

NOVA Parks
5400 Ox Road
Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039

Board Meeting, November 19, 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
Paul Baldino
James Bonfils
Mark Chandler
Paul Ferguson
Patricia Harrison
Stella Koch – entered meeting at 8:42 p.m.
Brian Knapp
Sean Kumar
Scott Price
Jeffrey Tarbert

Members Absent:

Cate Magennis Wyatt, Vice Chairman

Staff Present:

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

Guests: None

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 November 19, 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 7:37 p.m.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON WATERFOWL HUNTING:

Multiple comments were received by NOVA Parks. All were in support of the position that we can allow access to boat ramps by waterfowl hunters.

VOTE ON RESOLUTION ON FIREARMS AND ACCESS FOR LAWFUL WATERFOWL HUNTING:

Ms. Harrison moved that:

Whereas member jurisdictions of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority have passed ordinances regulating the possession, carrying, and transportation of firearms or ammunition on public property, including parks;

Whereas the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority is a subdivision of the Commonwealth, authorized under the Park Authorities Act, and created by the member jurisdictions;

Whereas the Fairfax County Code Article 2, Section 6-2-1 specifically does not apply to the Bull Run Shooting Center at Bull Run Regional Park.

Now be it resolved that the ordinances passed by the member jurisdictions will apply to the lands of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority in those jurisdictions, including prohibitions and regulations on firearms.

Be it further resolved that individuals using boat ramps owned or managed by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority for the purpose of lawful waterfowl hunting may transport unloaded firearms stored in cases and ammunition to and from the boat ramps.

Seconded by Mr. Bonfils:

VOTE: Mr. Ferguson voted no, Mr. Price abstained, Motion **APPROVED**

REPORT of AUDIT COMMITTEE:

Mr. Baldino presented information on the meeting of the Audit Committee, including Mr. Nardolilli, Mr. Tarbert, Mr. Knapp, and Mr. Chandler. Mr. Grossnickle and Mr. Upton of Robinson Farmer Cox attended the meeting via ZOOM call with Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Weaver from the NOVA Parks Staff. This year's audit was a clean, unmodified report with no weaknesses or problems with internal controls.

PRESENTATION ON NATURAL RESOURCES BANKING: Ms. Andrea Reese, Land Planning and Grants Administrator, presented information on the proposals received as a result of NOVA Parks' Request for Proposals on this subject. This RFP resulted in two responses, and one response was from a local leader in the development of nutrient banking. After interviewing both firms, this firm stood out as a great potential partner in this field. Ms. Reese outlined the different forms of resource banking, including Wetland Mitigation, Stream Restoration and Protection, and Nutrient Credits. Development of the credits and utilization of the three types are determined by the natural resources at the locations selected and credits vary depending on the type of resources. The credits are sold to mitigate environmental impacts to forests, streams and wetlands from their projects.

Springdale Regional Park is being evaluated for the potential for stream restoration credits. WSSI would improve the stream coming through the park. They would cover all the construction costs and NOVA Parks can carve out areas of the park intended for development of recreational features such as trails and other amenities. This project could potentially produce between \$1-\$5 Million of credits, and an estimated 20% of that would come back to NOVA Parks. Fountainhead Regional Park is to be considered for a second type of resource banking through stream preservation. This involves no construction expense but protects a 100ft. buffer around the stream bed through easements. The preservation can be paired with other stream restoration projects to increase the revenue share to 50% of an estimated \$4 million. At Gilbert's Corner, areas that are not currently being used for agriculture have started to reforest. Supplemental planting will generate credits at a lower rate and income potential, but no additional effort is required.

WSSI would be responsible for the regulatory approval, construction where necessary and marketing of environmental credits. These projects have the potential to generate \$2.5-\$3.5 million over a number of years for NOVA Parks.

A motion was made by Mr. Tarbert that the Executive Director be authorized to award a contract to Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. to study NOVA Parks' properties, identify feasible sites and approaches for ecosystem banking, and undertake banking at designated sites approved by staff, in accordance with RFP 2020-005 and WSSI's proposal. Seconded by Mr. Chandler.

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

FEES and CHARGES:

Mr. Pauley presented a detailed overview of the potential adjustments to selected rates for the purpose of improving our facilities and offerings. Carefully considered increases also help us to replace older and worn equipment and supplies. Mr. Baldino moved to approve the rate increase as presented, Seconded by Mr. Bonfils.

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

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON NAMING:

Mr. Nardolilli reported that Ms. Magennis Wyatt has worked on an email summarizing the committee's work focusing on large donations that will be sent to the Board. Mr. Bonfils and the other committee members have worked on a policy that is both thoughtful and balanced but is not yet complete. More discussion and possible action will be presented at a later date.

NOMINATING PROCESS FOR 2021 BOARD OFFICERS:

Mr. Nardolilli explained that in the past Mr. Ferguson has volunteered to make phone calls to each Board member about their interest in Board Officer positions. All Executive Committee position terms are set to expire this coming year. Mr. Ferguson agreed to continue in this role and will be making these calls soon.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

a. Resolution for LWCF and VLCF Grant Applications for land acquisition–

Mr. Gilbert explained that NOVA Parks is planning to apply for LWCF and VLCF grant funding in the next grant round which is particularly well funded. It will be used potentially for land purchase. The Grant applications require a resolution from the Board of Directors as part of the application. Ms. Koch moved to adopt the Resolution in support of LWCF and VLCF funding for land acquisition, Mr. Chandler seconded the motion.

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

b. Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2020 Meeting:

Mr. Knapp moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2020 as written; seconded by Ms. Koch.

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Bonfils reported that Loudoun Water has increased their funding for Reservoir Park at Beaverdam.

Mr. Knapp reported that the City of Fairfax will be hosting Trails Day and encourages the involvement of NOVA Parks and other jurisdictions in support of the project.

Mr. Baldino reminded Board members to consider donating to NOVA Parks' charities as the year ends and to designate where you would like the funds to go. Mr. Gilbert will send out solicitation message soon.

At 9:17 p.m., motion by Ms. Koch, seconded by Mr. Baldino, to move into closed session to discuss real estate matters.

VOTE: No opposition or abstention, **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 9:52 p.m., motion by Ms. Koch, seconded by Mr. Tarbert, to move out of closed session and reconvene in open session.

VOTE: No opposition or abstention, **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.

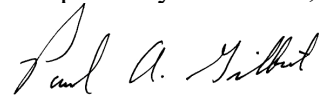
The certification was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED** by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

VOTE: UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED. The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul A. Gilbert, Secretary

Approved by the Park Authority Board
on January 21, 2021



Paul A. Gilbert, Secretary



Cate MagennisWyatt, Chairperson