

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

July 11, 2019
City of Fairfax
City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street
Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Mike Anderson
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Evie Ifantides
Kim Luckabaugh
Ellie Monnig
Sandy Moshos
James Rich
Sarah Ross
Mitch Sutterfield
Staff: Cathy Salgado

Absent:

Mark Angres
Justin Graf
James Rich

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for July 11, 2019 meeting

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from June 13, 2019

Motion: Brian Cipriano

Second: Evie Ifantides

Approved unanimously

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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. The plan is going to the Board of Architectural Review for approval this month. The developer is planning a quick build with hope to open by late spring.

b) American Legion/Pat Rodio Park Development

Ms. Salgado provided an update. The developer and Christopher Consultants has asked permission to survey Pat Rodio at the same time as the legion property. However, the City said no at this point. Ms. Salgado sent letter to adjoining neighbors that the surveyors will be on site in the next couple of weeks and that they will enter Pat Rodio but only to set stakes and transoms in order to complete survey on the Legion property. Mr. Cipriano expressed his frustration with how the city allows neighbors to dictate development. In this case Pat Rodio needs improvements that would benefit the community. Mr. Knapp agreed. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked who in the city monitors social media because there is a lot of chatter. The city does monitor its own sites but not community sites. Ms. Salgado said she would draft a letter to the Mayor and Council on behalf of PRAB to ask them to keep an open mind about the Legion plans.

c) Small Improvements to Parks - Ideas

We decided to change this item topic. Each month we will highlight a park in the city – provide pictures to show members. Discuss usage, maintenance needs.

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 Council will be briefed at the July 13th offsite. Staff is progressing with financing agreement. The county has been notified that the city would need for the county to finance all of the project. It would be modeled on the City library. The city library financed the regional library which is part of the county library system. Staff met with county staff and the architect to discuss the first draft of the conceptual space plan. Ms. Salgado provided the information to members and also had large size plans for review and discussion. The space plans call for a larger senior center and fitness center than what is at Green Acres. In addition the gymnasium will have an elevated track and will be dividable with a screen so multiple programs can occur at once. There are five classrooms on the current plans with an additional 8,000 sq.ft. not planned. However, city staff requested

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that the architect buildout the buffer space to include additional classrooms and a studio with wood floors that can be used for mid-size fitness and dance classes. Other comments included providing direct garage access to the city space, making sure rooms had natural sunlight (move storage, kitchens to interior of building space). The architect is taking the city recommendations and incorporating them in the next draft. There was a question regarding the formation of a community center advisory group. Ms. Salgado stated that the group will be formed later this fall.

b) George Snyder Trail

Ms. Salgado informed members that the trail designer is reviewing our recommendations and making changes to the plan. There is still an issue on completing the non-ADA compliant sections of the trail as well as the stone dust sections. Ms. Salgado will be meeting with Stantec to discuss ways to save money and complete what is known as section 2 of the plan (make existing trails ADA compliant and convert stone dust trails to asphalt, including widening to 10ft). There will be another GSTAG meeting later this summer.

c) Bond Update

Discussion on how to pitch a park bond. Council will be discussing at the July 13th offsite. All agreed that Van Dyck Master Plan implementation is the top priority. Another idea was to recommend funding \$1-3 million park projects every 2-3 years in the CIP budget. Mr. Knapp and Chair Rodgers-Rickert have both met with multiple council members and agree that there is no agreement among them as to how to fund park improvements. Chair Rodgers-Rickert said that we need to brainstorm how to move forward and frame what we want our priorities to be. Mr. Cipriano stated that parks should be multi-generational and that there is still a disconnect with council. Chair Rodgers-Rickert stated that we should frame the discussion around what children want in parks. Ms. Salgado will report out on what is discussed at the July 13th offsite. (Joint Work Session on September 3rd)

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Upcoming Events

Rock the Block, Labor Day Car Show

8. Stakeholder Updates

• **School Board – Mitch Sutterfield**

Congratulation to Fairfax HS. It was recognized by the Virginia Board of Education with a Distinguished Achievement Award.

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- **Planning Commission – Mark Angres**
None
- **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. There will be a workshop on how to complete grant applications on August 6th. This year the COA presented the Creativity Award for the July 4th parade. Fairfax Police Youth Club won the award. There will be talks and receptions added to the Old Town Hall Performance Series starting this fall.
- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**
Mr. Knapp reported that with all the storms there has been debris on the W&OD as well as other parks and trails. They are currently planning for the first Winter Festival at Cameron Run Park. Mr. Knapp thanked Ms. Salgado for getting the Winter Festival information in the City Parks and Rec Connected Fall Edition.

9. Matters of the Members

Mr. Sutterfield reminded members that our city school system provides extra value to the faculty, staff and students by providing additional money to our city schools for training and programs.

Ms. Monnig is busy learning a lot about our parks and rec programs and is working as a lifeguard.

Ms. Luckabaugh reported that Volunteer Fairfax had a great time participating in the parade. They had 30 volunteers who carried the large balloons in the parade. It has been very nice working with the city and the importance of having flexibility when working with volunteers. She also reported her daughter is participating in a program at Fairfax High School canvassing city residents asking a series of questions. Would we be interested in adding a couple of questions about parks and recreation. It is the republican club at the school. A club members said it might be best to stay out of political clubs activities.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 9:05 p.m.

Next regular PRAB meeting is September 12th @ 7p.m. at City Hall, Work Session Room