

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
 October 25, 2022; 6:30 pm
Approved by the T&BC on January 24, 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 and George Phillips were present. Also, citizens Charlie Grymes and Martin Fernandez attended in person. Citizens Luke Bertrand, Jeremy Brown and Michael Ulman (sp?) attended virtually.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Liz Cronauer at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- Motion to approve the September 27 minutes made by Rich and seconded by Jason. Passed.
- Motion to approve the October 13 minutes made by Eileen and seconded by Jason. Passed.

Citizen's Time.

- Charlie Grymes addressed the Council. He reminded the council that there are three phases to trail success: plan, fund, and build. He said that he discerned that the current budgets do not meet all the Park needs; specifically, a Trails Manager Position and a Volunteer Manager position. He asked T&BC members to talk to their supervisors and ask for adds to the budget to cover these needs.
- Luke Beltrand is a local business owner and supports recreation improvements.
- Invited speaker and Mid Atlantic Off-road Enthusiasts (MORE) trail boss for Locust Shade Park, Martin Fernandez, gave a presentation on who and what is MORE. He showed a video highlighting some of their completed projects across the DMV region. MORE, founded in 1992, has been in PWC since 2001. He showed a collection of trail-building books that contain guidelines for their work. They support multi-user natural surface trails through lots of partnerships with various land managers headed by 62 land managers. Their trail efforts are focused, responsible, appropriate, and sustainable. He is the Land Manager for Locust Shade Park. MORE's pillars include Ride More, Build More, Serve More, Mentor More and Live More. He showed 4 rules that guide them as they have adopted the International Mountain Biking Guidelines. They support 829 miles of trails in 62 parks. Last year they contributed 16,000+ volunteer hours and \$206,000 in direct investment. They had 527 group rides.
- Martin also talked about a real lack of acceptance or support for their efforts in Prince William Forest Park, so they focus elsewhere. It was suggested they keep trying.
- One other citizen was present for Martin's talk though I did not get his name.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism. Patti Pakkala

- Other staff had other commitments so could not attend the meeting.
- The Doves Landing Master Plan was approved by the BOCS on October 11th with several bits of guidance for its implementation. DPRT is now working through how to follow that guidance.
- Questions were asked about when the new land will be turned over to DPRT. The developer is now working on placing the conservation easement on the land and then will turn it over to DPRT. Work or improvements on the west side of Doves Landing can still begin with the \$2.4M of existing funding.
- The Silver Lake Master Plan is progressing slowly. They hope to have the first citizens meeting before the end of the year.
- Staff did an initial walk of the potential areas for the Powell's Creek crossing. This is a bond-funded project underway and moving forward.
- Patti will be presenting about Parks and Recreation to the Leadership Prince William group on November 17th. They plan to visit the Bandalong in Neabsco and the Landfill Eco Trail. She requested that one or two T&BC members familiar with the litter trap assist with the Boardwalk walk.

PWC Department of Planning. Patti Pakkala

- The Digital Gateway will be voted on by the BOCS on November 1st.
- Patti showed the DAPS system. This allows one to track rezonings from initial submission to approval/denials. All information is captured in the system. DAPS is available at <https://eservice.pwcgov.org/planning/documents/DAPS/DAPS.pdf> .

- The Quartz Case was approved on October 18th by the BOCS. Proffer description in the rezoning may be accessed through the PWCGOV page and the specific meeting and meeting items.

PWC Transportation. George Phillips

- No specific updates provided
- Continued work on the 2040 Mobility chapter and the map is ongoing based on latest inputs. The Planning Commission will discuss the Mobility Chapter of the 2040 Plan at their meeting on November 9th. It is hoped that this will go to the BOCS on December 13th.
- George was asked if there are any mechanisms for tracking transportation projects, specifically during their concept and design phases when we can have the most influence. He stated that projects go on the Transportation website as soon as they are funded. He will look into this and send all members a link of the best place to track grant applications and funding which are usually at the beginning of a project. We are interested in road, bike and pedestrian sections.

Presentations/Reports

Seek Permission to Work Remotely: Eileen

- There was a law change and the Historical Commission has been pushing to allow virtual member attendance counting toward quorums and allowed to vote. We would like to obtain the same thing. We are non-essential so it may not apply. Mike will look at the Historical Commission history on this. Bill will mention this at his next meeting with the county attorney to see how this may be accomplished.

2040 Mobility Chapter Trail – August 2022 Update: Liz

- Liz presented a resolution that includes 12 separate items that need to be changed/fixed in the current draft of the 2040 Comp Plan Mobility Chapter. This included reasons why these would help the county meet its stated objectives. It was discussed at length with some small updates highlighted that were all included an amendment accepted by Liz. The resolution to publish the amended resolution was made by Bill and seconded by Lynda. It passed unanimously among all members present. Resolution 22-5 is attached to these minutes.

Organization Representatives' Time

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

- The October 20th Trail Summit with NVRC at their Headquarters in Annandale, VA was attended by 18 from Prince William County including six members of the T&BC. Lots of connections between groups were formed.
- The second Sunday hike will be on November 13th at the newer sections of the existing Dove's Landing Park in Manassas.

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

- There is a canoe trip from Leesylvania State Park on October 30th at 11 AM. The group will canoe to Possum Point, hike to the civil war embattlements, and then return to back to Leesylvania by water.
- There is also a 2-hour hike that day on the Occoquan Greenway sections 4 and 5.
- The Bandalong is working well. November 17th is the first anniversary of this device's installation.
- The Neabsco Cleanup will be on November 5th.

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

- No Report

Members' Time:

- Bill:
 - He asked that we find a way to bring more rezonings before the T&BC like Jason did with the Quartz project. This led to how to become part of the process. It was suggested we monitor DAPS and then contact projects of interest. Staff comments are also captured in DAPS and are readable by the public.
- Mike:
 - Thanked Liz for work on Mobility Section resolution.
- Joe:
 - Promised to show pictures from hikes in Maine at a future time.
 - Mentioned his loop hike around Occoquan Bay NWR and Belmont Bay and the new facilities at the NWR.
 - Described his hike with Park and Landfill staff on the Landfill Eco Trail and how it had not been maintained this year so it was hard to follow in places. Patti asked for someone to do the blazing of the path according to appropriate standards – Jason volunteered.
- Jason:
 - No comments.
- Lynda:
 - No comments.
- Duane:
 - No comments.
- Eileen:
 - No comments.
- Liz:
 - No comments.
- Neil:
 - No comments.
- Amy:
 - No comments.
- Rich:
 - No comments.
- Raheel:
 - No comments.

Meeting Recap:

- New Resolution Passed and will be sent to the BOCS and PC.

Next meeting agenda items:

- Agenda items should be forwarded to Liz by November 2nd

Next meetings:

At Hellwig: Full T&BC – November 15th at 6:30 PM.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM based on motion by Liz, second by Lynda

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: Bill McCarty

October 25, 2022

SECOND: Lynda Silverstrand

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 22-5

**RE: RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL TRAILS AND CHANGES TO
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2022 EDITION OF THE DRAFT PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY PATHWAY TO 2040 MOBILITY CHAPTER OF THE COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the 2040 Mobility Chapter has stated that:

” Specific objectives include adapting to changing mobility trends, improving multimodal options, increasing the use of public transit, and increasing travel time reliability while concurrently striving to decrease the use of vehicle fuels that contribute to climate change.” And

WHEREAS, climate change is nationally and globally recognized as an existential threat to humanity that is caused by greenhouses gases produced from burning fossil fuels, and

WHEREAS, enabling more people to safely walk or use bicycles and e-bikes to access activity centers, schools, parks, public transit nodes, employment centers, and other desirable destinations meets the objectives stated above, and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that a well-planned bike and pedestrian system attracts people and employers that are looking for places to relocate/expand company headquarters, and

WHEREAS, a well-planned system includes both on-road and vehicle-separated options in order to have the greatest number of users that will feel comfortable and safe using the system, and

WHEREAS, the Trails and Blueways Council recommended 57 changes to the map and 12 changes to the Action Strategies section of the February and June versions of the Mobility Chapter that would enhance the integrity, connectivity, and transportation usefulness of a future trail system in Prince William County and only a handful of these recommendations were adopted in the August / September update to the Plan, while some existing trails were actually removed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Trails and Blueways Council recommends these updates to ensure that the County is moving forward with a robust and useful Mobility Plan:

October 25, 2022
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 22-5

1. Remove the word “residential” from RT11.4 so that all rezoning applications will be encouraged to connect trails to the surrounding network.
2. Change the title of the Trail Map from “Recreational Trail Plan” to “Countywide Trail Plan” to acknowledge that the purpose of the trails is for transportation as well as for recreation.
3. Plan for on-road bicycle facilities such as widened shoulders as well as Shared Use Paths, in order to accommodate the widest range of non-motorized use, including future types of bicycles that will expand the distance and speed of that type of travel.
4. Groveton Rd. – needs to have a shared use path as it is the only connection across Route 66 between Bull Run and Haymarket. Planned bypass around the battlefield needs to have Shared Use Path.
5. The County needs time to work with the Manassas National Battlefield Park personnel to see if they will allow cyclists to eventually use the old Route 234 and Route 29 roadbeds after they are closed to through traffic. Meanwhile, Groveton Rd. and Featherbed La. need to remain in the bike plan.
6. Because Fairfax County has a robust and useful bicycle and trail system, bridges across Bull Run and the Occoquan River that facilitate Fairfax County connections vastly increase the usefulness of PWC trails. They should be prioritized and shown on the plan. From north to south:
 - A. Mayhew Park – connect to Bull Run Park and multi-million I-66 trail to Washington DC and more.
 - B. Ben Lomond Park – connect to Bull Run Park
 - C. Route 28 – connect to retail and employment centers in Fairfax County
 - D. Blooms Park – connect to Bull Run Regional Park / Hemlock Overlook Regional Park
7. Neighborhood connections to and across the planned Route 28 Bypass
 - A. Sudley Manor Dr.
 - B. Lomond Dr.
8. The following trails need to be planned as shared use paths in addition to paved shoulders because of the importance of their connections to desirable destinations coupled with the ages and experience of potential users (families and children):
 - A. Bristow Rd. (route 619) from Route 28 to Valley View Dr. and Valley View Dr. from Bristow Rd. to Valley View Park– Connection from Linton Hall residential areas to Valley View Park and Bristow Historic Battlefield Park.
 - B. Kettle Run Rd. from Fitzwater Dr. to Vint Hill Rd. – trail connection from Nokesville Village to T. Clay Wood Elementary School and Patriot High School as well as to Vint Hill Rd. and Sudley Manor Dr. shared use paths. Much of the right-of-way can be acquired during rezonings along Kettle Run Rd.
9. Additional bicycle accommodations providing connections to the Manassas Park VRE station:
 - A. Lake Dr. from Orchard Ridge Park to Manassas Park
 - B. Euclid Ave from City of Manassas to Manassas Park
10. Trails connecting Manassas Park at Manassas Drive to Signal Hill Road and across Bull Run to Hemlock Overlook Regional Park.
11. Crooked Creek watershed: planning a linear park/trail system would help protect the water quality of Crooked Creek from development and provide future residents with a valuable recreational amenity.

October 25, 2022
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 22-5

12. Somerset Crossing Dr. – From Route 15 to Old Carolina Rd. This section was removed from the February 2022 version of the map creating a disconnect in an existing system.

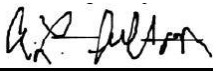
Votes:

Ayes: 11

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote (virtual only): 1

Absent from Meeting: 2

SIGNED:  _____
Chair, Prince William Trails and Blueways Council