

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:32 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*

Absent*

Guests: Mike Stetz PROs Consulting
Dr. Mark White, George Mason
University
Bruce McLeod, Chairman, Park
Foundation Board
Lane Brooks, Park Foundation
Board
Gary Kirkbride, Park Foundation
Board

AGENDA CHANGES

Mr. Bouie announced that he would bring forward the Administrative and Action Items before the Presentations.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes of the March 23, 2016, Park Authority Board Meeting
Mr. Quincy made a motion to the minutes of the March 23, 2016, Park Authority Board meeting; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried, Ms. Cortina abstained. Ms. Wolf and Messrs. Gorham and Vellucci were absent.

ACTION ITEMS**A-1 Reappointment of Janyce N. Hedetniemi to the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board**

Mr. Batten made a motion to approve the reappointment of Janyce N. Hedetniemi to the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board; seconded by Khan. The motion carried by all members present. Ms. Wolf and Messrs. Gorham and Vellucci were absent.

A-2 Reappointment of Lane Brooks to the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board

Mr. Batten made a motion to approve the reappointment of Lane Brooks to the Fairfax County Park Foundation Board; seconded by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried by all members present. Ms. Wolf and Messrs. Gorham and Vellucci were absent.

PRESENTATIONS**P-1 Economic Impact Study**

George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis (CRA) conducted a financial analysis to ascertain the economic impact that the Park Authority's spending has on the local economy. Dr. Mark White, Deputy Director of CRA, presented the process and an overview of the findings.

P-2 Needs Assessment Findings

Mike Stetz of PROs Consulting Team presented Needs Assessment findings and recommendations. Staff discussed next steps, including the public open house on April 14, 2016. Mr. Stetz indicated that the final report was expected to be completed by the end of April.

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

- Mr. Bouie announced that former Park Foundation staff member Gerald Zavala has agreed to head the Green Team. Gerald is from the Hunter Mill District. He reminded the board members to provide the names of their Green Team members to Ms. Pedersen.
- He thanked Ms. Pedersen for the remarks he delivered during Board of Supervisors' budget hearings. They were very accommodating and supportive of our efforts. Parks is very fortunate to be in the position it is in. It was a good message, was well-received, and was shown by the interaction many of the Park Board members have received with the Board of Supervisors regarding special projects especially within their respective districts.
- Parks has received some press recently about the Board of Supervisors' park passes. While they surrendered their passes he hopes that all or at least some of them will choose to become members or our RECenters, golf courses, or whatever. It was unfortunate the way the information came out. The county attorney is not representing the Park Authority with

regard to the ‘perk’ so it was necessary for Parks to retain outside counsel to deal with this particular issue. Because of the circumstances Mr. Bouie has asked the director to have the outside counsel to review the Memorandum of Understanding in its entirety to be able to define the true relationship now with the change in ethics rules with the Board of Supervisors.

- Reston held a great Founders’ Day event last week. It was the first time the event was held without Bob Simon and he was missed.

Mr. Bouie congratulated Christina Alcorn, Walter’s Alcorn’s wife, who collaborated with Bob Simon on a book called, “In His Own Words”. It is about the life and times of Bob Simon. Mr. Bouie recommended that folks get a copy of the book.

- Fitlinxx is going away because the company that supported Fitlinxx was purchased by another company and Fitlinxx was dropped. A letter was sent to Parks’ customers that Fitlinxx was no longer going to be the answer. People measure fitness in so many different ways – with Fitbit, Apple watches, iPhone apps, etc. Mr. Bouie wants to ensure that Parks does extensive search of the marketplace to figure out what application it will use. If Parks is not sure within a reasonable timeframe, is there an opportunity to take on a temporary contract to extend Fitlinxx until the conversion or until the announcement of what the new application will be.
- Pirate Fest is taking place on April 16 at Lake Fairfax Park in Reston. Mr. Bouie invited everyone to come out to enjoy the show.
- The conversation concerning a meals tax has resurfaced and there is a move to place it on the ballot in November. The Board of Supervisors has not taken a position. From a personal opinion, he feels that the big number gap reflected in the Needs Assessment presentation, a meals tax has the opportunity to close that gap. At some point the Park Board needs to have a conversation about the meals tax and since Parks is a separate Authority whether it supports such a tax.

DIRECTOR’S MATTERS

- On Friday April 8, the Park Authority hosted 150 plus volunteers for a special Volunteer Appreciation/Recruitment Event. The event was located at Burke Lake Park and sponsored by Gratitude Grill/Cabot Creamery. The volunteers were treated to a lunch consisting of a grilled cheese sandwich, salad, bottled water, and a delicious chocolate chip cookie! Park Authority Board Member Mike Thompson was on hand to provide a special word of thanks to our volunteers. Everyone was then invited to a free round of mini-golf, which many enjoyed despite the cold weather.

- On Saturday April 2, eight different Park Authority locations participated in our Spring Watershed Clean-Up day. Around 400 volunteers spent over 800 hours of their time cleaning up areas along streams and picked up an estimated total of 4,515 pounds of trash! Participants included Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Hidden Oaks Nature Center, Hidden Pond Nature Center, Huntley Meadows Park, Lake Accotink Park, Lake Fairfax Park, Riverbend Park and Sully Historic Site. We hope to have even more of our sites signed up for the Fall Clean-Up day which has a proposed date of October 15.
- The Park Authority is partnering with The First Tee of Greater Washington, DC. In addition to learning and being introduced to playing the game of golf and appreciating the rules and etiquette of the game, participants ages 7-18 will learn how to manage emotions, set goals, resolve conflict, and effectively communicate with others.

Registration is now in progress for the six-week spring session which will be held Tuesdays, May 10 through June 21, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club. Full scholarships are available to participants who qualify for federal free or reduced lunches at school or who have a parent who is active military.

Additional Park Authority golf sites will be reviewed for future expansion of this program. The First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C. is one of 175 chapters around the country and in select international locations.

- It's always nice to be able to share good news, and there was a great letter making the rounds last week from Bob Kohm, the president of the Pioneer Baseball League, thanking the Park Authority for fast action that let his players play ball!

Kohm wrote to members of the school board and the Board of Supervisors about a potentially dangerous situation that was averted due to fast action and cooperation.

Kohm said he got word from a league officer last Friday that a tree had partially fallen and tangled up with other trees at the Virginia Hill School baseball field. The tree could have come down at any minute and would have fallen onto the dugout the kids use and onto the bleachers where parents and siblings sit. Kohm contacted Kevin Williams, the Branch Manager for Centralized Ground Services at FCPA at 3:58 in the afternoon, and he said, "By 4:10, William Boyd, a Coordinator II at FCPS Ground Ops/Snow Removal, had been read in on the problem and had dispatched a tree crew from JL Tree to remedy the problem to save the kids' night as they prepared for Opening Day. The level of detail and service was so great and so fast that by 5:21 I had received a status update from Brandon Phillips, Facilities management Liaison. Ground Ops for FCPS was letting me know the truck was snagged in traffic and would arrive at closer to 6:00."

Kohm called it a great example of FCPS and parks working together to solve a problem. And he noted it dispelled the old myth that you can't get things done late on a Friday

afternoon! He wrote to extend his thanks and to give credit to those who worked so quickly to resolve the problem.

BOARD MATTERS

- Mr. Khan had nothing to report.
- Mr. Gorham was absent.
- Mr. Batten, Lee District, thanked Sandy Stallman and Anna Bentley for their efforts in meeting the needs that the Lee District Land Use and Transportation Committee required to get some things resolved with an applicant. The applicant's attorney agreed to talk with Ed to resolve some issues and concerns that Park Authority had as well as the Planning and Development Division staff. The Planning Commission deferred its application planned for this evening and if the Lee District Land Use and Transportation Committee approves the application it will go before the Planning Commission at a later date.

Lee District is expecting to see important improvements in recreation and park type things in and around the Kingstown area.

- Ms. Godbold reported that she met with the CYA and SYA folks. Gary from SYA sent a note advising her that a Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout badge built a deck for the snack bar at E. C. Laurence Park. In order to work on the project he worked with Dan Sutherland who was very responsive and helpful. There was one ADA compliance problem that Dan stated would be fixed by Parks. It was a nice partnership and she thanked everyone.
- Mr. Vajda reported that he and Ms. Longworth met with the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) on April 2 with regard to planting a commemorative tree. Finding that the cost was \$1,000 and discussing this further with him and Ms. Longworth, DAR agreed to reforest an IMA area with trees paid for by DAR in honor of their forbearers. DAR will receive a certificate for its donation.

He thanked Ms. Longworth for her efforts.

- Ms. Wolf was absent.
- Mr. Vellucci was absent.
- Mr. Alcorn commented on the Washington Post story directed to the Park Board. In doing their job at the Washington Post, if the worst they could find was that a group of volunteers get free passes to go to the facilities, the board must be doing something right.

Mr. Bouie indicated that he spoke with reporter, Tony Olivo, and there was never any question asked about the Park Board and its receipt of free passes, nor the passes that Parks had given out outside of the Board of Supervisors. That was not his bone of contention although it would have been a better story if he had reported on the number of volunteer hours and the great work that the Park Authority and staff does.

- Ms. Cortina stated that she appreciates why the Park Authority gives the passes to go out and see these places and the acknowledgement that this is an all-volunteer board. But if the passes take away from the Park Authority and all the hard work of the staff she would be so happy to turn in her pass. She went on record stating that she would turn in her pass.

Ms. Pedersen added that with regard to those stories that there was only one comment from the public.

Ms. Cortina thanked Mr. Bouie and congratulated him on his leadership award he will receive on April 22 at the LFI/Board of Supervisors' Breakfast.

- Mr. Thompson thanked Gratitude Grill/Cabot Creamery for doing such a great job event. There were a lot of great people out there doing a lot of hard work. He appreciates all the hard work that went into making the event happen, but Parks should also make sure to thank Gratitude Grill and Cabot Creamery. Mr. Thompson learned that they only use the food truck to go out to volunteer events and give food away free to people who volunteer and give back to the community.

Ms. Pedersen added that they will be recognized on Parks 'Thank-you Thursday' on Facebook. They have been notified and will be putting it on their website.

Mr. Thompson indicated that while Parks comes through the Needs Assessment process, he would hope that Parks does not lose sight and would look back at what went well, what didn't go well, but more importantly the fact that Parks doesn't want to wait another ten years to go through the process, nor take two years to go through a five-year process. It needs to think about these things before it gets beyond Parks.

Mr. Thompson commented on the passing of Earle Williams who did a lot for this community. He was a pioneer. He was heavily involved with Wolftrap, was director emeritus and board chairman. He helped with what was a tremendous amount of what built Fairfax County. He was somebody that gave a tremendous amount.

- Mr. Quincy thanked Lane Brooks, Bobbi Longworth, and Margaret Thaxton from the Park Foundation for helping out with the Nottoway Egg Hunt. It was a lot of fun.

He thanked Dave Bowden and his staff for the quick action satisfying the Falls Church Little League with the completion of the Westgate diamond field. They are very happy.

Oak Marr RECenter will be receiving a LEED award on Earth Day, April 22. It will take place the same morning Mr. Bouie receives his award. Mr. Quincy congratulated Mr. Bouie.

Mr. Quincy called attention to the Healthy Strides 5K/10K. Funds raised go to help out summer camp opportunities for the homeless children. It's a really good cause and you are not required to run. Walk the 5K with a lot of leisurely walkers. It takes place on Saturday, April 23, at Burke Lake Park, and you will be required to get up early since it begins at 7:30 a.m.

Mr. Bouie and others mentioned the press, but Parks received other press besides the passes that has to do with a model Virginia suburb seeing starting to see things fade. It really shows the influence Parks has on the face of the county. The county shares the same Needs Assessment that Parks does.

- Mr. Bouie thanked everyone for their patience. It was enlightening and everyone learned a lot. While it took a little extra time, it was well-worth it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business and without objection, Mr. Bouie called the meeting to a close at 9:59 p.m.

Michael W. Thompson, Jr., Secretary

Minutes Approved at Meeting
on April 27, 2016

Kirk W. Kincannon, Director

Park Authority Board Minutes prepared by

Barbara J. Gorski, Administrative Assistant