

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

October 11, 2018
City Hall, Council Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Jane Albro
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Kirk Holley
Evie Ifantides
Brian Knapp
Sarah Ross
Mitch Sutterfield
Janet Jaworski for Karen Wheeler-Smith
Staff: Cathy Salgado

PRAB Members Absent

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Mike Anderson
Elizabeth Breslin

Guests

Jonathon Greene, Eagle Scout Candidate
Joseph Tipton, Janice Miller, David Hodgkins (for part of meeting)

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Brian Knapp

Time: 7:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for October 11, 2018 meeting

Motion: Evie Ifantides

Second: Kirk Holley

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from September 13, 2018

Motion: Jane Albro

Second: Sarah Ross

Approved unanimously

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4. Presentations

Eagle Scout Project presentation

Jonathon Greene – Troop 1113

Project will be constructing portable toilet enclosure at Green Acres. No set date, weather permitting in late October. City will pour concrete. Members asked the photos be sent to Mac Ryan for sharing with PRAB.

5. New Business

- a. PVI Development – Impact on Parks
The PVI development was recently approved by Council. According to the approved plans the developer will supply 60 parking spots for Pat Rodio park. These spots will have signage restricting parking for field use during specific hours. In addition, Fairfax Little League is working with the American Legion to secure additional parking. The original school, 24,000 sq.ft. will be left intact however no specific uses have been identified by the developer.
- b. Park Rule Changes – Ms. Salgado updated members on the proposed rule changes. The Council approved the changes at the October 9th council meeting. Drones will be allowed per FAA rules. Currently only a very small part of the city is in the approved FAA fly zone. No parks are in the approved fly zone. Pickleball use will now be permitted on city tennis courts. The plan is to strip two courts at Van Dyck. Two courts need extensive repair and another two just crack repair and repainting. The two courts at Providence Park will also be painted. Ms. Gallagher requested that we use a high quality paint – perhaps with sparkle (which is common now). Mr. Cipriano suggested that we think about adding a hard court at Van Dyck which would provide an additional four pickleball courts. This addition could be made during the Van Dyck Master Plan construction.
- c. CIP Planning – The proposed FY20 CIP list was reviewed. Ms. Salgado explained that even projects that we want as part of a FY20 bond need to be on the CIP list. They have been separated out from the CIP but are still accounted for per the Acting City Manager David Hodgkins. NOVA Parks, Providence Park field crowning, Thaiss fencing, Van Dyck fencing and park signage all recommended. Mr. Knapp requested that Ms. Salgado keep PRAB informed on signage design and provide a priority list for replacement. Continuing, Draper Park Turf replacement is now financed beginning FY20. PRAB recommends moving Fairfax High School Turf replacement to the school board CIP list. Ms.

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Salgado will provide this suggestion to the Acting City Manager and Budget Manager. Mr. Cipriano has made his position clear. Mr. Holley had sent an email to PRAB members prior to the meeting and his position is that turf replacement is maintenance and should not be in the CIP. However, Mr. Holley understands that this is how the City manages projects. PRAB recommends approving bocci court replacement and the addition of a shade cover. Also, approved the inclusion of a larger picnic pavilion at Ratcliffe Park especially with the new playground. Annual asphalt was approved as well and Mr. Holley again understands the city method of funding maintenance. Mr. Knapp recommended pushing out the update of the Strategic Master Plan from FY20 to FY21. All agreed. Discussion on the proposed Westmore School Master Plan and that no more improvements be made until a plan is in place. All agreed and recommended funding for FY20. The Community Center plans continue and PRAB agreed on recommending continued funding for the project development. Ms. Gallagher asked that we include some funding for a theater feasibility study. Ms. Salgado does not have a good figure to provide but much lower than \$100K – perhaps somewhere in the \$20-\$30k range. The project was moved out to FY21 or later.

d. Bond List -

The bond list, which is spread out over 3-5 years, included Van Dyck Master Plan implementation, Draper Drive restroom/shade structure, Lanier MS turf field with restrooms, Stafford turf replacement and addition of lights, Providence Es combo restroom, storage and concession, Thaiss Park renovation and ADA compliance. Mr. Holley believes that spreading the use of the bond funding is much more practical and realistic. It will take 1-2 years of planning and then 1-2 years of implementing. Therefore you draw down on the bond funds as needed. The trails will be funded mostly with state and federal grants (Ms. Salgado plans to continue applying for funding). It was recommended to spread the trails out over 3-5 years. Ms. Salgado will work on spreading the bond funding out.

Bond Recap: The ad hoc committee met (Mr. Knapp, Mr. Cipriano, Ms. Ross, Chair Rodgers-Rickert and Ms. Salgado) and had consensus on all the projects. Ms. Salgado shared the FCPA and Arlington County park bond one-pagers. We need just enough detail to win voters over. The Ad hoc committee will meet one more time to finalize the list and will share with PRAB members. Mr. Cipriano liked the categories of bonds – it gets people excited about projects they are interested in. Mr. Cipriano suggested we add innovative playgrounds as that will draw a good cross section of city resident support. Mr. Knapp asked all members their thoughts on the CIP and Bond plan. Mr. Holley has positive view of the list. Mr. Knapp thinks we can create buzz among the youth groups,

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schools and seniors for a FY20 bond. Ms. Gallagher thinks it is important to use lots of pictures. Ms. Ifantides said to show the diversity of people who live in our city. Mr. Sutterfield asked about the Ratcliffe House and who is responsible for repair and maintenance. Ms. Salgado said it falls under Historic Resources for management and Public Works for repairs. Mr. Knapp believes that there is something for everyone and that PRAB members can advocate for the projects. Ms. Jaworski believes that the projects are in good groupings and that they target a wide array of citizens. Mr. Knapp noted that we do need to recognize what the Mayor would like to include for the Fairfax Museum. However, PRAB is trying to keep the bond under \$25 million. Ms. Jaworski stated that she thinks most people don't know the museum is not connected to parks and rec and that we could spin it as connected. Mr. Holley believes that we will be more successful if the bond is only for parks and rec. Mr. Knapp also noted that we did not include funding for open space – West Street property yard. This property is going to be purchased by the city anyway and therefore it is not needed on the bond list. Mr. Cipriano stated he is not fond of using the word maintenance and that we should wordsmith a bit more.

6. Old Business

a) Community Center Planning Site Evaluation Process Update

Ms. Salgado reported that staff met with county staff and another MOU will be issued for continued work on the joint Willard/Sherwood center. The county is all in with the joint project. The City Council and Board of Supervisors will be discussing the project at their October 24th dinner. Staff will be working on financing, operational/maintenance functions, interior special planning and site development.

b) Dog Park

Ms. Salgado reported that the dog park construction contract was awarded and should start shortly. Looking for late November opening.

c) Trail Updates

Ms. Salgado explained that the Snyder Trail design consultant contract is with VDOT for review with hope to have it scheduled in November. Design would then commence.

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7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

A) Upcoming Events

Rock the Block – October 26th – last one

Fall Festival – October 13th

Holiday Craft Show – November 17, 18

Holiday Market all full!

Ms. Salgado will invite Megan DuBois, the Cultural Arts Manager to the November or December meeting

8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Mitch Sutterfield**

MS. Tammara Hanna is the new principal at Lanier. She comes from Stafford County. Adam Erbrebht has left Daniel's Run ES. Dr. Tim tanley is the interim principal. Great homecoming – best ever with food trucks, tailgating, great band. Lost 26-21 to West Springfield. There is a bit of a windfall from state taxes for schools as wealthy are paying higher taxes.

- **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**

Work continues on the comprehensive plan. Work session is scheduled for October 23rd. Public hearing on November 26th and Council public hearing on December 11th. Mr. Cipriano asked about the Scout on the Circle "Welcome to the City" sign status. Ms. Jaworski said it was approved in 2014 but does not know the outcome and if they are still planning to install.

- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Ms. Albro reported that there is an Oktoberfest tomorrow at the Senior Center. This is Jane's last meeting after serving eight years on PRAB. We thank her for her service and hope she stays involved with the Senior Center.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

Downtown Appearance study continues and they are working on wayfinding signage for the downtown. Also, the CAC will be giving away a free tree at Fall Festival. Mr. Knapp asked how the membership was going. Mr. Holley stated they have 8 of 9 members and that he has been chair for ten years.

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

Ms. Gallagher reported that ArtScreen has been revamped into three separate film showings. The first one is in November. Bonita Lestina series starts tomorrow evening.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp reported that NOVA Parks and the City of Alexandria are on the way toward approving a seven year lease with the addition of uses to make Cameron Run a year

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round attraction that includes a winter outdoor park that would operate November-February. Upton Regional Park on Wilson Blvd in Arlington will be expanded to include an outdoor ropes course. Mr. Knapp thanked Ms. Albro for her eight years of service.

9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Albro asked Ms. Salgado to keep her in mind if a community center committee is put together for the joint city/county project.

Ms. Infantides said the Democratic Committee is having a fundraiser at Captain Pell's on October 25th - \$50.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 9:05 p.m.

Next regular PRAB meeting is November 8, 2018 at 7 p.m. City Council Work Session Room