

City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2012
Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center

PRAB Members Present

Jane Albro	Evangelia Ifantides	Gary Sidor	Douglas Stewart
Paul Cunningham	Brian Knapp	Mike Slawski	Harry Wilbur
Joseph Harmon	Esther Nasjleti	Toby Sorensen	Donald Lederer
Zinta Rogers-Rickert			

PRAB Members Absent

Jennifer Passey

School Board Members

Jon Buttram Janice Miller Carolyn Pitches Toby Sorensen Mitch Sutterfield

Staff Members

Michael McCarty; Director Parks and Recreation
Karen Lussier; Recreation Manager, Sherwood Center
Edwin J. Rivera; Community Programs Coordinator
Kelly O'Brien; Community Development

Guests

Kelly O'Brien
Judy Fraser
Ann Monday, Superintendent of Schools

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:14pm by the board chair Mr. Joseph Harmon. Mr. Harmon welcomed the School Board members, they also introduced themselves and what position they hold currently.

Business

- *Growing Enrollments and School Capacity*
Mr. Harmon introduced the School Board Chair, Mrs. Janice Miller. A PowerPoint presentation was discussed about the growing enrollments, including the current and the projected capacities in the schools, the School Board chair highlighted that the Parks and Recreation services in the city are excellent. There was a discussion about what is the perception of the city schools and county schools.

- *Outdoor Living Classrooms* – Presented by Ann Monday, City Schools Superintendent
Mrs. Monday presented the accomplishments of the city school's students with the different programs related to the outdoor living classrooms, from awards to media recognition for the Excellency of the program. A power point presentation was shown with pictures of the creativity of

the students during the program. The School Board chair and PRAB congratulated Mrs. Monday on her upcoming retirement and accomplishments as the Superintendent.

- *Providence Elementary - Courtyard Brick Program*
Mrs. Monday explained how the program works and that they are offering bricks to the public to buy.
- *Safe Routes to School Program*
Mr. Douglas Stewart discussed the possibility of seeking out grants for the Safe Routes to School Program.
- *FHS Synthetic Turf Replacement Program*
The Parks and Recreation Director gave details on a prior meeting with the School's Superintendent, School Board Chairperson and the Director of Community Activities at the High School, Mr. Rod Spelman. Some of the discussed points included options on replacement of the turf and possible funding options. Mr. McCarty explained the projection on when the turf should be replaced, approximate cost, and benefits compared to the natural turf before the artificial turf was installed. PRAB stressed that this item is in the FY2014/2015 capital budget and has been included in the City's capital program for future funding since FY2011. Further discussion was held on the synthetic turf item in FY2015/FY2016 for the athletic fields at Lanier Middle School. This item was added in FY2011 budget deliberations and reviewed previously will all PRAB Stakeholder representatives. Further Janice Miller stated that PRAB has not coordinated well with the school board on issues related to the HS and Lanier, and that it will take outside funding (non-City) to replace the HS turf field. Joseph agreed with her comments, acknowledging that the PRAB CIP recommendations were developed among members and staff support without directly including the entire school board, and that we should start working now to develop outside funding for turf replacement.

Continuation of PRAB-Only Meeting

Adoption of the Agenda

Matters of the Officers

Chair: Joseph Harmon

Vice Chair: Esther Nasjleti

Business

- **Park Steward Reports: Michael Slawski and Zinta Rodgers-Rickert**
Specific city parks were assigned to these members; detailed reports were given by the members after visiting and assessing the Parks.
- **Trails Subcommittee Update**
Mr. Harmon thanked the members subcommittee, staff and volunteers on the hard work they are putting in to make Trails Day a great event. Esther Nasjleti went over the discussions the subcommittee had; volunteer groups interested in helping during the event and upcoming meeting.

Mrs. Nasjleti discussed trail connection for George T Snyder Trail heading east from Plantation Parkway. This connection would be a link to better access of the Cross County Connector. The

Friends Group of the Cross County Connector Trail are willing to help and support this effort. Currently, it has not been identified as high priority and will be reviewed with other trail priorities in the city. PRAB also identified that that prior to proceeding with this type of connection, City Council support and extensive public outreach is necessary.

- Dog Park Subcommittee Update - Zinta Rogers-Rickert
No report.

Parks and Recreation Department Report

- At Westmore, asbestos removal has started. Mayors Ball was a success event. No specific amount of how much was collected was presented. Budget was adopted by the City Council. No cuts or additions but a 1% increase (COLA) was approved for staff as well as merit steps were reinstated.
- New playground equipment was installed at Pat Rodio and Dale Lestina Park. Blenheim rentals collection has exceeded the projection.
- At the Sherwood Center, it is possible that the projection for revenue will not be achievable because of the time the Performance space was kept closed for replacement and repair of the floor.
- Edwin Rivera achieved his Certified Park and Recreation Professional Certification.
- For more details please refer to the May 2012 department report.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Approved with some changes at 9:06 pm.

Stakeholder Updates

- Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur
 - The committee is working to re-establish the Commission on the Arts program guidelines.
- Community Appearance Committee – Don Lederer
 - No report
- Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling – Douglas Stewart
 - May 18 is Bike to Work day, and event will be held at Van Dyke Park.
- Fairfax Police Youth Club – Gary Sidor
 - No report
- NRPA and NVRPA – Brian Knapp
 - No report
- Planning Commission – Jennifer Passey

- No report
- School Board – Toby Sorensen
 - No report
- Senior Center – Jane Albro
 - Mothers Day event at the Senior Center on Friday May 11th.

Matters of the Members

- Brian suggested that we start the CIP review process in July, so stakeholders like the school board rep and the senior center rep and others could start working the process with their respective boards, and be ready to discuss in the fall. Not only review old items but also develop new ideas (probably more important).

Adjournment

- Joseph Harmon made motion to adjourn at 9:35pm and seconded unanimously.