

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

November 8, 2018
City Hall, Council Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Mike Anderson
Elizabeth Breslin
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Kirk Holley
Evie Ifantides
Brian Knapp
Sarah Ross
Jon Buttran for Mitch Sutterfield
Karen Wheeler-Smith
Staff: Mitzi Taylor
Via Phone: Cathy Salgado

Guests

Britnei Angle - CAC

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:00 p.m.

- Joe Tipton will not be the new Senior Council rep for PRAB. The Council will be discussing and a new appointee will be designated.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for November 8, 2018 meeting

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from October 11, 2018

Approved unanimously

4. Presentations

None

5. New Business

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a. CIP Update

Ms. Salgado reviewed the updated FY20 CIP program. Several trail projects have been included. Staff has identified funding grants which have been or will be applied for. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked when we will hear on funding for the Pickett Road trail. Ms. Salgado said April or May. Ms. Salgado also said that funding has not been applied for yet for the Comstock Trail. However, funding is needed for preliminary engineering that is required for any application process. \$300,000 has been included in the FY21 request for this engineering. Mr. Cipriano asked about drainage at Thaiss Park and if we should include some funding for this. Instead funding has been requested for Thaiss Park renovation as part of the park bond request.

Additional information was asked for regarding Pat Rodio drainage. Ms. Salgado stated that 4 to 5 single family homes are being built adjacent to the park as part of the PVI development. The drainage at Pat Rodio has been on the CIP list for some time and it is recommended to leave in FY21. Ms. Salgado stated that parking will be included in the PVI project which may necessitate some improvements which may help the park drainage.

Ms. Salgado noted that an item will be included for ADA parking at Green Acres. \$25,000 will be requested to provide handicap parking (current spaces are non-compliant). Ms. Salgado is working with Public Works to advocate for the project in FY20.

b. Bond Update

The updated Parks and Rec Bond handout was reviewed. Mr. Cipriano asked for page numbers and matching titles on both sides. The first page is too wordy. Better wording for why bond funding is needed. Ms. Salgado and Mr. Cipriano will discuss by phone. Mr. Cipriano would like more bullets and less words. Mr. Anderson asked about how we were going to sell the park bond. Should Ms. Salgado go to the Mayor and share? Chair Rodgers-Rickert thinks yes. Mr. Knapp stated that this document is not Ms. Salgado's but rather PRAB's. He thinks that Chair Rodgers-Rickert and PRAB members should present to the Mayor and then go from there. PRAB should work with the Council to make this work. Mr. Cipriano agreed and that this way Ms. Salgado is not taking the heat but rather it is being advocated by PRAB. Mr. Knapp wants to make sure we are asking for under \$25million. He does not want residents to have sticker shock. More work is needed on the wording including under Thaiss Park – “adding” parking. Work on wording for park renovation as well. Mr. Holley would like for it to stress more services, more facilities, more opportunity. Prefer we not use the word “investment”. Perhaps the word “critical”.

Ms. Salgado will revisit and update based on comments and bring back to PRAB.

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Mr. Knapp asked about the lighting at Stafford. Will we run into issues with the community? Do we have their support? Support of the Mayor and Council? Ms. Salgado noted that lighting technology has greatly improved and that we can educate the community, especially the Mosby Woods HOA. Mr. Anderson said that the people in Mosby Woods who originally opposed were older and do not care about ballfields. Mr. Knapp asked Ms. Salgado where the lights issue was coming from. She replied from FPYC. The field is not usable after dark and it is a large investment for them. They contribute to the cost of the fields and would support lights. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if the Mayor and Council support. Ms. Salgado has not had conversations with them but would like to center discussion on the financial investment and that it makes much more sense to get more use from the field. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked why lights are better now. Ms. Salgado will send light information. Mr. Cipriano was involved in the building of Stafford and remembers the only reason there are no lights is Mosby Woods residents did not want them. Ms. Ross suggested posting on Mosby Woods Facebook and getting the young families to weigh in. Mr. Knapp likes the idea of lights at Stafford. He asks that we get FPYC and the schools on board. Mr. Anderson also said that the field could bring in more revenue if it had lights. A motion was made by Mr. Cipriano to include Stafford in the bond. Seconded by Ms. Ross and approved unanimously.

c. FY20 Budget Planning

Ms. Salgado reported that draft budgets are due by the end of November. She will have the draft for PRAB at the December meeting. Mr. Holley inquired as to the funding for an arborist. Ms. Salgado stated that a request is being submitted from Parks and Rec, Public Works and Community Development and Planning. The funding will be placed in the Parks Division. The position will split time and responsibilities. Ms. Salgado will forward the job description. Ms. Salgado will be the direct supervisor.

6. Old Business

a) Community Center Planning

Ms. Salgado reported that the Mayor and Council and Board of Supervisors met on October 24th and approved the continued planning on a joint health and community center. Staff will work on a formal MOU and plan to report back to officials in 6-months. Mr. Knapp asked if a pre-school/childcare was still included. Ms. Salgado said yes. There is also an extra 10,000 sq.ft. of flex space being built in. The cost for the project now stands at \$88million. It is the City's intention to have Main Street be the tenant. Mr. Knapp asked if this was

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dedicated space for them. Ms. Salgado stated yes. Due to licensing regulations space cannot be shared. Mr. Knapp asked if this was going to cause any issues with programs at Sherwood and Ms. Salgado said no.

b) Dog Park

Ms. Salgado reported that the dog park construction is underway and that we also have a contract in place for asphalt repair. There will be a grand opening/ribbon cutting. Winter opening.

c) Trail Updates

Ms. Salgado stated that the Snyder Trail design consultant contract is scheduled for approval on December 11th. VDOT still has not completed their review. Timmons is working on final design for Judicial Trail. This was fully funded through grants. Design should be completed this spring. Pickett Road trail is being reviewed by VDOT. They had a number of questions regarding cost estimate. Our estimate was for \$3.5million and VDOT \$9.2million. VDOT has now changed to \$5million. We should get word in April if we received funding.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

A) Upcoming Events

Holiday Craft Show - November 17 and 18
Holiday Market – November 30-December 2, 7-9 and 14-16
Festival of Lights and Carols – December 1
Lighting of the Menorah – December 3
Lunch with Santa - December 8
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

Work program with the Lamb Center
Parks Division is working with the Lamb Center to provide work for homeless. This enables them to learn skills and earn money. It is a pilot program. They will be working on trails and in parks. 8-10 people every Tuesday and Thursday from 8am to 12:30pm. They will earn \$10 per hr. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked who was

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supervising them. Ms. Salgado stated that a staff member from the Lamb Center is with them at all times. They have a work handbook and receive training.

Mr. Knapp asked why they were not working with Public Works. Ms. Salgado said that Public Works felt that it was too dangerous to work around heavy equipment, on streets and trash trucks. This program will run for three months and then be evaluated and if going well it may continue. Staff will be providing Council with updates. Ms. Salgado hopes that eventually Public Works will also have projects for them. The program is modeled after one in Albuquerque, NM. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked how long that program has been running and if there are any issues. Ms. Salgado does not know.

Mr. Knapp asked about the merry go round at Van Dyck Park and when it will be replaced. Mr. Ryan has ordered a new one so it should be several weeks depending on if they have it in stock.

8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Jon Buttram**
Wrestling Classic is December 6 and 7. Four teams are in state competition – Field Hockey, Men’s and Women’s Cross Country and Volleyball. Musical is running at Lanier Middle School.
- **Planning Commission – Karen Wheeler-Smith**
Work continues on the comprehensive plan. It was brought to Council and comments were received. They are in the homestretch.
- **Senior Center –**
Ms. Salgado reported Thanksgiving Lunch is November 16 and Veteran’s Breakfast is November 9.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert explained the renewal process to all. All current members have to reapply and meet with Council. It is a really great opportunity to meet with the Council.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**
Mr. Holley reported that he is stepping down from the CAC and hence PRAB. He is seeing the Downtown Appearance study through to the end of November. Ms. Britnei Angle will be replacing him on PRAB. Welcome! Ms. Engle has lived in the City for 1 ½ years. She lives in Comstock and is the lead for the City’s Adopt-A-Spot program.
- **Commission on the Arts – Pat Gallagher**
Ms. Gallagher reported that the first ArtScreen was held last Friday. There is a reception for Jo Ormsher after the November 9th Bonita Lestina concert

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tomorrow evening. The COA is working with daughter of Armistice Tutoro. It is a peace dove and a tentative location has been identified at Van Dyck near her garden.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp reported that the light shows have begun at Bull Run and Meadowlark. City of Alexandria has voted and approved a 7 year lease for Cameron Run. More activities will be coming to Cameron Run to include a portable outdoor field, dog park and a winter festival (2019).

9. Matters of the Members

Mr. Knapp is sad that Mr. Holley is leaving CAC and PRAB. All agreed that it has been a pleasure to work with Mr. Holley. Mr. Holley's last meeting will be in December.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if there were any ideas for the Rotary to change up giving local school dictionaries. What could the Rotary do instead? Ms. Ifantides suggested bilingual dictionaries. Chair Rodgers-Rickert's daughter is 1st team all-district for volleyball! If you have not gone to the Oyster Festival you should – there are some great parade ideas.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:27 p.m.

Next regular PRAB meeting is December 13, 2018 at 7 p.m. City Council Work Session Room