

City of Fairfax  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)  
Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2017  
City Hall, Council Work Session Room

**PRAB Members Present**

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Chair  
Jane Albro  
Mike Anderson  
Brian Cipriano  
Pat Gallagher  
Kirk Holley  
Evie Ifantides  
Janet Jaworski  
Brian Knapp, Vice-Chair  
Joe Lawler  
Eric Mittnight  
Sarah Ross  
Robert Reinsel

Staff: Cathy Salgado

**PRAB Members Absent**

Elisabeth Breslin

**1. Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert*

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**5. New Business**

**This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting.**

a) NOVA Parks Strategic Master Plan and Gateway Discussion

Mr. Knapp provided an overview of the NOVA Parks presentation given at the October 3, 2017 Mayor and Council work session. PRAB members were provided the power point presentation and the NOVA Parks Strategic Master Plan. Mr. Knapp reviewed the power point.

- He noted the completion of the Pickett Road Underpass trail connection as well as the final cost for the project \$509,000.

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- Gateway Park is the only NOVA Parks asset in the City. City and NOVA Parks staff are working together to make improvements to the park. A number of dead ash trees will be removed (infected with Emerald Bore Ash Disease). The pavilion and picnic area will be improved. Flooding problems, which have worsen, will be addressed. After improvements the City Parks and Recreation Department will manage the picnic shelter.
- Cameron Run Park situation with the City of Alexandria was reviewed. The parks operation has three years remaining on the 40-year lease. NOVA Parks has asked for a lease extension however the City of Alexandria would like to use it for other purposes such as athletic fields, ice skating rink and an indoor sports facility. Alexandria is financially strapped and would not have funds to do anything with the site for 10-15 years. The City uses the park often as it is the closest water park in the area.
- Beaver Dam project is underway. Loudoun Water asked NOVA Parks to develop and operate the property after the City it to the water authority. The property is being developed into a more passive type parks with trails, hiking, crew facilities and canoeing.
- Occoquan Park Jean Packer Center (named after the first woman chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors) is nearing completion. It is a multi-purpose facility that will be available for rentals and programming.

Mr. Knapp also provided a review of NOVA Park's 5-year Strategic Plan. He helps and guides both minor and major decisions of the board and staff. It is also used to evaluate the performance of and progress that the executive director and staff are making. IT is updated once a year much like the City's Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

*Agenda for October 12, 2017 meeting*

## **3. Adoption of Minutes**

*Minutes from September 14, 2017*

**Motion:** Robert Reinsel

**Second:** Sarah Ross

*Approved unanimously*

## **4. Presentations**

None

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**6. Old Business**

**a) Community Center Site Planning Update**

Ms. Salgado reported that the master plan process with the county has started. The first round of preliminary concepts were presented. However, City staff was not impressed with the initial work and asked that Lemay Erickson go back to the drawing board. One of the concepts will move forward, another needs major work and a third was dismissed. Both City and County staff have given the consultant direction to provide a concept which shows an attached Willard/Sherwood Center, as detailed in the City/County agreement. Ms. Salgado noted that she is following up with the County to make sure the consultant understands the directions and parameters set forth in the joint agreement. Mr. Reinsel asked if the consultant was provided the direction and Ms. Salgado said yes. It may be that they need additional information from the City. Ms. Salgado is contacting the County for a follow-up meetings. Chair Rodgers-Rickert suggested that an individual meeting between the City and consultant may not be way to go. Ms. Salgado will consult with the County staff lead to discuss the next step.

**b) Van Dyck Master Plan Update**

Ms. Salgado reported that the draft master plan is being presented to the Mayor and Council at the October 24<sup>th</sup> work session and all are invited. The concept map included several of the comments from the September PRAB meeting. Comments will still be taken at least thru the next public meeting tentatively scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Sherwood. Mr. Knapp asked if Ms. Salgado had reached out to Father Whitestone. Ms. Salgado has and is awaiting a meeting date. Mr. Reinsel asked if portions of the park can be done at a lower cost since the funding may not come until 2023. Mr. Holley recommended bonding and completing the full slate of improvements at one and to not drag it out in pieces. He also agreed that the consultant should and has provided a phasing option in case we cannot get the required funding all at once. Mr. Holley is not confident that the City would move forward with it all. The bond will give us a chance to leverage all park improvements and would provide the impetus for park development and improvements. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked what the earliest would be for a bond. Ms. Salgado responded that 2020 would be the first opportunity. Chair Rodgers-Rickert disagrees with how the park was designed into three separate plates (areas). It shows that it is possible to phase. Chair Rodgers-Rickert would be surprised if it is not phased and that she cannot imagine the park being closed for nine months. Mr. Holley stated that it is possible and reasonable for phased building. Mr. Cipriano recommends that if phased the upper level be done first.

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**c) Dog Park**

Ms. Salgado reported that Council approved moving ahead with the design of a dog park at the Westmore School site. She has met with the Westmore Civic Association and they are supportive of moving forward as well. We hope to start the design in mid-October and provide for PRAB and council review in early winter 2018. We will need to move forward with fundraising efforts as the budget is limited. Chair Rodgers-Rickert has reserved Fairfax Dogs as a Facebook page and will get it going. Mr. Cipriano asked if the strategic plans calls for more than one dog park. Chair Rodgers-Rickert noted they had considered the abandoned cemetery site but that it was best to focus on getting the one first. Mr. Anderson asked about dog park rules and how enforced. Mr. Cipriano noted that it is important to clearly state the rules and that people self-enforce. He also noted that Ms. Salgado had already put together rules for the park.

**d) George Snyder Trail Update**

Ms. Salgado reported that we have still not heard from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority regarding the funding requests – no decisions for any jurisdictions have been made because the concessionaire payment has not been finalized and executed by the state. Mr. Cipriano asked if it was possible to consider a bridge at Gateway to connect to the Willcoxon Trail. Mr. Holley and Ms. Salgado noted that it's a wide park of the stream and that it would be expensive but a discussion with NOVA Parks might be warranted.

**e) Judicial Drive Trail Update**

Ms. Salgado reported that the trail concept has been completed and the application is being prepared for Transportation Alternative Programming funding in November. A public hearing will be held on October 24<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Upcoming Events**

Fall Festival – October 14<sup>th</sup>  
Holiday Craft Show – November 18 and 19  
Holiday Market at Old Town Square – 3 weekends in December

**8. Stakeholder Updates**

- **School Board – Robert Reinsel**

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Reported that Daniels Run ES and Lanier MS were both named Virginia Naturally Schools, a program of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Both schools have great environmental education programs. Daniels Run has been operating a compost program and have taken used pumpkins, composted them and then re-harvested the new plants that have grown. Lanier MS has solved a drainage issue using a vernal pool and have installed a wind turbine pilot program. The wind turbine operates a solar panel which powers a light. The turbine monitors how much electricity is produced and can charge a cell phone. Chair Rodgers-Rickert inquired if they had considered a “wind tree” a wind turbine made to look like a tree. Mr. Reinsel replied that they had not.

- **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**

Reported that there was a Planning Commission meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> which included a work session on the Davies property. The initial submission had plans for 300+ apartments which did not receive favorable reviews by the community. The new version was reworked and proposed 45 townhomes. However, there is no green space and no parking for visitors. The developer Paradigm and the property owners are going back to the drawing board. Ms. Jaworski thinks that townhomes will work with modifications. Ms. Rickert-Rodgers asked if two-over-two’s had been suggested. Ms. Jaworski replied that it was suggested to the developer in previous discussions. Ms. Jaworski also noted that the PVI project was presented to a joint Council/Planning Commission work session on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. The developer IDI plans included 550 housing units with 10,000 sq. ft. of retail and 24,000 sq. ft. of repurposed community space (the original school building). The general consensus is that 550 units is too many. They are going back to the drawing board and will resubmit. The details on the repurposed community space was lacking details. Ms. Jaworski estimates it will be 5-6 weeks before resubmittal. She encourages all to attend the work sessions. Ms. Jaworski provided an update on the Circle project. Combined Properties need to get an equity partner in order to secure a loan. Now that Giant has signed on it should help move the process with perhaps an after the new-year start. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked what was going in at the old Golfdom site. Ms. Jaworski believes it will be an Earth Fair, an organic grocery store.

- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Ms. Albro reported that they are planning for the Crafty Flea Market on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am – 2pm at the Sherwood Center. Tables are \$35 if you are interested. Donations are being accepted, no clothing.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

Mr. Holley reported that the Request for Proposal for the downtown streetscape plan is open. The RFP covers the historic downtown and some of the transition area.

- **Commission on the Arts – Pat Gallagher**

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Ms. Gallagher reported that the Old Town Performance Series begins this Friday. The public art committee of the COA has put together a list of all public art in the City, with some detail information as well. Ms. Gallagher noted the passing of Armistice Turtora this week and all she has done for parks and arts in the City. She will be missed.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**  
None

**9. Matters of the Members**

Ms. Ross reported that family friends on a visit to the City commented how wonderful Daniels Run Park is and how much they enjoyed the trails throughout the park.

Mr. Cipriano noted that many of the street trees have died and that there may be better selections that would help them survive and thrive. He asked if we can help in any way. Mr. Holley suggested that PRAB can help with advocating for a City Arborist committed full-time to tree care and selection. Currently, the City Arborist is tasked with other duties. In addition, the Community Development and Planning Department does not have any support for plan review – specifically the landscape review. Mr. Cipriano suggested the City have a master tree list for new and replacement trees. Mr. Holley suggested we tell Council that the City needs a dedicated arborist and funding to support a tree planting and care program as well as to do plan review.

Mr. Lawler seconded Ms. Ross's comments on Daniels Run Park and that the trails of a great asset to the City.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert noted that she has a single living home that will be coming on the market soon. If you or someone you know is interested please give her a call.

**10. Meeting Adjournment**

**Time:** 8:05 p.m.

**Motion:** Sarah Ross

**Second:** Kirk Holley

*Approved unanimously*

*Next regular PRAB meeting is **November 9, 2017 at 7 p.m. City Council Work Session Room***