

NOVA Parks
5400 Ox Road
Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039

Board Meeting, September 17, 2020

7:30 p.m.

The meeting took place online via ZOOM

The meeting was live streamed on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcKufx1dafi-b2lsgGeMyDA>

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present:

Michael A. Nardolilli, Chairman
Cate Magennis Wyatt, Vice Chairman
Paul Baldino
James Bonfils
Mark Chandler
Paul Ferguson
Patricia Harrison
Stella Koch
Brian Knapp
Sean Kumar
Scott Price
Jeffrey Tarbert

Staff Present:

Danielle Endler, HR Administrator
Paul Gilbert, Executive Director
Kim McCleskey, Budget Administrator
Brian Nolan, Director of Planning & Development
Christopher Pauley, Director of Operations
Andrea Reese, Land Planning & Grants Administrator
Blythe Russian, Park Operations Superintendent
Lauren Weaver, Director of Finance
Mark Whaley, Park Operations Superintendent
Todd Hafner, Senior Project Manager

Guests:

Megan Gilliland, Kaufman and Canoles
Ben Wills, Kaufman and Canoles

OPEN SESSION:

OPENING STATEMENT:

Chairman Michael Nardolilli read the following:

The Governor has declared a state of emergency in Virginia for the Coronavirus. It is impracticable and unsafe for the Authority to assemble in a single location, so the meeting will be held electronically pursuant to the 2020 Appropriation Act. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the Authority and the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

On March 19, 2020, NOVA Parks adopted a policy on electronic participation for board meetings that includes section 2.2-3708.2 for states of emergency.

On April 14, 2020, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted Emergency Uncodified Ordinance to Establish Methods to Assure Continuity in Fairfax County Government and Conduct of Meetings of Boards, Authorities, Commissions, and Regional and Interjurisdictional Public Bodies within Fairfax County Government During the Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Emergency.

To minimize exposure to the virus, NOVA Parks is holding the September 17, 2020 Board meeting with remote electronic participation by Board Members.

This meeting addresses emergency matters, and critical functions of NOVA Parks.

Notice of this meeting has been posted. Video of this meeting is being both recorded and livestreamed on YouTube, for public access.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Gilbert notified the Board that 4 public comments were received in response to the ordinance that Fairfax County has passed regarding firearm possession on County property. These comments were specific to waterfowl hunting on NOVA Parks properties. Mr. Gilbert added that if and when all of the member jurisdictions of NOVA Parks adopt the policy that Fairfax County has approved, NOVA Parks will solicit public comment and then make a determination on the adoption of the policy.

REPORT ON HEMLOCK OVERLOOK:

Mr. Pauley presented an update on Adventure Links, the operator of the Outdoor Environmental and Experiential Education Facility at Hemlock Overlook. As of now, Adventure Links has not met the payment obligations as required in the agreement with NOVA Parks. Due to payments not being made, next steps were taken in accordance with the Agreement and NOVA Parks plans to issue formal notice to Adventure Links terminating their agreement with appropriate compensation demands. NOVA Parks will then secure and prepare the facility for temporary closure and consider operational scenarios for the

future. Board members asked specific questions about the agreement and thanked staff for handling the matter sensitively.

CAPITAL BUDGET FY2021 – FY2025:

Mr. Nolan presented the Capital Budget FY2021 – FY2025 along with a brief overview of projects that were completed in FY2020.

Mr. Knapp moved the Revised FY2021 through FY2025 Capital Budget be approved as presented, seconded by Mr. Tarbert.

VOTE: No opposition or abstention, **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

BOND FINANCING:

Mr. Hafner provided an overview of the planned Upton Hill Adventure Climbing Course and Park Improvements, to include the Ropes Course, parking improvements, picnic shelter, ADA accessible playground and parking, and trails. Mr. Hafner also provided an overview of the costs of the project and the financing options (revenue bonds). The total remaining cost to complete all improvement is \$2.5 million, but NOVA Parks can request bonds in the amount of \$3.5 million and use the additional \$1 million to cover costs previously incurred for this project as approved by the Board in a Reimbursement Resolution last year.

Mr. Gilbert reported on extensive Arlington community engagement including multiple meetings with local Civic Association and park user surveys dating back to 2015.

Ms. Koch requested clarification on the environmental actions taken by NOVA Parks during this project. Mr. Gilbert confirmed that NOVA Parks went beyond what Arlington County required regarding replanting and stormwater management requirements. Ms. Koch requested that this be communicated in some way, such as signage at the Park, to ensure County residents are aware of the additional steps taken by NOVA Parks.

Mr. Tarbert moved that the Board adopt the Resolution providing for the issuance and sale of a park facilities revenue bond, series 2020, of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and providing for the form, details and payment thereof.

Mr. Tarbert questioned whether or not the motion needed to include the dollar amount that is being approved for the revenue bond. Ms. Gilliland confirmed that the dollar amount is not needed as the Resolution referenced in the motion contains the necessary information regarding the dollar amount of the revenue bond.

Mr. Nardolilli seconded the motion made by Mr. Tarbert.

VOTE: The motion made by Mr. Tarbert, seconded by Mr. Nardolilli, was **APPROVED** by a roll call vote. Ayes – 11; Abstentia – 1. Mr. Price was in attendance, but was muted and did not respond to the roll call vote.

CLIMBING COURSE PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION:

Mr. Tarbert moved that, subject to completion of the sale of bonds by the Virginia Resources Authority and the confirmation of the availability of project funds, staff be authorized to award a contract in the amount of \$1,177,000 to Aerial Attractions, Inc. for the Upton Hill Adventure/Climbing Course Procurement and Installation, and the Executive Director be authorized to execute the contract and approve contractor payments; seconded by Mr. Nardolilli.

Discussion on the motion:

Mr. Knapp noted that about 10 years ago he was on a subcommittee that had the climbing tower as a long-term goal and that he was happy to see it come to fruition. He extended his thanks to the Chairman, Executive Director, and Staff.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

INSTALLATION OF CLIMBING COURSE FOUNDATIONS:

Mr. Ferguson moved that, subject to completion of the sale of bonds by the Virginia Resources Authority and the confirmation of the availability of project funds, staff be authorized to award a contract in the amount of \$176,000 to Anglers, LLC for Installation of the Upton Hill Adventure/Climbing Course Foundations, and the Executive Director be authorized to execute the contract and approve contractor payments; seconded by Mr. Nardolilli.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

CONSTRUCTION OF CLIMBING COURSE ADMISSIONS BUILDING AND DECK:

Mr. Ferguson moved that, subject to completion of the sale of bonds by the Virginia Resources Authority and the confirmation of the availability of project funds, staff be authorized to award a contract in the amount of \$609,600 to PBS Contracting for construction of the Upton Hill Adventure/Climbing Course Admissions Building, and the Executive Director be authorized to execute the contract and approve contractor payments; seconded by Mr. Nardolilli.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

CONSTRUCTION OF PLAYGROUND:

Mr. Ferguson moved that, subject to completion of the sale of bonds by the Virginia Resources Authority and the confirmation of the availability of project funds, staff be authorized to award a contract in the amount of \$89,633.99 to Cunningham Associates / Gametime for construction of the Upton Hill Playground, and the Executive Director be authorized to execute the contract and approve contractor payments; seconded by Mr. Nardolilli.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

JURISDICTIONAL RATES FOR FY2022:

Mr. Gilbert provided an overview of the jurisdiction appropriation for FY2021. Due to almost no inflation the jurisdictional rate did not change. Population changes in the region were also very minimal over the last year.

Mr. Tarbert moved for Fiscal Year 2021, to keep the per capita rates at the current level of \$2.65 for Capital and \$1.95 for Operating and to adjust amounts based on the latest population numbers for each jurisdiction; seconded by Mr. Knapp.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

POLICY ON NAMING:

Mr. Nardolilli thinks NOVA Parks needs a more detailed policy on naming. Mr. Nardolilli requested volunteers from the Board to assist in preparing a new policy to present to the Board.

Mr. Knapp questioned if this policy was in place when NOVA Parks Headquarters was named the Walter L. Mess Building. Mr. Gilbert stated that this policy came to be because there was a request for a statue at Pohick Bay for an individual who created a wastewater system, but had nothing to do with parks and recreation.

Mr. Kumar noted that in the current climate he is not sure if it is necessary and a good use of time to come up with a detailed policy that may not be used.

Ms. Magennis Wyatt volunteered to help with such a committee.

Mr. Bonfils indicated that he would also be happy to help in developing a more detailed naming policy.

Mr. Nardolilli, Ms. Magennis Wyatt, and Mr. Bonfils will work on a policy and come back to the Board for review and approval.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

Mr. Knapp requested that Administrative Items B and D be pulled out for discussion.

Ms. Koch moved to approve **Administrative Items A and C;** seconded by Mr. Knapp.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Administrative Item B:

Mr. Knapp had requested clarification on the Temple Hall endowment fund and the transfer of those funds to the Community Foundation. Mr. Gilbert confirmed that the long-term plan is to move all of the funds from the endowment to the Community Foundation, so the Foundation can invest the funds on behalf of NOVA Parks. Mr. Gilbert also clarified that the endowment funds are specifically used to offset the operational costs of Temple Hall. Mr. Knapp also requested clarification on the Garden Guild and Docent Activities Funds that are separate from the Friends of Carlyle House budget. Ms. Russian

clarified that the Garden Guild funds are used specifically for the garden and the Docent Activities fund is specifically used to cover expenses related to the docents, such as tours of other facilities, educational opportunities, etc.

Mr. Knapp moved to approve Administrative Item B; seconded by Ms. Koch.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Administrative Item D:

Mr. Knapp proposed changes to the resolution honoring Mr. Hobson. These changes were requested based on input from City of Fairfax Councilmember D. Thomas Ross.

Mr. Knapp moved to approve Administrative Item D as amended; seconded by Mr. Tarbert.

Discussion on the motion:

Ms. Magennis Wyatt thanked Mr. Knapp for being so conscientious regarding the language and details of the Resolution.

Motion made by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Mr. Tarbert.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. Gilbert notified the Board that the Resolution will be read in October at a dedication of a dogwood tree in Mr. Hobson’s memory at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. The Resolution will then be sent to the family.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Nardolilli confirmed that the November and January meetings will both take place at 7:30 p.m. The next chair can determine future meeting times.

Mr. Knapp asked for an update on the natural refilling of Beaverdam. Mr. Bonfils stated that it was fairly full and going over the spill way when he visited the park over the weekend.

Mr. Knapp requested a page flyer with dates and other relevant information for the light shows so that it can be used when discussing the light shows with members of the jurisdictions.

Mr. Knapp asked what changes were being made to the light shows in light of the pandemic.

Ms. Russian confirmed that Meadowlark was limiting the number of guests that could come through at each time interval, they are providing specific instructions on how to enter the light show including: waiting in the car, no congregating in the Visitor’s Center, adding additional restrooms, and removing choke points (firepits, smores station). Mr. Whaley stated that the Bull Run Festival of Lights was moving to online ticket sales to provide a touchless admission process to the light show and that the Village would look different since there would be no Santa, hot chocolate tent or fire pits. Discussions are still in process with the carnival vendor.

At 9:33 p.m., motion by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Koch, to move into closed session to discuss real estate matters.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

CLOSED SESSION:

Real estate matters, in accordance with Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711-(A)(3).

Real estate matters were discussed.

At 10:06 p.m., motion by Mr. Knapp, seconded by Ms. Koch, to move out of closed session and reconvene in open session.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

OPEN SESSION:

The Chairman read the following certification:

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements prescribed by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such matters identified in the motion to convene closed session were heard, discussed or considered by this Board during closed session.

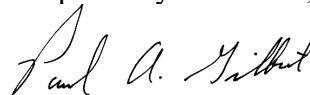
The certification was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Ms. Koch, seconded by Mr. Baldino, to adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul A. Gilbert, Secretary

Approved by the Park Authority Board
on November 19, 2020



Paul A. Gilbert, Secretary

Michael Nardolilli

Michael A. Nardolilli, Chairman