

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
 February 28, 2023; 6:30 PM
Approved by the T&BC on March 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	✓		

DPRT Director Seth Hendler-Voss and staff persons Patti Pakkala, Eugene Loew, Bryce Barrett, Matt White, and George Phillips were present; staff persons Mark McCaskill and Ed Deleon, and Michele Burton attended virtually. Also, citizens Charlie Grymes and Johnna Ebel attended in person.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Liz Cronauer at 6:31 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- January 24, 2023 minutes were approved through a motion by Eileen and seconded by Lynda.

- There was no action on virtual voting as the T&BC continues to wait for feedback from the county attorney.

Citizen's Time.

- Charlie Grymes addressed the Council. He recommends members meet with their Supervisors and ask for funding to create action plans to realize all planned trails in the 2040 Comprehensive Plan. He promised that his group's (GWPTC) Trails Map 3.0 will provide visuals about which segments need what and when so that specifics can be provided to the Supervisors.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (part 1). Seth Hendler-Voss

- Seth first addressed the group to address several questions provided prior to the meeting.
- Seth said the 6-year CIP budget has already been presented and Transportation gets the majority of the funding. From a parks view, the CIP is made up of all 2019 bond funding. Not all 2019 bonds have yet been issued but the plan is to do that over the next few years. There is no new funding for Parks in the CIP.
- When the bond projects were negotiated there was no western county trail funding included. FY24 funding (\$24M for DPRT out of \$41M) will cover Occoquan Greenway improvements, the Powell's Creek crossing, Hellwig Park, Catharpin Splash Pad, Howisen Park and the Neabsco District Park improvements. All bond projects have new DPRT staff positions associated with them – up to 6 new positions over the next 5 years.
- Seth told the T&BC that the County Executive would be presenting the Operating Budget that evening. Because DPRT has had trouble filling open positions, three positions are being eliminated even though they are needed including trail maintenance positions and grants writing.
- Non-VDOT maintenance of shared use paths will create a different type of service for DPRT and is currently not in plan; thus non-VDOT shared use paths will not be created. No new recreational trails will be built without DPRT maintenance plans and budget.
- Priorities are trails, parks, open space and resources to maintain parks.
- Budget / CIP calendar: March 4th – Community Meeting, March 7, 14 and 21 – Budget Work Sessions, March 18 – final markup and last chance for any change inputs. Members need to advocate while inputs are still being accepted. Budget will finalize in April by the 25th with BOCS. He recommends coordination with historic preservation which is part of DPRT to use trails to provide accessibility to historic properties. He needs more people to show up at BOCS meetings and advocate for parks, recreation, and trails.
- The BOCS needs to find revenue to add trails to the CIP.
- Recently announced DCR Grants are worthy targets for maintenance funding, and he needs grant writers from DPRT partners to ensure maintenance projects are won.
- Seth invited all members to the State of the Parks Presentation at the Kelly Leadership Center on March 2nd at 7 PM.

PWC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (part 2). Patti Pakkala, Ed Deleon, Matt White, Eugene Loew

- Patti reported that all park staff would be present at the State of the Parks Presentation.
- A new Deputy Director for DPRT, Janet Bartnik, would be starting in April and will provide oversight and support to the planning and capital projects team. Kofi Asiedu was also hired to fill Amarjit's previous post as Manager of Capital Projects.

- Ed reported on Occoquan Greenway segment two: they were moving 750 feet of trail off of private property. There will be a 50-foot long, 6-foot wide fiberglass bridge installed. Design is currently with the consultant.
- Ed reported on Segment 6 of the Occoquan Greenway: 2 miles of trail are having a recording of a trails easement and working on a bridge over Hooes Run. Currently this is in design with a review planned in April.
- Ed reported on the new Powell's Creek Crossing from Powell's Landing to Potomac Shores. An RFP has been released (due March 7th) to hire a firm to design the crossing with a lot of flexibility in order to create a world-class trail segment.

PWC Department of Planning. Patti Pakkala, David McGettigan

- Patti reported on three new developments – see accompanying charts. Sweetspire is 7.1 acres currently PMD (Planned Mixed Development), A1 (Agricultural) and O(M) (Office Mid-Rise) to PMR (Planned Mixed Residential) with 186 multifamily units in three buildings. They were asked by DPRT to identify what is in their pocket parks and DPRT asked for a perimeter path.
- DC4-PRA at Innovation amends proffers associated with PLN2002-00343 to allow for an increase in gross floor area for data center uses. This concerns a trail along the creek at Cannon Branch.
- There are three Digital Gateway applications that are working together – north, south and Compass which will use the same traffic studies. North is 534 acres and south is 342 acres and together they have a natural surface trail that generally follows the perimeter of most landbays and crosses under Pageland Lane. Pageland will become a 4-lane road with a roundabout in several locations and a shared use path on both sides. Thornton school is a historic site which the County is hoping to preserve. There are several cemeteries to preserve. There is a beautiful white pine forest needing to be preserved. Not much is defined for the data centers. Some of their wildlife corridors are narrower than what is in the original plan. More exhibits are available for those accessing the apps in the DAP.
- David reported that Mark McCaskill will give the T&BC updates at future meetings.
- There are four transportation grants/studies (TLC) that can be up to \$80K each – Route 28/Yorkshire, Green Infrastructure, Sudley Road multi-modal improvements.

PWC Transportation. George Phillips, Bryce Barrett

- Bike to Work day this year will be on May 19th with 9 pit stops within the county. These include Tackett's Mill, 4 VRE stations, GMU, Dumfries, Chinn Center and Kelly Leadership Center. BOCS will make a proclamation on May 9th and present to a representative of the activity – anyone interested in this should talk to George. There will be a pilot poster contest.
- A transportation priority is to meet with the Supervisors in working meetings.
- The Design and Construction Standards Manual updates are underway and they are looking to hire a consultant to help and do it right. They are planning to expand bike facilities and charging stations.
- The T&BC brought up addressing by-right developments to get trails built during developments which is so far being put off by county officials. The T&BC will create a resolution for the next meeting based on Fairfax County use of this in their standards manuals.
- Bryce delivered a large printout of the current physical map for T&BC use and reference. Patti will store it between meetings.

Presentations/Reports. None.

Organization Representatives' Time

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

- The April quarterly meeting is being planned.

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

- The 2nd Sunday hike in March will be at the Discovery Trail in the Landfill.
- The Marumsc Cleanup of the Wetlands will take place on March 18th.

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

- MORE takes part in partnership with various outdoor groups.
- There will be a cleanup of the northwest corner of Andrew Leitch Park on March 11th from 9 AM to 12 PM.

Members' Time:

- Liz:
 - Liz talked with Seth about completing all parts of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail by 2031 in time for the 250 Year Revolutionary War celebrations.
 - There is a section of Featherstone trail that needs more funding to complete not to lose the substantial grant money that was already awarded.
 - Recommended T&BC form a subcommittee to support DPRT.
 - She wants to partner with the Parks Commission and included that on the agenda next time.
 - The Bode resolution that was approved earlier to reopen the trails plan provides the T&BC an opportunity to push for trails left out of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.
 - Recommended everyone go to the Parks meeting or watch the state of the parks video
- Jason:
 - Jason and Rich talked about a joint Grand Opening Ceremony at Cloverdale which will be a showcase of the park system and show the new park and bridge.
- Joe:
 - Joe and Neil did a hike from Splashdown Waterpark to the I-66 overpass along Bull Run. A culvert and two wood bridges worked around the two creeks near I-66 and Mayhew Park. However, they had to deal with several mud crossings on the trails along Bull Run. Bluebells were already starting to bloom – very early.
 - Joe mentioned the Friends of the Occoquan (FOTO) Spring 2023 River Cleanup on Saturday April 15th from 9 AM to 12 PM
 - Joe just received notification of the new African American History Trail in Prince William County which consists of 20 specific sites. He was surprised that this “trail” did not attempt to connect the sites. He suggested it would be a worthwhile exercise for DPRT or the T&BC to try to make sure our planned trail network goes to or will go to all 20 sites.
- Lynda:
 - Lynda continues to clean out the Bandalong. She and Neil have been asked to take part in some photo opportunities for Public Works.
- Mike:
 - No comments.
- Duane:
 - The new Supervisor is expected to be trail-friendly.
 - There is a gas line that needs to reroute – will look into getting a trail as part of this.
 - Mentioned a video of Lake Ridge showcasing the Occoquan Greenway
- Neil:

- BOCS voting this evening on three fast start initiatives –
 - carbon neutral fleet
 - incorporating aspirational trails map
 - reforestation projects
 -
- Eileen:
 - She will work on the By-Rights Resolution
- Amy:
 - No comments.
- Bill:
 - Not in attendance.
- David:
 - Not in attendance.
- Rich:
 - Not in attendance.
- Raheel:
 - Not in attendance.

Meeting Recap:

- None

Next meeting agenda items:

- Resolution on By-Rights Development in the DCSM
- Subcommittee formed to support the DPRT efforts
- Agenda items for the March meeting should be forwarded to Liz, Amy or Joe by March 14th.

Next meetings:

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

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM based on motion by Jason, second by Eileen