

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors
Approved by the TBC on April 26, 2022

Meeting Minutes
 March 22, 2022; 6:30 pm

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	VACANT			
	VACANT			
Occoquan	Eileen Sheridan	✓		
	Neil Nelson	✓		
Woodbridge	David Brickley	✓		
	Lynda Silverstrand			✓

Call to Order The meeting called to order at 6:32 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizens Time.

Charlie Grymes of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition was present. He challenged the TBC to go beyond just the Mobility Chapter and Trails Plan of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan and begin looking for ways to advocate for funding to make the many trails a reality. He highlighted what he called a great opportunity in the 714 acres under consideration at Possum Point with its potential to provide significant Potomac River access for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. He reminded the

council that they should be working hand in hand with the Parks and Recreation Commission in furthering trails efforts.

Administrative Items.

Please see attached slide deck from the meeting. Thank you, Patti for assembling and providing these.

Approval of Meeting Minutes.

Minutes of the February meeting were approved through a passed motion made by Liz and seconded by Eileen.

Patti reported that TBC webpages have disappeared, and she and staff are working to restore these pages and update the pages with the latest minutes and other information. Currently there is no access to this information for the public.

County Agency Representatives' Time

PWC Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Patti Pakkala, Matt White

- The title chart of the meeting chart set shows a picture of a Dominion Valley trail location where an equestrian trail parallels the HOA paved trail.
- Matt reported on construction updates for the Occoquan Greenway trail. In section 3, bridge bidding will be accepted starting at the end of the week. Bids will be opened by the end of April. Hoos Run bridge (section 6) is early in the design process. Section 8 roadside trail into Occoquan town has been kicked off – they are coordinating with a grant application for a sidewalk though it is likely they will remain separately funded.
- Bids on the Julie Metz Wetland extension of the Neabsco Creek Park are expected to happen by July as permits should be approved before the end of June. This is a significant extension that will go from the existing boardwalk to the road crossing into Leesylvania State Park and will be 8-foot boardwalk through wetlands and also have natural trail where it has proven to withstand the local weather and flooding.
- The Rocky Branch bridge replacement of the Broad Run trail has broadened the scope of its study to include flood modeling. Original bridge avoided some of these studies and thus is not a usable base for the new bridge.
- Powell's Creek crossing is TBD still.
- Met with Public Works Staff on Landfill Trail signage and looking for volunteers to blaze the trail.
- Acquired 56 acres from Rippon Landing HOA including the boardwalk easement.
- The first meeting for Doves Landing planning will be the week of April 18th and will include public inputs. They are looking to expand potential uses of the park and possibly include camping or glamping.
- The first meeting for Silver Lake update planning will be in early May.
- The first meeting for the Thoroughfare site will follow these.
- There are lots of DPRT youth job openings for summer jobs. Full list at [County Employees & Summer Jobs | Sorted by Job Title ascending | Prince William County \(governmentjobs.com\)](#)
- There is a photo contest for pictures taken at PWC Parks underway ending March 31st. See chart 4 of the slide deck for more information.
- Charts 5-7 in the slide deck are in the attachments showing the county organization and where Parks, Planning and others feed up. Rebecca Horner is the Acting DPRT Director.

PWC Department of Planning. Bryce Barrett, Connie Dalton.

- The latest version of the Draft Mobility Section was released for public comment on March 18th. It includes 5 new appendices but no updates in other wording. Accompanying this was a future transit alternatives map and table and the trails map with a much-improved key and notation for the different types of trails in the county. They expect to take agency and public comments for around 8-10 weeks (while the travel demand models are completed) and publish updates in advance of significant future working or public meetings. A 2-hour working meeting is scheduled with the Planning Commission on April 6th and will cover Land Use, Transit and Trails Maps, and Government Center Activity Center.
- A BOCS work session is expected to happen in early May.
- Over 400 comments came from the crowd-sourced app for the trails map. This took significant staff time to address each one. All were addressed in the updated map. It was requested that future inputs be submitted through the TBC or as individual comments but not both.
- There is now a notated difference between actual, planned, and proposed trails on the map. Proposed trails are those currently no source planning – simple lines on a map. Planned trails come from small area plans, the trails master plan, rezonings and other places where they are enumerated. Eileen/Liz asked that this be documented with each planned trail on the map so the source is known and can be referenced. Joe suggested this be included as a table in the Mobility section like the roadways Appendix E where such information can be captured. It would not have to have all the detail of the roadways table, just enough to identify the trail, its status (actual, planned or proposed), and source of the status.
- There was a lot of discussion on non-county owned properties and trails and whether this is any no man's land between transportation and parks. Recreational Trails are notated when they are neither HOAs nor private. Where possible, trails have been shown in places like the National Parks or State Forests. It was requested that other public-access trails (such as Leopold's Preserve in the NW of the county and controlled by an HOA there) be shown on the map to better understand needed connections. However, it was mentioned that it is sometimes very difficult to get accurate trail data from other organizations.
- It was mentioned that negotiations for trails during rezonings can no longer require public access from the proposer – instead this is merely suggested.
- The general feeling is the Comp Plan 2040 will not get major pushback on the trails shown since eminent domain issues from previous plans have been resolved by better wording.
- Short discussion about blueways on the map – Cedar Run from Merrimac Farm to Doves Landing would be an excellent county blueway. However, a small part of it goes through Quantico Marine Base and thus could affect their operations. Thus, it is currently not shown as a blueway until this can be discussed with the Quantico staff. No other places below the Marine Base are natural access points.
- Continuing to work with consultants and stakeholders to develop a draft ADU ordinance

Transportation. George Phillips.

- Two bike / pedestrian projects (Old Carolina Road Sidewalk and Token Forest Drive Sidewalk improvements) were recently approved – see chart 10 in the slide deck for details.
- George presented charts 11-15 of the slide deck with the latest design, status, and forward plan for the Brentsville/Rt. 234 interchange.
- He was applauded by the TBC for the addition of the pedestrian bridge over Route 234.

- He stated that Ramp D (from Rt. 234 business to Rt. 234 north) would have all right of way for the shared use path purchased but not built because of fear of VDOT not maintaining it. He was asked if anyone asked VDOT this question and why?
- He was asked about heading north by bike on Route 234 from the intersection. Today this is easily possible if one rides on the wide paved shoulder. It looks like the current configuration blocks this or makes it very difficult.
- It was discussed how the shared use path north of this intersection would eventually be built, especially on the eastern side where there are several walls. It was agreed that this would probably be quite expensive.

Presentations

Adopt a Park (DPRT), Adopt a Trail (PWTSC), Adopt a Stream (PWTSC) groups. Patti Pakkala

- This came too late in the evening so only Patti presented though chart 17 on Adopt a Park was created by Janet LaFleur. Websites are coordinated through Janet.
- Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition's Mike Gulden runs the Adopt a Trail program.
- PW Soil & Water Conservation District runs the Adopt a Stream Program.
- The Keep Prince William Beautiful organization runs an event at Andrew Leitch Park.
- Jason suggested that parks use volunteers for cleanups and other tasks. Patti stated that no power tool use is currently allowed, and she is researching that possibility further.
- It was suggested that these volunteer programs be kept in the comprehensive plan as money may show up in the future.
- Currently grounds work only is funded; trails maintenance is done as needed on a best effort basis without regular funding.
- Bottom line question: can volunteers work within one of Janet's or Mike's groups to include new construction of trails?
- More specific agreements are needed with parks. There are not enough staff for new program expansion currently.

Data Center Overlay Areas. Patti Pakkala

- Patti presented summary chart 19 in the slide deck to address Data Center Overlay considerations
- She mentioned recent discussions with management with Manassas Mall Data Center – parallel trail with utility access.
- Once again, their hands are tied in what they can require – they can encourage and ask developers to consider.
- If people are unhappy, they/we must talk to Supervisors.
- Jason and Rich are talking with their Supervisor to support trails and recreation; now need talking with others.

Plan for TBC Comments on Trails Map / Comprehensive Plan Update –TBC

- Patti asked for one set of inputs from the TBC.
- Liz requested 6 medium printed maps for members – she will pick up and distribute to interested TBC members.
- The TBC will have a subcommittee meeting and mark up Patti's full-size map.
- A resolution for the subcommittee to meet to form map inputs before the next meeting was made by Jason and seconded by Amy and passed unanimously.
- The meeting will occur April 5th at 6 PM at Hellwig Park.

- All participants should bring their inputs for discussion and consolidation.
- This will happen prior to the PC working meeting on April 6th.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan.

- Next quarterly meeting will be held in April.
- The GPWTC is working on obtaining 501c3 non-profit group status.

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

- A cleanup of Neabsco Creek wetland at Metz Park occurred in March and over 200 volunteers participated.
- A cleanup on Marumsco Creek and Metz Park is planned for April 2nd.

Mid Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts (MORE). Jason Williams

- Hosting 3/26 event including group rides of various groups of people at Locust Shade Park.

Members' Time:

- Liz:
 - She investigated the money flow to parks. She went to a budget meeting and asked for the park's positions
- Joe:
 - Reported he would be out of town for a week or so in eastern Nebraska including viewing of the half million plus Sandhill Cranes that come through there in March as part of their migration. Minutes would be sent once he returns at the end of the month.
- Jason:
 - Volunteer models should include the Hoos Run section of the Occoquan Greenway volunteer work
 - Jason asked about the Rollins Ford Park and whether the Pump Track was planned. Patti responded that it was planned but not yet funded.
 - Observed there was no good donation path to the Parks Department. No foundation that allows this. Priorities for parks are set at planning meetings.
- Rich:
 - Would miss subcommittee meeting as he would be biking in Arkansas
- Neil:
 - Reported Hoos Run Bridge Work is underway.
- Eileen:
 - No comments.
- David:
 - No comments.
- Duane:
 - Showed us six photos from a short trip where he and Charlie Grymes took Supervisor Candland to the area around the trail from the battlefield under I-66. Great trail! Then walked to Mayhew Park – very challenging on what should be an existing utility corridor. County has created an 8-foot-wide gully with its development over there. To get around it you must walk through a boggy area – there are some boards over the creeks. The

abutment is like the one at US 15 at Long Park. He is working to get Supervisor Candland as an advocate for fixing this trail along Bull Run.

Next Meeting Agenda:

- Subcommittee Inputs to Trails Map
- Volunteer Programs

Next Meeting:

- 6 PM at Hellwig: Subcommittee covering Mobility Section Trails Map comments – April 5th
- 6:30 PM at Hellwig: Full TBC – April 26th.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:52 PM