

**NOVA PARKS**  
Board Meeting, January 15, 2026  
7:00 p.m.  
NOVA Parks Headquarters  
5400 Ox Rd  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039



**ATTENDANCE:**

**Board Members:**

**In Attendance:**

Sean Kumar, Chairman  
Paul Baldino, Vice Chairman  
James Bonfils  
Mark Chandler  
Paul Ferguson  
Dave Gustafson  
Patricia Harrison arrived at 7:03  
Stella Koch  
Michael Nardolilli  
Scott Price  
Douglas Stewart

**Absent:**

Cate Magennis Wyatt

**Staff:**

Justin Wilson, Executive Director  
Blythe Russian, Director of Operations  
Brian Nolan, Director of Planning and Development  
Lauren Weaver, Director of Finance  
Kelly Gilfillen, Director of Marketing and Communications  
Kevin Casalenuovo, Park Operations Superintendent  
Dustin Betthausen, Park Operations Superintendent  
Danielle Endler, HR Administrator  
Mike DePue, Planning Administrator  
John Bell, Senior Planner  
Patrick Wells, Budget Administrator  
Anh Phan, Community Engagement Manager  
Leslie Preble, Planning and Development Administrative Assistant

**Guests**

Michael Lupton Robinson Farmer Cox Associates (Joined at 7:40)  
Matt Felperin Roving Naturalist

**City of Alexandria**

Sean Kumar  
Scott Price

**Arlington County**

Paul Ferguson  
Michael A. Nardolilli

**Fairfax County**

Patricia Harrison  
Stella Koch

**City of Fairfax**

Mark Chandler  
Douglas Stewart

**City of Falls Church**

Paul Baldino  
David Gustafson

**Loudoun County**

James Bonfils  
Eric Woodall

**OPEN SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:01

**Introductions:**

No introductions

**Amendments to the Agenda**

No amendments to the agenda

**Approval of Minutes:**

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion to approve the November 20, 2025 Minutes; Mr. Bonfils seconded the motion.

**Unanimously approved by those present**

**Ms. Harrison arrived just after this vote**

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion to move into closed session; Mr. Chandler seconded the motion.

**Unanimously approved**

**CLOSED SESSION (as allowed by § 2.2-3711)**

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

Real estate matters were discussed. No action was taken.

**Mr. Nardolilli made a motion to move out of closed session; Mr. Bonfils seconded the motion.**

**Unanimously approved**

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.

**OPEN SESSION**

Re-entered open session at 7:36

## **ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION:**

Mr. Bonfils made a motion that the Executive Director be authorized to execute the Memoranda of Understanding on behalf of NOVA Parks as determined by the Board during Closed Session, Ms. Koch seconded the motion.

### **Unanimously approved**

Ms. Koch made a motion to Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate agreeable terms and execute a contract to acquire the property located in Fairfax County as discussed in closed session, Mr. Bonfils seconded the motion.

### **Unanimously approved**

## **Treasurer's Report/Status of Funds**

### **James Bonfils**

Mr. Bonfils gave a brief review of the status of funds and stated that everything is in order.

Ms. Weaver spoke briefly about the FY25 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and said that an application has been filed for the GFOA award and should hear about that in 5-6 months. She then introduced Michael Lupton of Robinson Farmer Cox Associates.

## **Auditor's Report**

### **Michael Lupton Robinson Farmer Cox Associates**

Michael Lupton, Robinson, Farmer, Cox, Associates gave an analysis of the FY25 Audit. Mr. Lupton issued an audit opinion that the ACFR Report for FY25 was an unmodified, and clean opinion.

## **Board Elections**

### **Paul Ferguson**

Mr. Ferguson reminded the Board that traditionally, the Executive Committee serves for 3 years. This would be 3<sup>rd</sup> year in their current role.

He said that most members said that they are fine keeping the same Executive Committee for this final year.

Ms. Koch nominated Patricia Harrison for the At-large position; Mr. Ferguson seconded the nomination.

### **Unanimously approved**

Ms. Koch nominated Mr. Bonfils as Treasurer; Mr. Ferguson seconded the nomination.

**Unanimously approved**

Mr. Gustafson nominated Mr. Baldino as Vice Chairman; Mr. Ferguson seconded the nomination.

**Unanimously approved**

Mr. Price nominated Sean Kumar as Chairman; Mr. Ferguson seconded the nomination.

**Ten voted in favor, Mr. Nardolilli voted present**

Mr. Kumar gave his thanks to the Executive Committee for all their work in the past year.

Mr. Bonfils brought up the topic of the Audit Committee. It was discussed that the 2026 Audit Committee would include Mr. Stewart, Mr. Gustafson, Mr. Bonfils, Mr. Nardolilli and Mr. Kumar.

Mr. Ferguson nominated Justin Wilson for Secretary; Mr. Baldino seconded the nomination.

**Unanimously approved**

**Admin Items:**

Light Show Update

Metroduct payment transfer to The Community Foundation

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to approve the Admin items; Mr. Bonfils seconded the motion.

**Unanimously approved**

The Board asked Ms. Russian to give a quick report on the light shows in addition to her written report.

Ms. Russian gave a brief summary of her Light Show Report. She said NOVA Parks overall exceeded gross revenue goals – both at Meadowlark Winter Walk of Lights and Bull Run Festival of Lights. They have seen a decline in “at the door”, cash paying customers, particularly at Bull Run and Cameron Run.

A current challenge is how to continue to invest in our light shows, specifically, Bull Run Festival of Lights. The displays there are much larger than at the other light shows and are very expensive. To update the light displays, they will need to make significant investments.

Additionally, Ms. Russian expressed her appreciation for the Marketing Team – particularly for the new text program that was implemented.

**Roving Naturalist Presentation**  
**Matt Felperin, Roving Naturalist**

Mr. Felperin, Roving Naturalist with NOVA Parks since 2019, gave an overview of the various roles of the Roving Naturalists. He mentioned talks at summer camps, hikes, paddle tours, field trips, specialty programs and critter corners. Additionally, he brought some of the animals that he brings to talks and critters corners.

Mr. Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Koch seconded the motion.

**Unanimously approved**

**ADJOURNMENT**

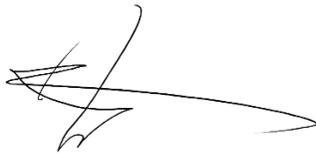
Meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Justin M. Wilson, Secretary

Approved by the NOVA Parks Authority Board  
On March 19, 2026



Justin M. Wilson, Secretary



Sean Kumar, Chairman