

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

May 20, 2019
Fairfax High School

PRAB Members Present

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Chair
Elizabeth Breslin
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Justin Graf
Evie Ifantides
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Kim Luckabaugh
Sandy Moshos
James Rich
Sarah Ross
Staff: Cathy Salgado

Absent:

Mike Anderson
Mark Angres
Mitch Sutterfield

Guests:

Karen Lussier
Katie MacCammon

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Welcome and introductions.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for May 20, 2019 meeting

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from April 11, 2019

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Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Sandy Moshos

Approved unanimously

4. Presentations

a) Presentation

Eagle Scout candidate Robert Kyle from Troop 1113 presented his project. The project is to remove the overgrown landscaping and weeds from the bus circle at the Westmore School site. Ms. Ross asked if we are saving the bulbs. Ms. Salgado said yes if they are worth reusing. Ms. Luckabaugh asked what types of plants were being used. Mr. Knapp explained the process that the city purchases the supplies for the scouts and works directly with the scouts on site. Ms. Salgado said most likely a few shrubs and some perennials. Maybe a few annuals if color is needed. Robert will be doing his project the weekend of either June 1 or June 8.

5. New Business

a) Development of EDA property adjacent to Old Town Square

Ms. Salgado informed PRAB that the EDA was in negotiations for the Surf Shop property to become a restaurant. This has been a long standing plan when the park was being discussed. The plan is by right and may proceed at the end of the summer.

b) American Legion/Pat Rodio Park Development

Ms. Salgado informed PRAB that the American legion has approached the city regarding the redevelopment of their property for townhomes, condos, affordable housing (25% set aside for Veteran's) and a new Legion post. They would like for the city to consider the movement of Chilcott Field (which is on Legion property) to Pat Rodio Park. The American Legion would pay for the redevelopment and improvements at Pat Rodio. The plan was very conceptual and much more information is needed before the city can decide. Comments from city staff were supplied to the Legion and we are waiting back to hear from them. Discussion from PRAB members centered on the history of Chilcott (home field for Fairfax Little League) and the condition of Pat Rodio (fair to poor for many of the facilities). There has been opposition to the movement of Chilcott from the residents on Keith Avenue. They would prefer the city to not consider. Ms. Salgado explained that we receive informal proposals and inquiries frequently from developers. The city always meets with them so that they can present their ideas whether we agree or not. Ms. Salgado needs much more information from the Legion if they want to move forward to City Council with their request. Mr. Knapp stated that the Legion should not be underestimated. They

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have a lot of support in the city and that it will be a very interesting discussion moving forward. Ms. Salgado will report back any additional information month.

c) Small Improvements to Parks - Ideas

Mr. Cipriano explained his idea to ask members to come with ideas with small price tags for improvements to our parks. One idea that he shared was to install solar powered covered picnic tables. The solar power allows people to plug-in for charging electronic devices. Mr. Cipriano had worked on a project where they used these tables and they were a big hit. They range in cost from \$5k to \$7.5K. Ms. Salgado really liked the idea. She will look into further for possibly Ratcliffe Park – new pavilion is in the budget for FY20. Ms. Salgado mentioned art at the dog park. Ms. Luckabaugh suggested new gardens at Van Dyck. Lots of prom pictures are taken there and it would be nice to enhance the gardens. Ms. Ross suggested a native garden next to the bridge to Van Dyck near her house. It is a ROW but could be a nice pocket park. For next month, please think about innovative, inexpensive ideas that we could consider for our parks.

6. Old Business

a) FY20 Budget Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the FY20 budget was approved. The CIP was reduced to seven items for FY20. The budget process will be changed for FY21. Ms. Luckabaugh mentioned that Fairfax County has created One Fairfax. It is about equity in county services. A Chief Equity Officer has been hired. Ms. Salgado will keep members up to date but will remove this item from next agenda.

b) Bond Update

Ms. Salgado reported no update except that there will be a discussion in July on the 5-year CIP plan. All the park bond projects are listed thru 2024 already. There is thought that timing is not good for 2020. Ms. Salgado thinks 2022. Mr. Cipriano thinks 2020 is better because younger more liberal people vote in the presidential elections. Chair Zinta Rodgers-Rickert noted that the focus is now on economic development. Mr. Cipriano thinks we need to formulate a plan to move forward with. Ms. Ross said we need to tie economic development with park redevelopment. We should market it to the City manager. Mr. Cipriano suggested we brain storm next meeting. Ms. Ross asked how our parks and rec relationship is with Mr. Bruno. Ms. Salgado said Mr. Bruno is a huge supporter of what we do and understands the value of modern parks with economic development. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked Ms. Salgado to look for a date to have a work session to further explore the bond. Members asked for the timing schedule needed for a bond. Ms. Salgado will send a sample timeline via email and keep PRAB informed of any updates.

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c) Community Center

The Mayor and Chairman Bulova met to discuss financing. The Mayor was provided talking points regarding previous capital projects that the city has bonded for the county including the library, bus lot on Pickett Road and the schools. The Mayor reported that Chairman Bulova was supportive of the county doing the financing and that she would need a few weeks to discuss with her staff. Ms. Salgado said that we now need to push the matter because of the upcoming fall election. An agreement in writing needs to be in place before the fall.

d) Dog Park

The dog park is open. Still doing site work. Formal dedication is scheduled for June 15th at 11 a.m. It will be the kick-off for Fido Fest. Most of the landscaping will go in this fall.

e) Trail Updates

Ms. Salgado reported that the advisory group will have the first meeting on Wednesday. The survey was ongoing on the Snyder Trail. Mr. Knapp asked if the advisory group was formally under PRAB. Ms. Salgado did not know. A motion was made by Mr. Knapp to formally establish the advisory group and appointed its membership. A vote taken and approved unanimously.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Upcoming Events

Rock the Block May 24th, Beer in the Burbs June 1st

8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Mitch Sutterfield**

None

- **Planning Commission – Mark Angres**

None

- **Senior Center – Sandy Moshos**

Ms. Moshos provided a handout that highlighted programs and activities happening at the Senior Center. She also said that kitchen volunteers received monogrammed aprons as a gift which they really liked.

- **Community Appearance Committee – James Rich**

Mr. Rich reported that clean-up month went great. 21 groups participated which is way up from previous years. 5 applications were received for Community

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Appearance Grants. Nominations are still open for residential and business appearance awards.

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

Ms. Gallagher reported that the Commission is meeting next week. Peace Bird and Girl with Dog artwork are in the works. Deb Dillard did a dog park fundraiser. The Old Town Hall Performance Series will be celebrating its 30th year. Special plans are being discussed.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp reported that this weekend will be big for NOVA Parks as the swimming pools open and golf courses will be busy. June 4th NOVA Parks will present their 5-year strategic plan at the City Council work session.

9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Ifantides commended Heather Turley for doing such a good job with clean-up month.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert said that Mike Slawski's (former PRAB member) house is going on the market.

Ms. Breslin noted that she is going to the University of Virginia in the fall.

Ms. Luckabaugh said that her daughter is the baseball manager at Fairfax High School and that the baseball field needs redoing. Ms. Salgado said that the parks does not do the maintenance or capital work on any fields except the turf field.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 9:05 p.m.

Next regular PRAB meeting is June 13th @ 7p.m. at City Hall, Work Session Room