NOVA Parks Board Meeting
Thursday September 17, 2026
NOVA Parks Headquarters
5400 Ox Rd
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
6:45 P.M.

ATTENDANCE
Board Members:
In Attendance:
Sean Kumar, Chairman
Paul Baldino, Vice Chairman
Mark Chandler
Michael Nardolilli
Douglas Stewart
Dave Gustafson
Paul Ferguson arrived at 6:52
Eric Woodall

Attending remotely via Teams as provided under § 2.2-3708.3:
James Bonfils due to a personal issue
Stella Koch due to a medical issue
Pat Harrison due to caring for a sick family member and joined via Teams at 6:57

Absent: Scott Price

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
Dustin Betthauser, 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
Ryan Corder, Park Manager, W&OD Trail

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 confirmed that the virtual attendees could hear and be heard
The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:47

Introductions
There were no introductions

Amendments to the Agenda
No amendments to the agenda

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bonfils made a motion to approve the July 16, 2026, Board meeting minutes
Mr. Nardolilli seconded the motion

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion that the NOVA Parks Board convene in closed session pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A) 1 & 3 of the Code of Virginia to discuss the evaluation of the Executive Director and acquisition of real property for a public purpose.
Mr. Chandler seconded the motion

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Moved into closed session at 6:50

CLOSED SESSION (as allowed by § 2.2-3711)

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

Personnel matters, in accordance with Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711-(A)(1)

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion to move out of closed session and re-enter open session
Mr. Chandler seconded the motion.

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

This certification was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** by roll call vote

Closed session ended at 8:25

OPEN SESSION

Open session reconvened at 8:25

ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion that the Executive Director be authorized to accept title to the property, under the conditions determined by the Board during Closed Session.
Mr. Woodall seconded the motion

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. Bonfils made a motion that the Executive Director's compensation be adjusted as determined by the Board during Closed Session. And to award performance incentive program shares as determined using the FY26 score calculation.
Mr. Ferguson seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Treasurer's Report/Status of Funds
James Bonfils

Mr. Bonfils reviewed the status of funds and stated that everything is in order.
He added that the audit is coming along and there will be a report on it next meeting.

Admin Items

- FY28 Appropriations Request from Jurisdictions
- Strategic Planning Update
- End of Year Operating Surplus Allocation

Mr. Bonfils made a motion to approve the admin items
Mr. Nardolilli seconded the motion

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

FY27-FY31 Capital Budget Presentation
Brian Nolan and Patrick Wells

Mr. Nolan presented the FY27-FY31 Capital Budget. He started by reviewing a few of the FY26 capital projects such as the new boat racks at Sandy Run Regional Park, the deck expansion at

Occoquan Regional Park, the repairs at Broad Run Bridge on the W&OD Trail, the kitchen renovation at Rust Manor, and the new pavement on the entrance road for Bull Run Regional Park. He discussed FY26 revenues and expenses as well as the current Capital budget process. He highlighted a few items in the new proposed budget and how they tie back to the strategic plan. Some of the items mentioned included improvements at Cattail, Gateway Wetlands Park, and the new waterplay feature at Algonkian Volcano Island. He also pointed out that FY27 will start drawing from the endowment. He briefly touched on Capital maintenance and Waterpark capital maintenance.

Mr. Wells then discussed the upcoming change to the capital budget process so that it syncs with the operating budget process. This will allow for more time for planning in advance of the fiscal year and better predictability of revenues as that impacts the Capital Budget. After sharing the benefits of aligning the Capital and Operating Budget Cycles, he demonstrated what the process will look like in OpenGov and how it will appear when the board members view specific projects in that program.

Mr. Nardolilli asked for an update the Carlyle House roof. Mr. Wilson responded that due to the response at the City of Alexandria BAR hearing, NOVA Parks will proceed with a wood shingle roof.

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion to approve the FY27-FY31 Capital Budget as presented
Mr. Bonfils seconded the motion

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

W&OD Rules and Regulations
Ryan Corder

Mr. Corder discussed rules and regulations for the W&OD Trail. He said park staff have been participating in various public outreach events with the jurisdictions. He also said that there is a collaborative effort with the jurisdictions to share social media messaging regarding rules and regulations and specifically e-bikes. He displayed a graphic which broke down the different classes of e-bikes and specifically shows that electric dirtbikes (aka e-motos) are not permitted on the Trail. Some of the proposed regulations include operating hours, assembly, pets, posted signs, reckless behavior, and prohibited devices. He then discussed the implementation of these regulations so that they can be enforced by local authorities. He said that NOVA Parks will need to publish a formal "Notice of Intent to Adopt Regulations" in newspapers of general circulation across participating jurisdictions 28 days prior to the target Board meeting. Mr. Corder said they will then need to publish a second notice in the same publications 7 days prior to the Board meeting. He then said that they will finally need to present the regulation for formal Board adoption following completion of both statutory publication cycles at the November meeting.

Both Ms. Harrison and Mr. Nardolilli had questions regarding other jurisdictions and how they might be handling similar issues. Mr. Wilson acknowledged that he has had conversations with several leaders from area jurisdictions and said they are all considering similar regulations regarding these issues.

Mr. Nardolilli made a motion to authorize the publication of the required "Notice of Intent to Adopt Regulations" in newspapers of general circulation at the 28-day and 7-day marks prior to the November Board meeting in accordance with VA Code §15.2-1427 and to schedule adoption of the proposed amendments to the W&OD Trail Regulations (§ 2.1 through § 2.6) upon conclusion of the public notice period and additionally to authorize the Executive Director to execute updated Memoranda of Understanding with participating local law enforcement agencies to clarify and empower patrol and enforcement operations along the W&OD Trail.
Mr. Baldino seconded the motion

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. Stewart made a motion to adjourn the meeting
Mr. Nardolilli seconded the motion
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 9:21

Respectfully submitted

Justin M. Wilson, Secretary

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

Justin M. Wilson, Secretary

Sean Kumar, Chairman