

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023; 6:30 PM

Approved by the T&BC on February 28, 2023

Attendance

District	Appointee	Present (in person)	Present (virtual)	Absent
At Large	Amy Latalladi-Fulton	✓		
	Bill McCarty			✓
Brentsville	Tom Coyle			✓
	Liz Cronauer		✓	
Coles	Mike DePue	✓		
	Joe Marshall	✓		
Gainesville	Duane Martin	✓		
	VACANT			
Neabsco	Jason Williams	✓		
	Rich Wilson			✓
Potomac	Raheel Sheikh		✓	
	VACANT			
Occoquan	Eileen Sheridan	✓		
	Neil Nelson	✓		
Woodbridge	David Brickley			✓
	Lynda Silverstrand	✓		

Staff persons Patti Pakkala, Eugene Loew and Bryce Barrett were present; David McGettigan and Ed DeLeon attended virtually. Also, citizen Charlie Grymes attended in person.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Amy Latalladi-Fulton at 6:31 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- October 25, 2022, minutes were approved through a motion by Jason and seconded by Duane.
- November 15, 2022, minutes were approved through a motion by Jason and seconded by Duane.

- The 2023 T&BC Calendar was presented as the fourth Thursday of each month except December; this was decided to be moved to December 12th. The calendar was approved through a motion by Eileen and seconded by Jason. Approved dates are Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25, May 23, Jun 27, Jul 25, Aug 22, Sep 26, Oct 24, Nov 28 and Dec 12.
- Liz Cronauer was nominated for the Chair position for 2023. She was approved through a motion from Eileen and seconded by Lynda.
- Amy Latalladi-Fulton was nominated for the Vice Chair position for 2023. She was approved through a motion from Neil and seconded by Jason.
- Joe Marshall was nominated for the Secretary position for 2023. He was approved through a motion from Duane and seconded by Mike.

Citizen's Time.

- Charlie Grymes addressed the Council. He recommended that in every year an unfunded trail in each district should be funded by each supervisor in that year's CIP budget. This could go a long way (>70%) toward realizing the over 200 new unfunded trails in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Patti Pakkala, Eugene Loew

- The Silver Lake Master Plan is on hold as Parks waits for the Gainesville Supervisor position to be filled and provide inputs before proceeding.
- Patti discussed the Parks and Open Space (P&OS) designation in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. She described these markings as either already existing or a county vision/guideline and might include parks, conservation easements, wildlife corridors or open space. However, these markings will not, by themselves cause a blanket transfer of land or park/trail development, even if owned by the county. There was discussion about how parcels that come up for rezoning and are marked P&OS might be handled. It was stated there are currently no funds budgeted to purchase development rights.
- This led to discussions about how to enshrine requirements to realize trails that are on the 2040 Comprehensive Plan when properties are developed. An example is the Golf Course that closed on Route 28 and is being developed and that trails shown on the maps are not being created on this land due to earlier zonings. It was reported that talks with the county attorney leads to thinking that this cannot be forced. However, it was pointed out that this is exactly what Fairfax County has and continues to do. Mike DePue later pointed out the exact language in the Fairfax County document that provides for this.
- Questions about the budget process, especially for getting new funds into the CIP and bond funding and then tracking their application to projects, were raised. It was stated that most of this information is on the website though several members have had difficulties locating it. Seth will attend the February meeting to answer questions in these areas and members are encouraged to send their specific questions early so that he can be prepared to talk about the right questions and concerns.
- Parks personnel are working to apply Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grants to designing gap connections of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) specifically between Occoquan and Belmont Bay, Dumfries and Prince William Forest Park (PWFP), and PWFP and Locust Shade Park. These funds are managed through VDOT. An RFP for a consultant should be available in the Spring. Members were reminded this does not include actual construction funding.

PWC Department of Planning. Bryce Barrett, David McGettigan

- David McGettigan was introduced as the Long Range Planning Manager. He informed the council that Mark McCaskill had just joined the planning staff and he expects him to attend future meetings.
- There was significant discussion about the Regency at Creekside development. As part of that development the developers built a very good bridge and shared use path on both parts of their development and a piece of private property with an easement. They are now trying to get the county to take over maintenance of the shared use path on the non-HOA property. It was pointed out that all paved shared use paths in the county are maintained as a rule by VDOT and neither Parks nor Transportation had budgets for this. It was reported that the Planning Commission was deadlocked on the issue and passed it on to the BOCS for resolution, likely at the February 14th meeting. It was suggested by members that T&BC should push for the county to have some sort of maintenance capability for shared use paths especially in light of the many new trails in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan as lacking this capability greatly limits actions of the county.
- The 2040 Comprehensive Plan has been published in its final form on the county website and includes changes requested by the BOCS during their approval meeting. This included removing the Peaks Mill extension off of Purcell Road.
- Planning is now working through the trails maps to get it formed into a comprehensive interactive map for public reference.
- With the Digital Gateway approved, planning is now working through rezoning applications that are coming in. It was mentioned that at least two of the large projects are coordinating their locations which is making it easier for staff to monitor and make sure connections and capabilities promised are included, connected and correct.
- A 359-home parcel at Minnieville and Telegraph Road has been submitted for rezoning for the first time. A connecting trail has been identified by staff and requested of the developers as part of the feedback.
- An age-restricted development on 334 acres in Haymarket near the Haymarket Hospital is on its 3rd submission and includes a connection to Antioch Road. Staff is requiring the submission to have specific parks and recreation proffers, not just general guidelines.

PWC Transportation. Bryce Barrett

- Bryce reported on the Prince William Parkway / I-95 pedestrian crossing – this is being limited by right-of-way issues and will be limited to a sidewalk only; not enough room for a shared use path and not enough funding for anything different. It is currently in the design phase.
- Bryce was asked about the construction along the 234 bypass near to University Blvd. At the meeting he had no memory of this. However, after the meeting he directed members to information about the divergent diamond interchange at Balls Ford Road. He also mentioned the University Boulevard Quadrant interchange at PW Parkway and University. This latter intersection with the addition of Discovery Blvd. appears to be what is causing the construction that was originally inquired about.
- Bryce described a PowerPoint presentation on the Transportation Department organizational structure that he has used to describe the makeup of the department.
- Bryce described modifications underway to the DCSM. These would be modified to handle Ebikes, Electric Vehicles, charging and infrastructure.
- It was stated by a member that the DCSM changes provide a real opportunity to reduce greenhouse gasses. This brought discussion back to the lands that are rezoned early and not required to include trails that are part of the comprehensive plan. The Site Plan Review Phase has no opportunities for this to be addressed and the DCSM doesn't address this. Members asked if this could be put into

the DCSM. The subdivision ordinance was cited as applicable but it is limited only to subdivisions and not other pieces of property.

- Members were told that roadways including trails and shared use paths are built by PWC (usually using contractors) according to the DCSM which follows VDOT standards. PWC makes plans for safety improvements.
- Supervisors have funds to fix gaps especially for pedestrians. These TRIP funds are available to supervisors from the county budget. They are not large enough for major projects. See page 479 of the CIP for current numbers of \$250K annually though that can roll over if not spent.

Presentations/Reports

Seek Permission to Work Remotely: Bill, Eileen

- No updates from Bill on this.

2040 Mobility Chapter Final: Liz

- Liz stated that there were many good things in the final 2040 comprehensive plan including the trail tables and some new trails. She mentioned the tremendous amount of land use changes that could lead to opportunities to get other trails put in. The goal is to get more trails built by developers instead of taxpayers. It was pointed out that in the west end of the county, new land is more critical while in the east end redevelopment is more critical.
- Bryce promised to bring a large printout of the current physical map to the February T&BC meeting for T&BC use and reference.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan, Vice Chair, Neil Nelson, Secretary

- The quarterly meeting happened in January and was a hybrid ZOOM/in-person meeting. New officers were elected and the organization has a new chair.
- They are working on paperwork with Bill for their 501c3 application.
- The 2nd Sunday hike in February will be at the Bull Run Conservancy.

Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition (PWTSC). Neil Nelson

- Neil reported on the first day hike.
- The Marumsc Cleanup of the Wetlands will take place in March.

Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE). Jason Williams

- Jason described improvements at 95th Street in Locust Shade where man-made features are being enjoyed. He said most main efforts take place on weekends with ad hoc efforts on weekdays.
- James Long Park will receive some improvements on existing trails and a workday is coming up.
- He recommended members check out the MORE Facebook page for up to date information.
- They are actively promoting trails education and advocacy during this season making sure people don't bike when it's too wet.
- Their executive director resigned, and MORE is searching for a new one.

Members' Time:

- Liz:
 - Thank you to Amy for chairing this meeting and to all the members for electing her chair.
- Jason:

- Jason and Rich walked with Supervisor Angry on segment 4 of Neabsco and the new park at Cloverdale. They are planning a joint Grand Opening Ceremony at Cloverdale which will be a showcase of the park system.
- Jason and Rich will be having a cleanup at Andrew Leitch Park as part of Keep Prince William beautiful efforts.
- Jason thanked Eugene for his efforts on the Discovery Trail. He described the reopening of the Observation Loop where he usually sees bald eagles and the work on installing a culvert resulting in better drainage along a section of the main trail.
- Joe:
 - Joe described a Thanksgiving trip to Kiawah Island in South Carolina. The island is covered with shared use paths providing over 40 miles of bike-pedestrian trails and several lookout towers spread across the island.
 - Joe reported that road work has started on extending Classic Springs Drive into the 300 plus acres of the Estates at Long Branch setting the stage for the future trails connecting to Dove's Landing Park.
 - Joe mentioned some of the improvements to the Discovery Trail on the edge of the Landfill and wondered how we could move forward beyond the existing trails. Patti said the focus right now is on signage on the existing sections and nothing is in the budget for anything further at this time.
- Lynda:
 - Lynda continues to clean out the Bandalong. Due to some upstream storms in the past, she has seen some full-size trees arrive there and clog the system. These must then be pulled out.
- Mike:
 - Fairfax County has adopted requirements to include trails in their plans so there is a legal precedent for the earlier discussed desires for the DCSM.
- Duane:
 - Looking forward to the election of a Supervisor on February 21st.
 - Several of the Silver Lake Trails are overgrown and need work. Will coordinate this with Jason and his MORE contacts.
 - Asked about the private property containing trails between Conway Forest and the Battlefield Park. Patti said trails and buffers are being formalized.
- Neil:
 - Occoquan Greenway improvements being worked. Patti stated that Ed Deleon is the POC at Parks for these trails.
- Eileen:
 - No comments.
- Bill:
 - No comments
- Amy:
 - No comments.
- Rich:
 - No comments.
- Raheel:
 - No comments.

Meeting Recap:

- Members are encouraged to watch the BOCS meeting occurring this same day and night (January 24th). Parks and Rec and Transportation both gave very informative presentations.

Next meeting agenda items:

- More on Virtual Voting
- Seth will talk on the budget process.
- Bryce will provide updated status on DCSM changes.
- Agenda items for the February meeting should be forwarded to Liz, Amy or Joe by February 14th.

Next meetings:

At Hellwig: Full T&BC – February 28th at 6:30 PM.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM based on motion by Jason, second by Mike