park Authority Board Meeting

Mr. Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2015, Park Authority Board meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

APPROVED AND SIGNED FEBRUARY 4, 2016

INFORMATION ITEMS**I-1 Resident Curator Program Update**

Cindy Walsh and Denice Dressel brought the board up to date on the progress of the Resident Curator Program and discussed the next steps. Bill Bouie suggested looking into the possibility that in lieu of leasing the property to the Board of Supervisors that perhaps the properties could become part of the land bank.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- Mr. Bouie welcomed Ms. Godbold, the new Sully District representative, to the Park Authority Board.

Mr. Bouie congratulated Mr. Kincannon on his appointment by Mr. Stalzer to attend the Local Government Manager Certificate Program offered by Virginia Tech as part of his leadership development.

- Mr. Bouie stated that while the board did not get an opportunity to say good-bye to Mr. Strickland, it goes without saying that he will be missed on this board. Mr. Strickland is Parks. Parks will come up with a special way to celebrate his independence with him. This now makes Mr. Strickland a candidate for captain of the Green Team for the bond program this year.
- Mr. Bouie recommended that board members meet with their Supervisors with regard to the potential bond program to get as much input as possible. The board will be advocating for more dollars. A couple of Supervisors were kind enough to get Parks an additional \$15M-\$20M in the past and Mr. Bouie is hoping Parks can get an additional \$13M to take Parks to \$100M. He is also hoping to get Parks past the \$13.5M spending threshold.
- Mr. Bouie welcomed everyone back from the holiday break and hoped they were all well-rested because there is a lot of work to do in the coming months.

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

- Mr. Kincannon thanked Mr. Bouie and the board for its support adding that he is very appreciative.
- The 2015 Eakin Philanthropy Awardee, Suzan Syron-Singh, contributed \$20,000 for Chessie's BIG Backyard, bringing donations made via The Kelley Syron Sunshine Fund to more than \$70,700.

BOARD MATTERS:

- Mr. Khan wished everyone a Happy New Year. He congratulated Mr. Kincannon on his achievement and welcomed Ms. Godbold to the board.
- Mr. Gorham wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulated Ms. Godbold on her appointment to the Park Board.
- Mr. Batten extended wished a very blessed and Happy New Year. He hoped that Ms. Godbold would find being on the Park Board as exciting as her predecessor had. He indicated that Parks looks forward to working with her to make that a reality.

The Park Authority Board will hold a joint meeting with the Park Foundation Board on March 5 at Frying Pan Farm Park. Mr. Batten encouraged the Park Board to submit potential positive topics for discussion at that meeting.

He feels this will be a very special meeting and noted that the two boards do not meet often enough. There has been some sentiment about there being more informal socializing rather than formal gatherings which would prove to be very beneficial. He is hoping to discuss this at the March 5 meeting.

Mr. Batten deferred to Mr. Thompson who commented on Mr. Batten's behalf that if anyone on the Park Board knows of anyone who is interested in or would be an asset to the Foundation Board they should contact Ms. Longworth or Mr. Batten.

- Ms. Cortina wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Ms. Godbold to the board and congratulated Mr. Kincannon.

Ms. Cortina attended the EQAC meeting on Tuesday, January 12, and spoke on behalf of the Park Board. She advised EQAC on the 2015 Needs Assessment results that place emphasis on the environment which is utmost in peoples' minds this survey period. Ms. Cortina made an ask for preference for stormwater. EQAC Chair, Ms. Stella Koch, said to stay away from stormwater money.

EQAC is interested in having a joint meeting. Mr. Kambiz Agazi, the Environmental Coordinator, would like to come before the board to give a presentation and perhaps do it as part of the joint meeting.

- Mr. Vajda congratulated Mr. Kincannon and welcomed Ms. Godbold. He wished everyone a Happy New Year. It was an especially Happy New Year for him as he had emergency surgery on Christmas Eve from which he has recovered.

Because of his surgery he was unable to participate in the cleanup of Hogge Park, which a lot of people have been abusing. Because of neighbor's concerns about the types of people

gathering there, a three-team effort – the police, the Sheriff’s Department, and the Park Authority – worked together to clean up the park. Officer Kathleen ‘Kat’ O’Leary was the prime mover of the cleanup. The Sheriff’s Department provided people-power from people working off their sentences. In addition to the three organizations, Officer Kat had mobilized the students from J.E.B. Stuart to come out to help. Area 2 management is doing more of the invasive cleanup. Mr. Vajda is very pleased with this project and suggested other board members consider this if they need help in their districts with cleanup.

- Ms. Wolf wished everyone a Happy New Year and welcomed Ms. Godbold. She congratulated Mr. Kincannon and stated that she is interested in hearing more about his adventure. Ms. Wolf noted that she had a friend who started law school in her late forties and admitted that she could not do that.
- Mr. Vellucci wished everyone a Happy New Year, welcomed Ms. Godbold, and congratulated Mr. Kincannon.

While he is not part of the P&D Committee he brought forward an issue for consideration regarding addressing the 50+ and 65+ crowd and his pet peeve, which is the demographic of the teenager. Fifteen to 18-year-olds are big into pull-ups and things like that. He believes this could be part of the outdoor fitness and doesn’t know if it will impact which parks are selected, but Parks is missing this demographic. Parks needs to think about teenagers that are not involved in organized sports and get them into our parks in a constructive manner. He asked if staff could please look into this.

He would like staff to consider Lake Accotink Park which has 13 different entrances, is a lakefront park, and for all intents and purposes is a neighborhood park.

There is about to be a new friends group in the Braddock District, the Friends of Oak Hill Park. This group got started by the Friends of Accotink Creek. Oak Hill Park is about ½-mile from the Oak Hill Mansion, is a 10-acre park in the center of the community and has some gravesites on it. The group is interested in looking into the archeological side of that and basically cleaning it up. They have been working with the district manager

As the Park Authority gets more friends groups in the county and as more friends groups are needed for cleanups and such, perhaps it is time for the board to consider a committee that addresses friends groups and how it can better work with them through interaction that the board should have with them. He feels that MOUs and MOAs may not be the best way to do that and that the board may want them to be more involved in what they can do and how they can be used. Mr. Vellucci hopes that is something that could be looked at during the next cycle.

The Friends of Long Branch Stream Valley met on January 12. Ms. Cronauer and Mr. Bowden were present along with Mr. Richardson. The meeting focused on the consideration

of part of the countywide trails project for the bond and whether or not parks want to pave part of it.

A good mile of the Lake Accotink Park trail was just paved and it is absolutely gorgeous. The water area is paved with downturn concrete. Mr. Vellucci urged the board to take a walk on the trail. There is a lot more to do on the trail now and there are a lot more good people on the trail now – moms with strollers, kids on scooters, and small kids on bikes. While naturalist and bikers would like to leave it the way it is, the reality is that parks serves a lot more park patrons by having paved trails and reduce the impact on the environment. He wanted to go on record that while he was not a believer he is now and definitely supports the Long Branch Stream Valley trail paving project and just needs to get the rest of the community onboard.

The Friend of Lake Accotink Park is holding a meeting on January 14.

Mr. Vellucci received a call from Ms. Lepold, who opposed the photographers' fees in 2015, to report that she had been approached by Green Spring Gardens to promote wedding photo shoots at the park.

It being a new year, Mr. Vellucci reported that he intends to come up with his list of district priorities and top ten things he is concerned with in the Braddock District which he will share with the board. He noted that he would love to hear from the other members of the board as to what is important to them. He recommended last year, and recommends it again, believing it is good to share this with each other. Mr. Kincannon will get to see them all and see a partner develop among a number of members and to employ his assets.

With regard to one of Mr. Vellucci's favorite topics, encroachment, he asked when staff would be coming back to the board. Mr. Kincannon indicated that it would be at the next board meeting on January 27.

- Mr. Alcorn welcomed Ms. Godbold. Following the length of Mr. Vellucci's remarks he commented to Ms. Godbold that she is not obligated to say anything.

Mr. Alcorn commended staff and the board for the process it is going through with regard to the bond. This is the first time he is going through this process and it is very thorough. It started with a good methodology, the Needs Assessment, but now is very transparent. Going through each project and being able to ask questions, seeing how things are changing or if there are modifications, this is the way it should be done. He thanked staff and the board.

- Ms. Godbold stated that she realized immediately that she had very big shoes to fill. Mr. Strickland has been around forever. He was very gracious to meet with her for a couple of hours and overfilled her brain. He is still going to be around. He has offered his help and she will call on him when she needs to.

She thanked everyone for the wonderful welcome and looks forward to working with everybody.

- Mr. Thompson welcomed Ms. Godbold and congratulated Mr. Kincannon.

He thanked Ms. Baldwin and the team for working on a potential partnership with 4H on some garden stuff. It's a unique request and staff needs to figure out how to make all those things come together.

Before Mr. Strickland comes to get his plaque and gets a chance to talk to the board, Mr. Thompson wanted to put on the record how much he appreciated everything Mr. Strickland contributed to the board and to the county, not just the Sully District, but with the county leadership. Mr. Strickland acted as a mentor to him when he first came onto the board. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Strickland didn't always agree, but they always got along. It was incredibly useful. They recently had a disagreement regarding cell towers and they worked through it with laughter and with the understanding that we all wanted to do what was best for the county and the Park Authority. In this day and age when people disagree too many people make it personal and make you an enemy instead of coming to a like-minded end. Mr. Thompson wanted to ensure the record reflected the admiration he had for Mr. Strickland.

- Mr. Quincy stated that he looks forward to working with everyone this coming year. He congratulated Mr. Kincannon adding that he would look at his grades.

Mr. Quincy also welcomed Ms. Godbold and said that the board will help her fill those shoes. He hopes she finds the position very challenging and very gratifying.

While Mr. Vellucci had mentioned the friends groups helping Parks with cleanup, the Providence District has had some fairly good luck with help from the Sierra Club. They use friends groups and environment groups.

- Mr. Bouie noted that the Nomination Committee's slate of officers for 2016 was distributed. The elections will take place on January 27. If anyone has any comments or concerns they should get in touch with the Nomination Committee chair, Mr. Batten.
- Mr. Bouie disagreed with Mr. Vellucci in terms of putting together a list of top ten things for his district. Before anyone else puts their list together Mr. Bouie indicated that the director and staff have a work plan that they work off of. If there are things that are not addressed, they should be brought up in the context of new items. He wants to be sure this board or any individual board member does not make busy work for the director to chase down a rabbit hole. Mr. Bouie hopes that the board sticks to the work plan and anything outside the work plan should be taken through the proper channels. That does not dissuade any conversation

between members of the board about things that are going on, but collectively look at it as one single picture.

Mr. Vellucci stated that he did not want to change the work plan, but wanted to share his concerns that are park-related, but not a park issue. He used the dredging of Royal Lake and the loss of aquatic life as an example.

With regarding encroachment, Mr. Bouie indicated that there have been several instances in the past month where encroachment has been increasing in a public places particularly in Montgomery County with the addition of the Purple Line. Mr. Bouie asked the director, in addition to what has already been done, what would it take at this point for Parks to notify the encroacher of their encroachment and to go on the record that they are encroaching that will help Parks establish a case if Parks ever does get to a point that it does have to challenge those people as far as enforcement is concerned. Parks already knows when an encroachment is taking place, is it up to Parks to notify those people that they are encroaching and are being put on notice so that there is a record of property damage.

Mr. Kincannon said that will be part of the presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Bouie called the meeting to a close at 8:37 p.m.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on February 4, 2016

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant