

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

March 14, 2019
City Hall, Council Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Chair
Mike Anderson
Mark Angres
Elizabeth Breslin
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Justin Graf
Evie Ifantides
Janet Jaworski
Sandy Moshes
James Rich
Sarah Ross
Mitch Sutterfield
Staff: Cathy Salgado

Absent:

Brian Knapp, Vice Chair

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Welcome and introductions.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for March 14, 2019 meeting

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from January 10, 2019

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

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4. Presentations

None

5. New Business

a. Review of Meeting with the City Manager

Chair Rodgers-Rickert and Ms. Salgado provided overview of a meeting with the City Manager Rob Stalzer. Also in attendance at the meeting was Brian Knapp and David Hodgkins. It was a get to know each other meeting as well as an opportunity to see how much support we can expect for a 2020 Park Bond. Mr. Stalzer is getting to know the city – enjoys antique cars and biking. He spoke about the city as a whole. Now that he has been the City Manager for several months it is time for another meeting. Mr. Cipriano asked what our game plan will be. Ms. Salgado suggested inviting the Mayor and City Manager to our April PRAB meeting. Mr. Cipriano suggested having Chair Rodgers-Rickert and Vice Chair Mr. Knapp meet with the Mayor and City Manager in addition to other Council members. Ms. Salgado explained the public meeting rules – only two council members can meet at a time without advertising as a public meeting. Members discussed how two on two meetings can be conducted to be most effective. Ms. Salgado also reviewed the FY20 budget and how it may impact a 2020 bond (see below). Much of the city manager meeting review also covered the bond update and FY20 budget update in Old Business.

6. Old Business

a) Bond Update

The updated one-page bond flyer was given to the City Manager. There was much discussion on how to proceed. Ms. Salgado reviewed the City Manager's budget presentation which depicted flat assessments and lack of economic development. There is bond capacity of \$55 million however we have to be careful how it is spent. It may be that the City Manager and council focus their efforts on economic development to improve the future tax base which supports bond payments. The bottom line is a parks bond may be delayed due to bad economic news. Ms. Salgado will work with the City Manager to schedule meetings with the Mayor and Council.

b) FY20 Budget Update

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The FY20 budget presentation was given by the City Manager. Departments did not present this year. The Parks and Recreation budget is flat and a number of CIP items were deleted in the manager's budget in order to help balance the budget with a requested 2.5 cent tax increase request. The manager is focusing on economic development and small area plans to help jump start development. There is also a plan to redo the CIP planning for FY21 along with a different budget schedule.

c) Community Center

Ms. Salgado provided an updated. The county would like for the city to finance the city portion. This is a change and will be followed up by Mr. Hodgkins. Staff is working with the county on space allocation, operational issues and cost allocation. It is hoped to have the cost allocation in March for review.

d) Dog Park

A new grading plan had to be completed because of on-site school debris. This is being reviewed by Public Works and grading should then commence. It has been a very wet winter which has caused delays. Once it is done we will open and then have an official ribbon cutting at a later date.

e) Trail Updates

Ms. Salgado that the Snyder Trail design team met with VDOT to discuss the VDOT requirements. The first tasks are to do a site survey and environmental review. It is expected that the design will take up to two years. The trail maintenance funding is now available and an Invitation for bid has been written and is now in purchasing for review and then has to go to VDOT for review. It has to be bid because the funding is federal and therefore we are not permitted to use our on call contracts.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

A) Upcoming Events

Fishing Derby – April 6th

Egg Hunts – April 18 and 20

Rock the Block entertainment is booked. New event Beer in the Burbs is scheduled for June 1.

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8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Mitch Sutterfield**

A big push is to tell the good story of Fairfax City schools. We are home to the Fairfax Academy, newer school buildings, the One-On-One program, AAP at Lanier and Daniels Run and Providence. We have a great auto tech program too. We also offer school staff more professional development. Mr. Cipriano stated he thinks parents want their children to be with other successful students. Ms. Ross said that we need to market our schools as neighborhood schools – and the boundaries won't change.

- **Planning Commission – Mark Angres**

There is a big push to start small area plans for Northfax and Old Town with the transition district. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked what was happening to Shoppers. Mr. Rich heard they are trying to sell off the stores.

- **Senior Center – Sandy Moshos**

Ms. Moshos provided a handout that highlighted programs and activities happening at the Senior Center. She commented that City seniors would like to have the county seniors pay more for trips. Ms. Salgado stated that we have a reciprocal agreement with the county that prohibits charging more for county residents. The annual appraisal is scheduled for March 23rd at the Sherwood Center.

- **Community Appearance Committee – James Rich**

Mr. Rich reported that the CAC is accepting matching grant applications for HOA right-of-way enhancements. They have made the process much easier. The stub hub (street dead-ends) program has been suspended. April 27th is City clean-up day.

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

Ms. Gallagher reported that Jo Ormesher and Twins Ace Hardware will receive awards at the last Bonita Lestina concert on April 12th. The COA is working on revamping fundraising efforts. They did receive \$200 from the Fairfax Rotary. Two public art installations will be completed soon – Girl and Dog at Old Town Square and the Peace Bird at Armistice's plaque at the Van Dyck Bowl.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

None

9. Matters of the Members

Mr. Graf asked about playground mulch and when it would be added. Ms. Salgado said later this spring but we will go and rake out in areas that need it.

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Ms. Ross is planning to see the Blue Bell Trail at Bull Run Park.

Ms. Breslin asked about her replacement for PRAB and do we prefer a rising junior or senior. Chair Rodgers-Rickert said a junior because it gives them more time to experience and work with PRAB.

Ms. Infantides visited Occoquan Regional Park and went to the new Brickmaker's Café in the Jean Packard Center. She said it was wonderful – great food and beer and very reasonably priced.

Mr. Cipriano asked about new parking lot lights at car dealership and businesses next to Fox Croft condos and if there is a policy for them being too bright and staying on all night. Ms. Salgado will follow-up with Mr. Cipriano and direct him to the right staff person.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Next regular PRAB meeting is April 11, 2019 at 7 p.m. City Council Work Session Room