



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Chairman and Members
Park Authority Board

VIA: Jai Cole, Executive Director

FROM: Aimee Vosper, Deputy Director

DATE: June 23, 2023

Agenda

**Park Authority Board Awards Committee
(Committee of the Whole)
Wednesday, June 28, 2023 – 6:20 pm
Board Room, Herrity Building
Chairman: Dr. Cynthia J. Carter
Vice Chair: Tim Hackman**

1. Future of Elly Doyle Park Service Awards (with presentation) – Discussion



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DISCUSSION – 1

Future of Elly Doyle Park Service Awards (with presentation)

At the May 24, 2023 Park Authority Board Awards Committee Meeting, Franconia District Board Member and Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Cynthia Jacobs Carter, presented the plans and timeline for the 2023 Elly Doyle Park Services Awards program. During the discussion on the 2023 event, there was significant support from board members for moving the awards event to a park property in the future.

These awards are presented annually to recognize the outstanding volunteer work done by individuals and groups that support the Park Authority. Due to COVID-19, the 2020-2022 awards programs were successfully presented virtually. The 2023 program will return to an in-person event.

There are a number of considerations with moving the event to a Park Authority venue. Utilizing a park property will undoubtedly require at least some outdoor component as the Park Authority currently does not own an indoor facility that will accommodate the 250+ attendees that this event has historically drawn. Staff recommends that the date of the event be shifted as well to take advantage of warmer weather.

Staff is also recommending the construction of a tent pad that would be sizeable enough to accommodate larger events. This would provide a long-term location for the Elly Doyle Awards program and provide a rental location for bigger events such as weddings, parties, and other gatherings.

Another enhancement to the program that staff recommends is the addition of having a local celebrity to emcee the event. This would continue to elevate the program and draw prestige to the awards.

Given the time and cost involved in the selection of a site and construction of a tent pad, staff recommends taking a year gap and planning for the next cycle of the awards program to culminate in a ceremony held in Spring 2025.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The anticipated costs for the tent pad are to be determined at this time. Once the tent pad is completed, there will additionally be the need to rent a sizeable tent and utilize a contracted catering company to provide the food for the awards ceremony.

Board Agenda Item
June 28, 2023

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

None.

STAFF:

Jai Cole, Executive Director
Sara Baldwin, Deputy Director/COO
Aimee L. Vosper, Deputy Director/CBD
Allison Rankin, Management Analyst II



FUTURE OF ELLY DOYLE PARK SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM



Subtitle



LOCATION?

- Currently no Park Authority property would be of a size to host the 250+ attendees indoors
- An outdoor event would require a tent with surfacing to accommodate a variety of weather possibilities
- Consider building a tent pad at a Park Authority location to be determined



A NEW SPACE AND A NEW DATE?

- Site location and construction of a tent pad will take some time
- Staff recommends suspending the program for 2024 so that a Spring 2025 event can be planned

ENHANCEMENT?

- Staff recommends having a local celebrity to emcee the awards program event



QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION