

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

December 14, 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
Janet Jaworski
Brian Knapp, Vice-Chair
Joseph Lawler
Sarah Ross
Robert Reinsel

Staff: Cathy Salgado

PRAB Members Absent

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 December 14, 2017 meeting

Motion: Bob Reinsel

Second: Kirk Holley

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from November 9, 2017

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Bob Reinsel

Approved unanimously

4. Presentations

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a) Eagle Scout Candidate Jon Pepin

Mr. Pepin of Scout Troop 1113 presented his proposed Eagle Scout project. The project will be located behind Daniels Run Elementary School on the athletic fields. Mr. Pepin will be constructing two new benches and repairing the existing bench. The project will be completed in January with the assistance of the Park Maintenance staff.

b) HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living) Cities Program

Ms. Salgado explained that Council will be adopting a resolution later in December supporting the City's participation in the HEAL program. HEAL is operated through the Virginia Municipal League and the Kaiser Foundation. It is a voluntary program that recognizes cities and towns for their programs and policies that have a positive effect in their communities. It is somewhat like the Solarize program and Tree City USA in that a city can use the recognition as a way of demonstrating a commitment to a healthy community. Theoretically it may attract people to live and work in your city or town. The city is looking for volunteers to work on the program to identify criteria that the city wants to meet in order to achieve recognition. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked how the program works. Ms. Salgado explained that you establish programs and policy goals and then as you meet them you earn credit. Just like Solarize and Tree City a city applies every year and demonstrates the goals that were met. You can earn, bronze, silver, gold and platinum status. It will be additional staff work. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if any members would like to assist. Ms. Infantides volunteered.

5. New Business

a) FY18 CIP Budget – Recap of Mayor and Council Presentation

Chair Rodgers-Rickert briefed members on the presentation. Our CIP request was presented early in the evening. Chair Rodgers-Rickert felt that the format was very confusing and that it was hard for Council to understand how much and where funds were being requested from. She did say that it was well received. Ms. Jaworski also said it was well received and that the report format is used by all departments. She stated that the Public Works presentation also has numerous projects with multiple funding sources which confused people. Mr. Holley asked how much was adopted in the FY17 CIP budget. Ms. Salgado report that it was \$600,000. Mr. Holley felt that based on this the request was in line with the amount of funding that may be expected. Mr. Cipriano asked why the Fairfax High School turf field is in the Parks and Recreation CIP request and not the school request. Mr. Reinsel explained that parks schedules and uses the field. Parks also maintains the field. Mr. Cipriano felt that since the school is the priority and majority user of the field it should be located in their budget. Mr. Reinsel explained that it is all city funds. There is an agreement between the

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school board and the city. Mr. Knapp suggested that if we have questions on why it is structured the way it is we can ask the previous director Michael McCarty for an explanation. Mr. Reinsel and Ms. Salgado will review the history and report any additional information to the board.

b) FY19 Budget Overview

Ms. Salgado updated members on the budget process. The draft budget will be reviewed by the City Manager on January 9th. Ms. Salgado does not anticipate many changes except for the request to make a .80 staff member into a 1.0 staff member and to move the year-round temporary positions into a part-time no benefits category. This way staff will not have to break for 30-days each year which creates staffing issues as well as hurts our staff members. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked who was leading the request to change the part-time/temporary staff issue. Ms. Salgado stated that she was since Parks and Recreation has by far the most temporary positions.

c) Additional New Business – Signage at Fairfax High School Turf Field

Mr. Knapp asked about signs at Fairfax High School that prohibit dogs on the turf field. He wanted to know if PRAB needed to take a vote on this. Mr. Reinsel said that a vote was not needed. He is sure that it will not be an issue as dogs are prohibited from school property. Ms. Salgado will add signs to the stadium turf field.

6. Old Business

a) Community Center Site Planning Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the master plan process with the county has progressed and that the Mayor and Council have endorsed Option Two, a combined city/county facility attached to the Sherwood Center. The county is reviewing the plans with the Board of Supervisors. Chairman Bulova will be briefed on December 15th. The Mayor and Council also asked that senior housing be added to Option Two. This would add another floor and most likely require additional parking. Ms. Salgado explained that Option Two provides for a connection between Sherwood Center, the Police Station, Willard Center and the Jorgeson Lab. It also retains more green space for the senior center and child care center. Ms. Albro asked if Main Street was in mind for the child care provider. Ms. Salgado stated that the City will be advocating that they be selected as the provider. Ms. Albro also asked about the parking on site. Ms. Salgado explained that the front lot of Sherwood and the Police Station would not change. A below grade parking lot would be added. Basically it

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means the lot is at grade and natural sunlight would get into the lot. The below grade lot would also provide direct access to the Sherwood Center. \$100,000 has been earmarked for the next step of the planning process which will include more detailed site planning and space configuration. We are still waiting for the cost estimate which should be ready in mid to late January. Once this is received and pending any additional information county and city staff will work on the next agreement for the additional planning work.

b) Van Dyck Master Plan Update

Ms. Salgado reported that she and Mr. Holley met with Lardner Klein on Monday to review all the public comments and determine what should be included in the master plan. The final draft will be ready for the advisory group review on January 9th and PRAB review on January 11th. Most of the comments were complimentary to the work done. Mr. Holley provided invaluable assistance with the editing of the narrative. Once the advisory group and PRAB review the final draft we would like to present to council for adoption in late February.

c) Dog Park

Ms. Salgado reported that the dog park design has begun. The surveyors will be on site next week and a draft plan should be ready by mid to end of January. Ms. Salgado will share the plans to PRAB as soon as they are available.

d) George Snyder Trail Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the decision of the funding will be made on January 10th. The Northern Virginia Transportation Council will be making the decision. In anticipation of the award City staff is beginning to write the scope of work for full design that will be issued as a Request for Proposal. We will begin communicating with the community regarding planning as soon as we learn the results.

7. Upcoming Events

Holiday Market at Old Town Square – continues thru December 17th. Chocolate Lover's is February 3-4 with Liquid Chocolate beginning Friday, February 2nd.

8. Stakeholder Updates

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- **School Board – Robert Reinsel**

The school board met with local legislators on Tuesday and had the annual dinner with the Fairfax County School Board on Wednesday. It looks like the request for Lanier MS to become an AP center will be approved starting this fall. This is good news for our pyramid as local children will no longer have to go to Rocky Run MS. In addition it looks like local Level 4 services will be extended to our local elementary schools so that children wanting to participate in the AAP program can now stay at their local school. Both of these program requests have to be approved by the county school board. Returning to a remark made earlier in the meeting, Mr. Reinsel pointed out that all CIP projects are paid out of the City general fund regardless if they are located in the school or parks CIP request. It is a great partnership and should not be seen as a competition for funding.

- **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**

A work session will be held on December 18th to review a new project from Capstone Collegiate Communities. The site is on University and Democracy – behind Safeway. Capstone focuses on residential living communities in college towns. The plan calls for 250-270 units with shared communal living space. The Comprehensive Plan work continues. A new survey is up and asks for people to provide feedback on 5 planning scenarios. The feedback will help to guide the future land use map. Sad to report that a new Planning Commission representative will start in January – Karen Wheeler-Smith. Karen has served as the rep previously. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if there was any word on start of Scout. Ms. Jaworski reported that groundbreaking will be soon. NOVUS has been stagnant as well but now it is back on track. It's the property east of Ted Britt. Mr. Holley asked if there was any park visioning in the 2035

Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Jaworski stated that park information was pulled from the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan. Ms. Salgado mentioned the green ribbon trail map, the Van Dyck to Old Town connection, and county property acquisition. Mr. Knapp asked what was happening with PVI. Ms. Jaworski stated that they were resubmitting. Ms. Salgado said she received the resubmittal for plan review. It has substantially changed. Ms. Rodgers-Rickert stated that IDI has done a good job with the Enclave which is a good sign for PVI.

- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Ms. Albro reported that the annual Christmas party is tomorrow.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

None

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

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Ms. Gallagher reported that the Friday night concerts at Old Town Hall have been well attended. The Commission staffed a tent at the Holiday Market and had a fun time.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp reported that NOVA Parks has two holiday light shows – one via car (Bull Run) and one via walking (Meadowlark). Mr. Knapp recommends getting tickets ahead of time. NOVA Parks and Loudoun Water have entered a perpetual lease for Beaver Dam. They will jointly make a \$10 million investment to develop a trail and boat house for crew teams. It will promote passive use of the park. The park will be named “Reservoir Regional Park”. It will take a few years to open. Cameron Regional Park is a heartache for all. Alexandria Mayor, Council may endorse having staffs talk for next 6-months possibly focusing on adding year-round features.

9. Matters of the Members

Mr. Knapp expressed his gratitude for Ms. Jaworski’s tremendous contribution to PRAB.

Ms. Infantides reminded all of Wreath’s Across America coming up and that it is for several cemeteries in Northern Virginia.

Mr. Cipriano wished everyone happy holidays. He recommends that we think about developing a Parks and Recreation Standards Manual much like Arlington County.

Mr. Holley wished all happy holidays. Cameron Run was not originally owned by the City of Alexandria but rather Fairfax County.

Ms. Ross wished all happy holidays and noted that she and her family are going to Meadowlark Gardens tomorrow night – and they have pre-purchased their tickets. She and her husband applied for and received a conservation landscaping grant for native planting and erosion issues. They are the first in the city to receive.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert wished Ms. Jaworski well and said that she will be sorely missed.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Motion: Brian Cipriano

Second: Sara Ross

Approved unanimously

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*Next regular PRAB meeting is **January 11, 2018 at 7 p.m. City Council Work Session Room***

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