

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

December 8, 2016  
City Hall Council Work Session Room

**PRAB Members Present**

Mike Anderson  
Kirk Holley  
Evie Ifantides  
Janet Jaworski  
Brian Knapp  
Robert Reinsel  
Sarah Ross  
Jane Albro  
Emily Deivert  
Jeff Ferrell  
Mike Slawski  
Staff: Cathy Salgado  
Kate Johnston

**PRAB Members Absent**

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Eric Mittnight

**Guests**

Councilmember David Meyer

**1. Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Brian Knapp*

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

*Agenda for December 8, 2016 meeting*

**Motion:** Kirk Holley

**Second:** Evie Ifantides

*Approved unanimously*

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

*Minutes from November 10, 2016*

With corrections from members – spelling and grammatical.

**Motion:** Mike Anderson

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**Second:** Kirk Holley  
*Approved unanimously*

**4. Presentations**

- a) Van Dyck Master Plan – Information and schedule presentation from Elisabeth Lardner of Lardner/Klein

Elisabeth Lardner was introduced by Ms. Salgado. Ms. Lardner provided brief background and past work history including her love of parks and working with communities on master planning. Current projects include master planning for Watkins Park in Prince Georges County, Simpson Park in the City of Alexandria and the Four Mile Run Valley Park in Arlington County.

Ms. Lardner shared a brief overview of the Van Dyck Master Plan timeline. Dominion Surveyors will be completing the site survey. RIB U.S. Cost will be providing cost estimates. This winter the site topographic survey, base information and program analysis and site use will be completed. Winter is a good time to complete this work as the trees are bare which makes it easier to complete an accurate survey. Public outreach will begin in the spring formulating the vision, objectives and goals for the park. It is hoped that the plan would be complete in the summer of 2017.

Ms. Infantides asked if the timeline is strict. Ms. Lardner replied that we can slow the process down as much as needed. Mr. Wilbur inquired if PRAB will get to review the plan in draft format. Ms. Salgado replied yes. Mr. Wilbur also asked what the unique characteristics were of Van Dyck. Ms. Lardner replied the site itself is unique in that it provides zones of activity and a unique circulation pattern. She liked that the park was multi-generational and that we need to engage the teens in the process. The site plan will not show detailed plans for amenities. Ms. Lardner suggested that you do not want to show too much specificity. Mr. Wilbur requested that some level of estimating is needed. RIB U.S. Cost will be providing estimates. Ms. Lardner explained that you can identify the low hanging fruit that can be addressed without large costs. Mr. Reinsel asked if the erosion problem will be addressed. Ms. Lardner replied that based on their initial walk of the park, after rain, the erosion was not too extensive. The hill looked good but instead the trail system may be the cause of some of the issues – the curves and the surfacing. Ms. Lardner suggested that the trail surfacing types were “inside out”. The asphalt would work better on the hills, while the stone dust on the straight, flat areas. Ms. Ross asked if we have to take into account ADA accessibility. Ms. Lardner replied that we need to plan for it and that we should strive to make all of the park accessible. Ms. Infantides inquired if there were going to be multiple options. Ms. Lardner replied that we usually start out with several with the hope that we move towards one that we like and want to move to.

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Mr. Knapp asked that Ms. Salgado send the RFP out to PRAB members. Mr. Knapp asked how many public meetings are planned. Ms. Lardner and Ms. Salgado replied 3-4 are currently scheduled. Ms. Lardner explained that they will use other methods of engaging the community including collecting information at the Chocolate Lover's Festival and doing site visits to Van Dyck to capture park users. Mr. Knapp stated that the city likes public meetings and asked if PRAB and council members will get to sit and speak with Lardner Klein. Ms. Salgado responded yes. Mr. Knapp also asked Ms. Lardner if she feels they were given a clean site to work with. Ms. Lardner responded that they have been given the authority to think thru all the elements, although she understands the "bowl" has been identified as integral to the park. Ms. Lardner likes to be pragmatic. Mr. Knapp hopes that Ms. Lardner will get to meet Mr. Lederer and Ms. Turtora. Mr. Knapp explained how the skate park location was selected, that the entrance to the park was not clear and that we have only done minimal maintenance over the years. Mr. Knapp stated that we can succeed if we present a vision that the stakeholders all support.

Mr. Reinsel commented that he is glad that there will be some cost estimating and that we are thinking multi-generational and that we need to engage the young and old. We do need a vision of what we want in the park. In the past we did things as they came up. Mr. Wilbur suggested that it might be hard to assign costs on ideas and that we should air on the high side. Mr. Lardner explained that we can designate by order of magnitude.

We all look forward to the process started.

**Recognition of Service to Harry Wilbur** – cake and thank you from PRAB members for Mr. Wilbur's years of service to the city as the Commission on Arts representative to PRAB. Mr. Knapp commended Mr. Wilbur for wearing two hats and for his very thoughtful, passionate and well prepared contributions to PRAB and the arts. We all wish Mr. Wilbur well as he prepares for a move to California next year.

## 5. New Business

- **PRAB Annual Work Plan**

Mr. Knapp asked if any members had changes to the Annual Work Plan as presented. Ms. Jaworski commented a change "enhancement" to "appearance" for Mr. Holley's commission. Correct spelling of Ms. Deivert's name. Mr. Knapp expressed that this plan looks ahead and that he would make the recommendation that the PRAB chair present the plan to council.

**Motion:** Bob Reinsel

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**Second:**

*Approved unanimously*

**6. Old Business**

- **Community Center Planning – Update**

Ms. Salgado provided briefing on community center planning status. Staff is currently soliciting proposals from on-call firms to complete detailed site analysis of three city properties for a potential future community center – City Hall, Providence Park and Van Dyck Park. Funds were allocated in the FY17 CIP for additional work for the Green Acres Feasibility Study and the funds may be used for the site analysis work. There may also be some interest in placing a community center on a fall 2018 bond referendum with the fire station. Mr. Knapp stated that he knows three members of council who do not support a new community center. Ms. Salgado explained that while that may be the case, work would still need to be done to determine if any city sites in case council does decide to move forward. Ms. Salgado also explained that at Providence Park a parcel adjacent to the park and currently owned by Fairfax County, might be the best place for a building so that parkland was not used. Mr. Knapp would like to send a letter to council that no parkland be used for a community center. Mr. Reinsel suggested that perhaps a community center could be placed behind the police station. It might be a hard sell to neighbors. Ms. Salgado explained that once the three sites are analyzed, council may then determine that other non-city owned parcels need to be examined in more detail. Ms. Salgado has therefore placed \$100,000 request in the FY18 as a placeholder for council consideration.

- **CIP - Update**

Mr. Knapp stated that the Parks and Recreation CIP request was presented to council on Tuesday evening. Ms. Rodgers-Rickert made a statement and that she did great. Mr. Knapp also explained that Ms. Salgado suggested that future synthetic turf fields could include both a rectangle and diamond fields. This may present challenges to scheduling. Ms. Salgado gave the new Ryan Zimmerman field near Nationals stadium as an example. Mr. Knapp stated that Lanier Middle School may be the perfect place. Mr. Ferrell suggested that if at Lanier perhaps the school board could help. Mr. Knapp stated that there were council questions including permanent bathroom additions, the Snyder Trail request, a dog park and the need to consult with neighbors and finally Ashby Pond. Mr. Knapp suggested that Ashby Pond be considered in the future. Ms. Salgado stated that she suggested that as well to council and that it might be better placed in the storm water project request.

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Mr. Wilbur suggested that we add a total to the project list. Ms. Salgado stated that Councilmember Miller made that suggestion on Tuesday as well. Mr. Knapp then explained to guest Councilmember David Meyer that Ms. Salgado actually provides the CIP list categorized by like items which makes it easier to read and provides context as it relates to other projects. In addition too many items are being slipped to the right and that there is no way to catch up. Mr. Meyers suggested a possible future park bond and that for Ashby Pond he would like a council site visit to gather more information.

Mr. Holley asked Ms. Salgado what projects she thinks will not make it in the budget. Ms. Salgado stated the Providence Park rectangular field improvements and Ashby Pond. Also, asphalt repair may be reduced since the request went from \$25K in FY17 to \$100K in FY18. Also, annual BMP maintenance was moved from parks to the storm water fund.

## 7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

- **Annual Budget Request - Update**

Ms. Salgado reported that the annual budget request was being finalized. Mr. Knapp asked for a copy of the submission. Ms. Salgado will supply once it is completed which should be early next week. Ms. Salgado provided members with the budget guidelines and schedule. The Parks and Recreation budget will be reviewed by the city manager on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The department council presentation is currently scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>.

- **Harold Skeins Basketball Court Dedication**

Staff is working with the family to schedule a dedication. They would like February 4<sup>th</sup> (Harold's birthday is February 3<sup>rd</sup>). However this is the Chocolate Lover's Festival weekend which could be difficult. The city clerk is checking the calendars for any conflicts. If February 4<sup>th</sup> does not work it may be later in February. Ms. Salgado will provide information as it becomes available.

## 8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Robert Reinsel**

A new fence has been installed at Daniel's Run ES to keep vehicles from backing into the grass behind the gym.

- **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**

The Planning Commission participated in the joint CIP work session on Tuesday. Ms. Jaworski hopes to be reappointed by the Planning Commission to PRAB at the January meeting. The Planning Commission will discuss and listen to public input

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regarding the CIP at its 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in January. They are still collecting input on the draft goals for the comprehensive plan. A “Fact Book” has been put together with some very interesting and useful information. Mr. Jaworski will forward the link to PRAB members. Councilmember Meyer commented that the data suggests that the city is aging.

- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Ms. Albro stated that the Senior Center had a fantastic Thanksgiving party and that the Christmas party will be on December 16<sup>th</sup> followed by the New Year’s party on December 30<sup>th</sup>. The hallway just received a dozen new chairs and members seem to like them very much.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

Mr. Holley reported that the downtown was receiving three new trees on Main Street by the old Amaco station. Parks has offered to put up holiday lights. The CAC is making a pitch for additional funding for the downtown beautification project. Mr. Holley is meeting with the Commission on the Arts to discuss public art locations in the city. They already have lots of great ideas and suggestions to work with George Mason and the private sector. The CAC is down 2 more members which puts them at a 3-4 member vacancy. New members are needed.

- **Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur**

Mr. Wilbur reported that Dr. Laura Hills is the new Commission on the Arts president. Art Fest on November 5 and 6 was a hit, especially the children’s program at Sherwood. The Commission will continue to push for public art in the city.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp reported that Meadowlark and Bull Run light displays are receiving rave reviews. They are both open thru the new year. NOVA Parks is still awaiting VDOT approval for the Pickett Road Underpass at Thaiss Park. In addition, the cost may rise as the city, per its tree policy, is requiring the use of different equipment for the project to protect existing trees. The city also has decided to go another way and not use the NOVA Parks display in front of Sherwood. Instead the city has wrapped the street trees on Old Lee Highway which look nice.

## **9. Matters of the Members**

Mr. Holley complimented that the Festival of Lights and Carols had great attendance. Mr. Wilbur thanked everyone again for their kind words and that he had a great run in the city. All thanked him again for his service. Ms. Ifantides stated that they are still looking for volunteers to place wreaths at Arlington Cemetery on December 17<sup>th</sup> around 9:30 a.m. Ms. Deivert reported that the Fairfax HS field hockey team was 23-1 making it to the state semi-finals. Councilmember Meyer stated that the field hockey team was the best team in the history of Fairfax HS. Councilmember Meyer also congratulated Mr. Wilbur and said he set the standard for citizen engagement.

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**10. Meeting Adjournment**

*Next regular PRAB meeting is **January 12, 2017 at 7 p.m.***

**Motion:** none

**Second:**

**Time:** 9:20 p.m.

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