

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2025; 6:30 PM

Attendance

District	Appointee	Present (in person)	Present (virtual)	Absent
At Large	Amy Latalladi-Fulton			✓
	Bill McCarty			✓
Brentsville	Liz Cronauer (CHR)	✓		
	Vacant			
Coles	Mike DePue	✓		
	Joe Marshall	✓		
Gainesville	Duane Martin	✓		
	Ken Johnson	✓		
Neabsco	Jason Williams	✓		
	Rich Wilson	✓		
Occoquan	Eileen Sheridan	✓		
	Neil Nelson (SEC)	✓		
Potomac	Steven Cover			✓
	Kimberly Palacios	✓		
Woodbridge	David Brickley	✓		
	Lynda Silverstrand	✓		

Staff persons present: David Kroeger, Robert Boyd; Patti Pakkala attended virtually.

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- Minutes of the Jun 24 TBC meeting were approved (motion: Duane; 2nd Eileen)
- Letter of support for PWC DOT grant application (SS4A) was approved.

Citizen's Time. Russell Bryant attended the PHNST subcommittee meeting on July 17 in which the report on the gap study was reviewed. He is encouraged by the recommendations but noted that they may need endorsement to be accepted by the BOCS.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). David Kroeger

- PHNST Gap Study. The TBC approved Resolution 25-13, TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PHNST ROUTE THROUGH GAP AREA 1, which recommends the County adopt and actively pursue Alternative 1.2 for the PHNST route through Gap 1. In the gap study report, the consultant identified Alternative 1.1 as the recommended alignment. Alternative 1.1 shows the trail crossing I-95 at the planned Rt 123 & I-95 interchange, which was deemed the most feasible route in the near term. The TBC wanted to ensure the more scenic and safer route along the water, going under the I-95 bridge, was documented as the long-term plan (Alternative 1.2).
- General Updates. David Kroeger said there will be a kick-off meeting in August with Inform Studios for the next contract phase, for the Powells Creek crossing (for Option C2, the selected option). This contract phase will lead to 35% design. David Brickley wants to know if it will be the design and construction contract, as previously discussed.

PWC Transportation. Bryce Barrett

- Rob reported that Bryce had sent an email with a summary of the Brentsville pedestrian bridge counter results for May-July.

PWC Planning, Yolanda Hipski - None

Community Development Applications, Robert Boyd

- Destination Place. Rob reported that the developer has not yet resubmitted the application, but he is expecting it soon.

Business Items: 2025.

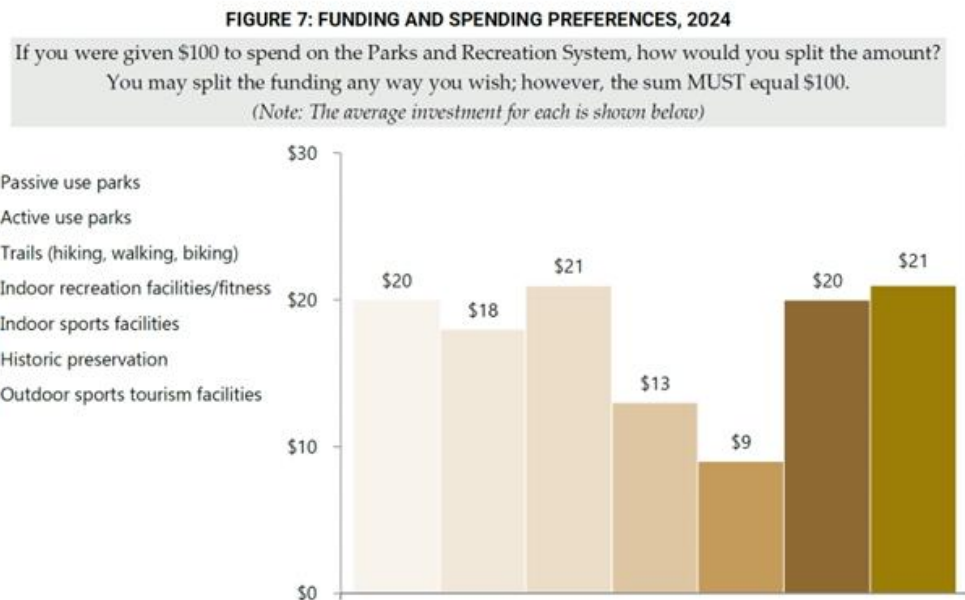
- Resolution Adopting Remote Participation Policy Updates. The TBC adopted the update policy, Resolution 25-14 (motion Lynda; 2nd Duane)
- Trail Project Prioritization. Joe suggested assigning a quality score based on a project's contribution to the network, the connection it provides, and how well it closes gaps. Liz suggested assigning a destination value, for reaching public facilities and regional trails. Rob said consider the marketability of projects – reasons why they are good and should be priorities. The TBC packet included a memo from Janet Bartnik listing six suggestions for criteria that could be used to weigh projects.
- Onboarding Package Update. Most of the items for new TBC members are currently available on various County web pages, including some already on the TBC page. Rob will consolidate a list of links to other items.

Presentations/Reports.

2024 Needs Assessment Survey, Rob Boyd

The survey results were included in the TBC packet. Rob highlighted a few items:

- Around 50% of respondents reported using Prince William County parks or facilities at least once per month., and over 1 in 5 indicated they visited at least once per week.
- Walking, hiking, and biking trails remain the MOST IMPORTANT facility to provide. Respondents indicate that several of these amenities are meeting respondents' needs at least at a 50% level.
- 81% of respondents stated that fixing existing parks and facilities was "very important" to "essential," versus 56% who selected expanding existing parks and facilities and 52% who stated building new parks and facilities were "very important" to "essential."
- Rob displayed the chart below indicating how survey respondents would allocate funding. Ken asked how it compares to actual expenditures.



Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan

- Submitted letter of support for Safe Streets for All grant application. Will participate in another Walk & Talk event, Sep 13 - Oct 13; focus will be on suicide prevention. Signs will be placed in five parks, by Park Ranger Maya Hankins. The early summer campaign generated 800 clicks on the Prevention Coalition web site.

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

- The July 13 hike at the Bull Run Mountain Natural Area Preserve was led by a VOF guide with a preview of trail not yet open to the public, which will take visitors to a section of the Preserve with historic resources. Viewed stone foundations of cabins & outbuildings occupied in the post-emancipation era to the 1960's, where the occupants quarried stone.
- 2nd Sunday hike August 9, Broad Run Trail from Hunting Cove trail head to Sudley Manor.

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

- There were fifteen volunteers for the MORE trail workday at Locust Shade. Three tasks were completed, including seven miles lopped and cleared, and drainage improvements.

Members' Time:

Kimberly – feels we are neglecting blueways and should focus more on how to get more water access. [Mind the Environment](#) group is established in Triangle, doing community gardens and composting, teaching in schools, and has a community garden by Locust Shade Park.

Mike – agrees with Kimberly on blueways & public launch points. PWC has not preserved public waterfront as Fairfax County has.

Liz – suggested we revisit previous work done by Mike and David Kroeger on identifying blueways and assess future launch sites. Mike said we need to identify spots and get grants. Patti said DPR would welcome input on ranking potential sites, and where we can acquire or lease access. Also identify what is necessary at a boat launch, and general parameters such as parking and how far it is to the water.

Joe – Oct 4, 5th Annual [Tour de VRE bike](#) ride. Take the train from Broad Run station to Backlick station then ride back. Showed pictures of his trip to Voyager National Park which he toured by car and houseboat. Joe will be out in August.

Duane – Sep 6, [8th Annual Warrior Ride](#), bike ride from Farm Brewery in Gainesville. Includes metric century and shorter rides. Sponsored by Serve our Willing Warriors organization. On visits to national parks & forests, he has noticed heavy rains have damaged trails. The rainfall exposes bad design. Asked about trail re-route at Doves Landing; Jason stated John Simkins will flag the new route in the fall.

Jason – DPR trail crew members and volunteers did trail work in Lake Ridge on the Occoquan Greenway Trail on July 15. John Simkins brought the new DPR mini skid steer.

Neil – asked about community garden use at the DPR parcel near Veterans Park

Meeting Recap: Liz – submit any agenda items by Aug 14. The bus tour with the Parks Commission is on Sep 13.

Next meetings:

- TBC meeting on Aug 26, 6:30 pm

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM