

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

July 13, 2017
City Hall, Council Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Jane Albro
Mike Anderson
Elizabeth Breslin
Pat Gallagher
Kirk Holley
Evie Ifantides
Janet Jaworski
Brian Knapp
Sarah Ross
Robert Reinsel
Kate Wheeler-Smith – In attendance for Janet Jaworski
Staff: Cathy Salgado

PRAB Members Absent

Kirk Holley
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 July 13 2017 meeting

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Evie Ifantides

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from June 8, 2017

Motion: Robert Reinsel

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously with change in spelling to Sarah's name

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4. Presentations

None

5. New Business

None

6. Old Business

a) Van Dyck Master Plan Update

Ms. Salgado provided PRAB members with the meeting notes from the May 19th public meeting and the follow-up meeting of the Van Dyck Master Plan Advisory Group June 29th. General consensus based on public input and comments is that Option 2 is more desirable with several modifications. The modifications included protection of the sledding hills (not encroached by new parking spaces), consolidation of the entrances to one to service Sherwood and Van Dyck, buffer parking with landscaping, create an additional entry to Van Dyck from Sherwood (formalize with plaza, signage, pedestrian access). Ms. Ross explained that in general people liked the skate park in front of the park and that it could be incorporated into the plaza area as well as the additional parking spaces. Mr. Reinsel asked about the buffer between St. Leo's and the park and what would it be. Ms. Salgado explained it would be a soft landscaping buffer with pedestrian access from Old Lee Highway and the plaza. He also asked if we had looked at the existing crosswalks and if they can be adjusted for better pedestrian access. Ms. Salgado mentioned that we are working with Ms. Sanford to coordinate with the Old Lee Highway master plan and that the existing crosswalks were not in the best location for safety and access. Ms. Ross commented that we had discussed signalized crosswalks. The recommendations for crosswalks and better pedestrian access will be included in the master plan report. Ms. Salgado reported that we would like to bring draft report to PRAB in September for review and comments and then to a council work session.

b) Community Center Planning Site Evaluation Process Update

Ms. Salgado provided an update on the community center site evaluation process and the discussions with the county to do a joint master plan for the Willard/Jorgenson/Sherwood sites. The June 28th joint city/county meeting provided opportunity for staff to present doing a joint master plan. The Board of Supervisor members in attendance (Chair Bulova, members Cook and Herrity) all liked the

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prospect of a joint campus approach to services. Mr. Knapp asked about who the partnership is with and the financial contribution. Ms. Salgado explained that the city is contributing \$33,000. Ms. Salgado does not know how much Fairfax County is spending on the master plan. Mr. Knapp asked what county agencies are involved. Ms. Salgado reported that it is the Department of Public Works who are leading the project.

Ms. Salgado also provided hard copies of the community center site analysis of the three city owned properties. Mr. Knapp asked about the status of the Providence area county property yard. Ms. Salgado stated that the city is interested in purchasing it once the county has vacated in 3-4 years. Ms. Salgado would like for it to be considered for park use. Mr. Reinsel commented that Providence is one of the sites that a future school may be considered for but that in his opinion the school board is content with holding onto the Green Acres covenant. However he can a partnership with Parks and Recreation as a joint school/park project but he does not see anything happening until after 2035. Currently Fairfax High School is 2/3 county and 1/3 city residents and the elementary schools are reverse.

c) Dog Park

Ms. Salgado explained that she has been invited to speak at the Westmore Civic Association meeting on July 28th to discuss a dog park at Westmore school site. Ms. Salgado plans to share the process for moving forward on a dog park with the residents. Chair Rodgers-Rickert explained that residents who initially wanted a dog park at Kutner Park are now in favor of a dog park at Westmore. There was some discussion among council as to the location but that Westmore school site was the location in the adopted budget. Funds will need to be raised to help build the park. Chair Rodgers-Rickert suggested having a chili/dog contest and that there were all sorts of opportunities to raise funds.

d) George Snyder Trail Update

Ms. Salgado explained that the application for the trail has been submitted and that we hope to know the status by early September. Mr. Reinsel asked about the schedule and process. Ms. Salgado stated that work on the planning documents would start immediately and that we need to do community outreach. Mr. Knapp asked about easements and the process for acquiring them. Ms. Salgado stated this could be done concurrently with the planning and there are 7-8 easements needed. Mr. Reinsel asked if additional requests can be made to the current plan and Ms. Salgado responded yes. Mr. Reinsel stated that overall there has been positive reaction to the connector trail and especially to the connection to Shiloh

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Street Park. We might want to look at access to Eaton Place. He also noted that the neighborhood is turning over and younger families are moving in who like trails. Mr. Knapp said that the Mayor told him he walked under Rt. 50 at the stream bridge. It would be nice to do a trail under the overpass like at Pickett. Ms. Salgado agreed however the head space is not high enough and we are not permitted to dig down.

e) Judicial Drive Trail Update

Ms. Salgado stated that the trail engineering was approved and that the application for Smart Scale funding was due in early October. The trail will complete a missing trail link behind the Fairfax Medical Center and the Fairfax Nursing Home.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

A) Upcoming Events

Solar Eclipse Party on Monday, August 21st 1-4 p.m. at Old Town Square
Rock the Block – July 28
Holiday Market at Old Town Square – 3 weekends in December

8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Robert Reinsel**
Reported that August 28th is the first day of school. The schools are full of summer activities. A school board finalist has been selected out of six candidates.
- **Planning Commission – Karen Wheeler-Smith**
Work continues on the comprehensive plan and that they are trying to marry the P&R SMP with the comp plan.
- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**
Ms. Albro reported that there was a good turn-out at the July 4th party and a nice Father's Day breakfast. Evie asked about the Senior Olympics. Ms. Salgado said they are in September and the information and registration forms are on the front counter at the P&R office.
- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**
None
- **Commission on the Arts – Pat Gallagher**
Ms. Gallagher reported that the Old Town Hall concert series is complete. The COA visited Glenstone in Potomac and learned how they handle events and public art. The COA is on break in July and August.
- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

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Mr. Knapp and Mr. Art Little met with the Mayor and City Manager to provide updates on NOVA Parks. There is nothing new to report on Cameron Run but that they expect the Mayor of Alexandria to have reviewed all the proposals for use by the fall. Mr. Knapp plans to place the NOVA Parks 5-year strategic master plan on a city council work session.

9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Gallagher stated she enjoyed the fireworks.

Mr. Anderson noted that the play equipment at Shiloh Street Park could be due for replacement. The equipment is old and small.

Ms. Ifantides enjoyed the Dancing Stars at the June Rock the Block.

Mr. Reinsel enjoyed the fireworks. He also said someone told him that Old Town Square was the best thing the city has done in 20 years! Mr. Reinsel visited Fountainhead Park and thought it was amazing.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert visited a sculpture garden in Annapolis and that it was extremely well done. There was an approximately a 3-4 mile walk with markers for each of the site to give you an idea of where you were going. Annapolis has mastered the use of bike shares and bike paths. Chair Rodgers-Rickert also noted that there were very nice horseshoe courts and concrete chess/checkers tables in the park. .

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:05 p.m.

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