

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

November 9, 2017
City Hall, Council Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Chair
Jane Albro
Mike Anderson
Elisabeth Breslin
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Kirk Holley
Evie Ifantides
Brian Knapp, Vice-Chair
Joseph Lawler
Sarah Ross
Robert Reinsel

Staff: Cathy Salgado
Jo Ormesher

PRAB Members Absent

Janet Jaworski
Eric Mittnight

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for November 9, 2017 meeting

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Jane Albro

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from October 12, 2017

Motion: Joseph Lawler

Second: Sarah Ross

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Approved unanimously

4. Presentations

a) Eagle Scout Candidate Erik Rasmussen

Mr. Rasmussen presented his proposed Eagle Scout project. The project will be located at Kutner Park and will involve clearing and placing fabric along the walkways in the community garden and removing and filling the landscape borders around some of the playground. The borders have become a tripping hazard. The project will be completed on December 9th with the assistance of the Park Maintenance staff.

5. New Business

a) FY18 CIP Budget – Draft Review

Mr. Knapp asked that Chair Rodgers-Rickert explain PRAB's role in the CIP budget. Chair Rodgers-Rickert explained that PRAB provides a review and recommendation for the annual CIP request. In addition there is not a sustainable way of maintain our resources and PRAB advocates for enough annual funding to do so. Mr. Knapp explained to newer PRAB members that we do not have enough funding to cover our needs. Ms. Ross asked what the most important item is for FY19. Ms. Salgado explained that turf replacement at Draper Drive Park is a must. Mr. Knapp asked if the field condition warrants the replacement in FY19. Ms. Salgado and Mr. Anderson both responded yes. Mr. Reinsel asked when the CIP draft will be updated. Ms. Salgado said by the end of next week. Chair Rodgers-Rickert commented that we should not be penalized for the \$900,000 needed for the turf replacement. Ms. Salgado noted that she has said the same to the City Manager and Council and recommended that funding be spread out over the life of the field, the same as Fairfax High School. In addition, FPYC is contributing \$20,000 per field per year for the turf replacement bringing the City's cost down to \$420,000. Mr. Knapp said that instead of looking at the CIP in November we should be discussing it in September. Every item should have a compelling story to tell. Mr. Reinsel stated that we made a strong case at Fairfax High School. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked about adult leagues using the turf fields and how they can have access to them. Ms. Salgado explained that adult have to wait until all the youth leagues have been scheduled. Ms. Salgado commented that she is focusing on partnering CIP's. For example she is working with Providence Elementary School to improve and expand the parking lots that serve the school and athletic complex. Ms. Salgado also said that the Mayor and Council have requested a list of projects for a possible bond referendum in 2018. Mr. Knapp stated that the community center, Van Dyck, park restrooms, Lanier Middle School and the

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Fairfax County property yard are all good candidates. Mr. Reinsel commented that the school board just started working on the school CIP. They expect the county per student rate will go up and that there will be more students at Daniels Run as families from Oak Knoll have moved to Layton Hall. Mr. Cipriano liked the idea of partnering on the parking lot at Providence. Chair Rodgers-Rickert provided guidance and said we should partner wherever we can and we should recommend financing of the turf replacements.

b) Budget Schedule

Ms. Salgado provided members with the budget preparation schedule and the draft budget guidance report prepared by the City Manager for the Mayor and Council.

6. Old Business

a) Community Center Site Planning Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the master plan process with the county has progressed. Two options are being worked on. Both options were shown to PRAB. The first option maintains the property lines and does not share facilities. The second option shares the property and makes a combined 104,000 square foot facility that would be used by the city and the county. The Mayor and Council like the second option and have also requested that senior housing be added as a third floor. Additional work is needed on both options. The next council work session is scheduled for November 28th.

b) Van Dyck Master Plan Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the draft master plan was presented to the Mayor and Council and that they liked the plan. Council did comment on the street plan including the crosswalk placement and design. Mr. Stehle did recommend to council that they adopt the plan when the time comes – not just accept as was done with the Strategic Master Plan. In addition he advocated for a park bond to complete the work. The draft plan makes a recommendation to incorporate the Old Lee Highway plan into the park draft master plan. Ms. Salgado will be speaking with the local schools to get their input in the next several weeks. Mr. Knapp stated that he and Ms. Salgado met with Father Whitestone at St. Leo and that he was supportive of the plan. There is some concern with the parking being moved away from the school but that it does make more sense for shared parking. Ms. Salgado noted that the community center site planning is also aware and planning for changes in the

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parking in the Van Dyck Plan. The connection of the two parcels would help with the available parking for all. Public comment continues to be taken and the next public event is an open house on Thursday, November 16th. Once all the comments are received discussion will take place with the Van Dyck Advisory Group and PRAB to see what changes if any are needed to the draft plan. Several comments from PRAB have already been incorporated including an additional walkway to the shelter and restrooms and a more beefed up entry from the Sherwood site. The Mayor and Council were also provided the cost estimate and there was some agreement that a park bond would be the best way to move forward with the plan but we should certainly go forward with some items that can be done using other funding. It is hoped that the final draft plan will be ready for council approval in January.

c) Dog Park

Ms. Salgado reported that the request for design of the dog park was out for costing to the on-call firms and that the design will be moving ahead in a couple of weeks. Chair Rodgers-Rickert reported that the Fairfax City Dogs Facebook page was up-fairfaxcitydogs.com. Once the design is underway Ms. Salgado will share with PRAB and the community around Westmore School site.

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. She nor Ms. Wendy Sanford, the city's transportation director, know when the decisions will be made but it is taking much longer than hoped.

e) Judicial Drive Trail Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the trail concept has been completed and the application has been submitted for Transportation Alternative Programming funding. A decision should be announced in April 2018.

7. Upcoming Events

Holiday Craft Show – November 18 and 19
Festival of Lights and Carols – December 2nd
Holiday Market at Old Town Square – 3 weekends in December

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Mr. Reinsel noticed in the monthly report that the number of crafter applications has been decreasing. Ms. Salgado said that overall the number of craft shows are also decreasing as it may be a dying art. Fortunately our show has a very good reputation as a juried show and we would rather have fewer crafters that are exceptional than a lot that are not. It would damage the show in the long run.

8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Robert Reinsel**

Reported that the Fairfax HS Field Hockey team is doing great. The football team finished up as well. Dr. Pajardo received the Leadership Fairfax Award from the county which is a very big award for the city school system.

- **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**

None

- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Ms. Albro reported that the flea market went very well. The Veteran's breakfast is tomorrow and then the holiday parties begin.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

Mr. Holley reported that we should have the draft building standards in December that will complement the streetscape planning. They have completed the streetscape consultant interviews and should have a contract in place by January. The plan is to create a set of standards to help guide private sector improvements that work within the framework of the zoning regulations and the comprehensive plan.

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

Ms. Gallagher reported that the film festival was very successful. Thank you to Cinema Arts and Jo Ormesher for all their work. Also, tomorrow the concert at Old Town Hall will be dedicated to Armistice Turtora with a reception to follow at 9:30 p.m.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp reported that the 5-year strategic plan was presented to the Mayor and Council and that if any PRAB members have questions he is available to answer. There is still an ongoing debate on Cameron Run with the City of Alexandria. It has in fact become more intense with no decision by the city. The NOVA Board is making improvements to Sandy Run in the coming year (capital projects), which will benefit the City since the Fairfax High School uses Sandy Run for crew (men and women).

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9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Ormesher reported that this Saturday would have been Armistice's 91st birthday. She loved the arts and therefore the Commission on the Arts has set up a memorial fund as part of their foundation work. It is hoped that the funds raised will go toward a piece of art Van Dyck Park.

Mr. Lawlor commented that in the future we may want to create a CIP priority list. Mr. Anderson stated that he loved all the Rock the Blocks this year and that it is a great event for the city.

Mr. Cipriano asked if proffers can help with the CIP. Ms. Ross commented that proffers are still permitted, but their use has been restricted by Virginia state legislation in recent years.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

*Next regular PRAB meeting is **December 14, 2017 at 7 p.m. City Council Work Session Room***