

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

June 13, 2019
City of Fairfax
City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street
Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Justin Graf
Evie Ifantides
Janet Jaworski (for Mark Angres)
Kim Luckabaugh
Ellie Monnig (student member)
Sandy Moshos
James Rich
Sarah Ross
Toby Sorenson (for Mitch Sutterfield)
Staff: Cathy Salgado

Absent:

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Chair
Mike Anderson
Elizabeth Breslin
Mark Angres
James Rich
Mitch Sutterfield

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Knapp

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Welcome and introductions to new student member Ellie Monnig

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for June 13, 2019 meeting

Reordered Old Business

Community Center moved to a)

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

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3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from April 11, 2019

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Brian Cipriano

Approved unanimously

4. Presentations

None.

5. New Business

a) Development of EDA property adjacent to Old Town Square

Ms. Salgado provided an update. Restaurant plan is moving forward. Staff had discussion with developer on how the restaurant would flow into the park. The EDA owns a part of the upper parking lot however they do not anticipate losing any parking.

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. Staff had a follow-up meeting with the Legion and learned that they are planning to hire an engineering firm which is needed before they can present to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Jaworski noted that the neighborhood is still reeling from the Paul VI redevelopment and that there has been some negative comments about the Legion plan. Ms. Salgado explained that city staff can't review until there is an engineer plan. Until then it is all speculation as to what could or could not happen at Pat Rodio. A portion of the park is in an RPA which means it can not be redeveloped. This part is adjacent to the stream. Mr. Knapp explained that the Legion needs to sell a portion of their property (Toll Brothers for townhomes and 2/2 condos) in order to fund a new Legion facility. Ms. Sorenson asked where Chilcott Field would go. Right now that is the main question.

c) Small Improvements to Parks - Ideas

Each month we are asking PRAB members to bring new ideas to the meeting to share. These should be small improvements. Members reviewed the comments that Mr. Cipriano provided the last meeting, and no one had any new ideas to add.

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6. Old Business

a) Community Center Update

Ms. Salgado reported that progress is being made. A decision was made to proceed with an above grade parking garage – it's much less expensive. City staff has reviewed the county cost estimate share ratio and has made several recommendations to the City Manager. Work is still underway regarding the financial agreement between the city and the county. Time is running out as we need to get a MOU in place by the fall election. Mr. Knapp asked if there was any update on Mainstreet preschool and childcare being part of the plan. The City Manager did meet with the director and chairman of the board and let them know that there is a procurement process that would have to take place for the facility provider. This procurement process would happen regardless if the city or county managed the preschool/childcare space. Mr. Cipriano commented on the play areas on Old Lee Highway. Ms. Salgado explained it's still a very fluid plan and that there will be a screening wall between Old Lee and the facility. Mr. Knapp asked about the parking garage and how many floors it would be. Currently there will be two floors. Ms. Moshes asked how many floors the building will be. Ms. Salgado stated that part of the building will have two floors and other part three floors. Mr. Knapp asked what the next steps were and how can PRAB get involved. Ms. Salgado said that there will be a planning group that should start as soon as the financing plan is in place.

b) George Snyder Trail

Ms. Salgado brought a large map of the planned trail. Ms. Ross and Mr. Cipriano, the PRAB representatives on the trail advisory group, provided a detailed overview of the first advisory group meeting and trail walk. Ms. Ross explained the trail funding from I-66 concessionaire money. Mr. Cipriano explained the trail alignment and the issues that the advisory group has with the plan. They are:

- PRAB and GSTAG are happy with the trail alignment from 123 to Plantation
- We need to adjust the existing trail at Plantation to align and provide proper trail crossing on Plantation so that vehicles yield to pedestrians and bikers.
- Add a connection to Rt 50 after the Bridge B crossing
- Add connection to the Smashburger
- Keeping stonedust trail as in is not acceptable and needs to be included in this project. The cost is minimal with the benefit substantial.
- Stafford Drive connection needs to be discussed in detailed to include at minimal a raised crosswalk and flashing light.
- The alignment on the eastern part prior to Ranger Road is not supported by either PRAB or GSTAG. The alignment would work much better and would be much easier to construct by changing the route to the southern side of the stream and running along the storm water route (trees are already cleared and less

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ROW needed – no Circle Glass property required). Bridge number stays the same.

- The use of the existing non-compliant section of the Ranger Road to Draper Drive Park is unacceptable and dangerous as it pours trail users directly onto the turf fields.
- PRAB and GSTAG advocate for the inclusion of ADA compliance for the existing trail.
- PRAB and GSTAG, through experience of members who have designed and built trails, believe that the budget is more than sufficient to cover the ADA compliance and conversion of stone dust to asphalt sections.

Ms. Salgado will send email to Stantec and keep PRAB informed of any updates. PRAB will continue to discuss the trail at the July meeting.

c) Bond Update

Chair Rodgers-Rickert and Ms. Salgado now believe that there is an unfavorable position from the Mayor and Council for a parks bond in 2020. Mr. Knapp met with several council members and agrees that there will be no bond in 2020. Some council members are as frustrated as we are as there has been no guidance on park priorities. There is some consensus on what should be done near term (Van Dyck) but no shared agreement on how to address the issues. Ms. Salgado reported that there will be an offsite on July 13th where a discussion on CIP funding will take place and that she hopes that council will give PRAB some direction on what projects to focus on for the next budget cycle. A joint PRAB/Council meeting would be helpful this fall. Another idea is to encourage Council to adopt a special tax for parks and recreation. Perhaps take some of the P&R revenue and put back into capital projects. If bond is pushed back to 2020 what does that do for our strategic master plan? Mr. Knapp suggested we need to be more deliberate on what our priorities are. Mr. Cipriano thinks there is a disconnect on council – they think our parks are in great shape. Perhaps we need to frame our CIP into a major improvement every few years. Ms. Ross provided the example of the skate park. When it deteriorates so much that we have to close it then we may see some movement on improvements. Mr. Knapp suggested we discuss more on July 11th before the July 13th off-site. Ms. Luckabaugh suggested we invite the City Manager to our meeting. All liked the idea.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Upcoming Events

Dog Park Opening and Fido Fest, Rock the Block, July 4th

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8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Mitch Sutterfield**
Toby Sorenson filled in. Last day of school this week.
- **Planning Commission – Mark Angres**
Janet Jaworski filled in. Old Town Visioning Committee is meeting twice a month. The new pre-application process seems to be working better.
- **Senior Center – Sandy Moshos**
Ms. Moshos provided a handout that highlighted programs and activities happening at the Senior Center.
- **Community Appearance Committee – James Rich**
None
- **Commission on the Arts – Pat Gallagher**
Ms. Gallagher reported that the budget has increased funding for cultural arts. Ms. DuBois has finalized the contracts for the Old Town Hall performance series. She will have a public art update next month.
- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**
Mr. Knapp reviewed the presentation that NOVA Parks gave to the Mayor and Council. Art Little, Paul Gilbert and Mark Nardolilli, NOVA Parks Chair, attended as well. It was well received by the Mayor and Council. The Mayor also made a short speech at the end which was very supportive of park investment – all should watch. It was shown to NOVA Park employees.

9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Luckabaugh asked for P&R to consider doing a Food Truck Rodeo. Also asked that we continue to focus on ADA playgrounds.

Ms. Ross suggested adding cider to the Beer in the Burbs event along with non-alcoholic beers.

Mr. Knapp thanked Ms. Ross and Mr. Cipriano for their work on the trail advisory group.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 9:25 p.m.

Next regular PRAB meeting is June 11th @ 7p.m. at City Hall, Work Session Room