

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

April 12, 2018
City Hall, Council Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Chair
Jane Albro
Mike Anderson
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Kirk Holley
Evie Ifantides
Joseph Lawler
Robert Reinsel
Sarah Ross
Joe Harmon, for Karen Wheeler-Smith

Absent

Elisabeth Breslin
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Eric Mittnight

Staff: Cathy Salgado

Guests

Jo Ormesher, Cultural Arts Manager

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for April 12, 2018 meeting

Motion: Bob Reinsel

Second: Sarah Ross

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from March 8, 2018

Motion: Jane Albro

Second: Evie Ifantides

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Approved unanimously

4. Presentations

a) Eagle Scout Project – Vishnu Murthy

Vishnu Murthy presented his Eagle Scout project for the rehabilitation of the City Hall community gardens to include the placement of weed fabric barrier, new mulch and general clean-up. Vishnu was asked if he was replacing any of the wood boards around the garden plot. At this time he is not. Mr. Cipriano recommended that if the boards were replaced use cedar instead of chemically treated boards.

b) Spotlight on the Arts Presentation – Jo Ormesher

Jo Ormesher provided an oversight of the 2018 Spotlight on the Arts program which kicks off on April 20th and runs through May 12th. Focus is on international arts. Bob Reinsel (co-chair) and Joe Lawler are both on the Spotlight Board.

5. New Business

a) Parks, Recreation, Trails, Open Space, Events and Cultural Arts Strategic Master Plan – Discussion
Deferred

b) FY19 Budget Overview

Ms. Salgado provided an update on the budget process with no new news to report. Budget adoption is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2nd. To date, there have been no budget questions from Council with regards to Parks and Recreation. Ms. Salgado will update PRAB members if anything changes.

c) Discussion of May Joint School Board Meeting – PRAB Hosts

Ms. Salgado reminded members that it is PRAB's turn to host the annual joint meeting with the School Board. The meeting will be on Thursday, May 10th – the same night as our regularly scheduled meeting. A draft agenda was shared and Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked for any additions to the agenda items. Mr. Reinsel asked that because we will be discussing CIP projects that the City Finance Director, David Hodgkins be asked to attend. Ms. Salgado will make the request. Ms. Salgado asked for any additions to the draft agenda by May 1st. She will forward the draft to Dr. Pajardo for review.

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6. Old Business

a) Community Center Site Planning Update

There was a joint meeting with the City Council, Green Acres Feasibility Committee and PRAB last Thursday. Chair Rodgers-Rickert thanked members for attending both joint meetings last week. From her perspective Council was looking for consensus from stakeholders to continue working with the county on a joint community center. While the joint building may be more costly it contains a large parking structure and it is funded through the county. This will help with the City's overall debt limit. Mr. Anderson asked if progress has been made with determining what will happen with Green Acres and the school covenant. Mr. Reinsel stated that the City School Board has the right of first refusal for Green Acres but in most likelihood if more school space was needed adjusting the boundaries and possibly expanding Daniel's Run ES would occur first.

b) Van Dyck Master Plan Update

There was a joint meeting with City Council and PRAB last Tuesday. Chair Rodgers-Rickert reported that it did not go as smoothly as hoped. There seemed to be confusion on how to move forward with implementation – all at once or phased. Council members had additional questions for staff and the consultant regarding the cost estimate and phasing plan. Ms. Salgado provided a memo with updated cost estimate and phasing plans for Council last week for their review. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if there was support to go forward all at once. There was opposition from Council to close the park all at once as it did not come across as clear that the park would not be closed in its entirety. The information Ms. Salgado provided to Council explained in more detail possible construction staging plans that would maximize the park's ability to remain open. Chair Rodgers-Rickert also noted that the Mayor seemed in favor of a bond with multiple projects and that the Mayor will be looking towards PRAB for support. Mr. Lawler asked if Council wants the community center or Van Dyck more. Chair Rodgers-Rickert said that she believes they are leaning toward the community center. Mr. Holley stated that Chair Rodgers-Rickert described the meeting accurately. Council is looking at funding capabilities and that none are near term and more likely five years down the road. He does believe there is strong support from Council for both projects. Our job is to keep talking with Council and make sure we make on items in our P&R Strategic Master Plan. We do not want to miss this opening as the groundwork is now in place.

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c) Dog Park

Ms. Salgado stated that the plan was finished and is now in plan review with the Community Development and Planning Department. Ms. Salgado is meeting with the Westmore Civic Association on April 17th to share and receive input. It is hoped to have the dog park before the Board of Architectural Review and then City Council for a public hearing and approval by July 1.

d) George Snyder Trail Update

Ms. Salgado reported that a request for proposals are out and due back on April 23rd. There is an emphasis on public engagement and creativity. The review panel, made up of P&R and Public Works staff as well as a stakeholder will be reviewing the proposals and setting up interviews in May for award in June. Ms. Salgado reviewed the plans with the Mosby Woods neighborhood last Thursday and received positive feedback. Mr. Reinsel confirmed and stated that there did not seem to be much concern with trail safety at this time and that the use of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design techniques will be very good. Two police officers were in attendance to field questions however there were none.

7. Upcoming Events

Ms. Salgado reported that the Fishing Rodeo was rescheduled to April 14th because of the cold weather last Saturday. Derby Q is almost here – May 5th. Ms. Ormsher reported that girl scouts have completed a paver project for the monarch butterfly garden at Van Dyck and that Ms. Salgado has asked that they completed additional pavers for Old Town Square. Ms. Ross asked that at some point it would be nice to schedule the girl scouts to attend a PRAB meeting. All agreed. Ms. Salgado also provided a staff update. Ms. MacCammon who was the Special Events Coordinator has moved over to Sherwood and is now the Community Program Coordinator. We will be advertising for the Special Events Coordinator position very soon.

8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Robert Reinsel**
Reported that the gym floor at Fairfax High School will be replaced the summer of 2019. The cost will be \$600,000 (really \$500K but Fairfax County requires a high contingency). The cost will be coming out of left-over FHS school bond money from the last renovation. The gym will be out of commission the entire summer of 2019.
- **Planning Commission – Karen Wheeler-Smith**

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Ms. Wheeler-Smith reported that there was a work session on the Comprehensive Plan and the Future Land Use Map. There are also additional workshops on Saturday, April 14th 9-11am at old Town Hall and 7-9 pm on April 17th at the Sherwood Center. The draft land use map is interactive, created by Kelly O'Brien, and provides a great way of viewing the current versus future land map in one viewing. The NOVUS project, where the current car storage is on Route 50, was re-presented with updates to the project. This project was under the old proffer rules and therefore there is affordable housing in the plan. The changes are still being worked out. The Paul VI project will be before the Planning Commission on April 23rd. The commission will then make a recommendation to City Council. Harmon reported that the Planning Commission is presenting certificates to the winners of the Livable Fairfax Art Contest on Monday evening.

- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Ms. Albro reported that they had a successful appraisal event last Saturday even though 3 appraisers did not show up. They made \$1,000. The spring party is tomorrow.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

Mr. Holley reported that April is spring clean-up month. Also the Residential Appearance Awards are near and nominations are being accepted. Drop Mr. Holley a note. April 27th is the Arbor Day tree planting at Fairfax High School. An Appearance Grant was awarded to Country Club Hills for Country Club Commons. The Design Guidelines are 30-40% complete. This project address guidelines for streetscape outside the right-of-way. The Streetscape Plan just started and is looking at streetscape within the right-of-way. This project will determine how the downtown will look in the future. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming involved please contact Mr. Holley.

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

The COA Annual Awards Presentation is April 26th and is being sponsored by Overture Senior Apartments. COA is giving out two posthumous awards.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

None.

9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Ormesher reminded members that this Friday is the last Old Town Hall concert of the season. It is Pershing's Own commemorating the Holocaust with music written by Holocaust survivors.

Mr. Reinsel had the suggestion that the high school rep for PRAB have a one year term.

Ms. Gallagher said a good call on Fishing Derby postponement.

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Ms. Ross announced that baby girl #2 was on the way and due in September.

Congratulations!

Chair Rodgers-Rickert announced she has a couple of listings in the City and she is happy to receive referrals.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:15 p.m.

Approved unanimously

Next regular PRAB meeting is May 10th, 2018 at 6 p.m. City Council Work Session Room. Joint meeting with the School Board starts at 6 p.m. with dinner.

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