

City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2012
Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center

PRAB Members Present

Jane Albro	Gary Sidor	Douglas Stewart
Brian Knapp	Don Lederer	Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Joseph Harmon	Esther Nasjleti	Toby Sorensen

PRAB Members Absent

Mike Slawski
Jennifer Passey
Harry Wilbur
Evangelia Ifantides

Guests

Michael McCarty, Director of Parks and Recreation
Karen Lussier, Recreation Manager-Sherwood Community Center

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:07pm by Joseph Harmon

2. Adoption of Agenda

Gary Sidor made a motion to approve the adoption of the agenda and Jane Albro seconded it.

3. Announcements

Becky McNaughton will be given the PRAB award this year. This will be presented in front of City Council at the Sept. 11 meeting. The amended Comprehensive Plan is now on the City website for viewing.

4. Gary Sidor Presentation

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board thanked Gary Sidor for his 13 years of service. He was recognized for all of his accomplishments over the years which included:

- Installation and opening of the skate park
- Original Member of the Open Space Committee
- Potential land identified at Stafford Park
- 56 acres of City land purchased
- Draper Drive Park renovation
- A new soccer field was built at Providence Park

- FHS installed synthetic turf with FPYC as a partner
- Stafford Drive Park was Built
- FPYC contributed to the irrigation at Lanier Middle School
- Providence Elementary Baseball Field was built
- Ted Grefe Park and University Park were dedicated
- Van Dyck Park was name 2010 best of Fairfax
- 2010 Gold Medal Finalist for the Department
- 2011 Gold Medal Winner for the Department
- Ashby Pond was dredged
- The first Community Garden was opened
- The Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center opened
- The Blenheim Facility Opened
- The City's open space task force was formed and purchased 56 acres of land
- All four schools were renovated providing more usable recreational space for programs and FPYC
- Gary has been invaluable to PRAB because of his knowledge and connection to FPYC.
- Coach
- Vice Chair of PRAB
- Very active over the years in promoting trails and trail maintenance and new development.
- Contributed to our PRAB baseline evaluation of all parks in the City
- Helped make the CIP document a much better product than what he inherited as a new member of PRAB 13 years ago
- He is an incredible husband and amazing father of four beautiful and talented children.
- Loudoun County's gain and our loss

5. Park Steward Reports

Toby Sorensen reviewed Thaiss Park and Willcoxon Park.

6. Officer Elections 2012/2013

Joseph Harmon and Ester Nasjleti were nominated for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair respectively for the 2012/2013 board year. Don Lederer made a motion to approve this nomination and Zinta Rodgers-Rickert seconded it. **Passed unanimously.**

7. Trails Committee Update

The minutes were brought back to PRAB for approval and to post publically. Douglas talked about the Comprehensive Trails Assessment which included a rating system by staff. 30 projects were identified which will be used as tool to identify capital projects and trail linkages.

All trails subcommittee minutes from January, February, March, April, May, and June were approved

8. Mason-Metro Bike Task Group

Joseph Harmon was invited to speak at the work session on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 about where it fits into the Trails prioritization and if PRAB will express support. A staff recommendation was made that the City Council allows staff to explore funding for this task. Mike McCarty provided a Staff Report with a presentation for a work session. Other grant funding may be available through the Transportation Act. PRAB is in support of seizing any opportunity for outside funding because the strategic master plans for trails are important however, PRAB doesn't recommend using any City funding as there are many park maintenance and capital needs that are currently not funded.

9. Dog Park Committee

-No Report

10. Kitty Pozer

The Community Appearance Committee met with representatives from PRAB, COA, CAE and Historic Resources and Jack Blevins and a consultant. Only comments were collected at this meeting. The Mayor scheduled a retreat to discuss this on July 27th. Harry Wilbur will be the representative at this meeting.

11. Special Revenue Fund for Maintenance

It was recommended to Parks and Recreation Staff to go forward with special revenue fund and thoughts about how to capture revenue and how it is used. Staff should find a way to identify to Council that Parks and Recreation money is used elsewhere (other departments) and that this money should be used to Parks and Recreation purposes. Mike McCarty mentioned that this type of account is not an enterprise fund as it does not cover overhead costs, only direct expenses. The Parks and Recreation Department already has two similar funds- Legacy for Fairfax Sherwood and Parks.

12. 2012/2013 Priority Agenda

Joe Harmon asked PRAB to identify five things that they should have as a priority each year. Esther Nasjleti suggested developing a Strategic Master Plan. Douglas Stewart suggested the idea of a diversity initiative and Zinta Rodgers-Rickert added to this by saying that there should be more outreach. Gary Sidor mentioned that the number of CIP items continues to get pushed back and this should be discussed. Zinta Rodgers-Rickert also mentioned that Parks should help with the Old Town Fairfax businesses. Kitty Poser Garden, Green Acres, Dog Park and Thaiss connection were all mentioned by Mike McCarty as items that should be added to the agenda as well.

11. Parks and Recreation Report

Michael McCarty talked about the Derecho storm on June 29. The Parks staff were very involved in helping out the street crews and removed 1600yds of debris. Daniels Run Park got hit the worst. The Fourth of July parade went very well. Council gave a proclamation to the department for Parks and Recreation Month at the lunch at Old Town Hall. The fireworks brought in huge crowds but with the storm threat and an issue with the fireworks forcing them to be shut down. The Whole Health Fest is being planned by Catherine Read and will be held on Sunday, Sept 23 at the Sherwood Center.

12. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the June meeting were approved with changes. Don Lederer made a motion to approve the minutes as modified and Gary Sidor seconded it.

13. Stakeholder Updates

- **Commission on the Arts – *Harry Wilbur***
-No Report (Absent)
- **Community Appearance Committee – *Don Lederer***
-No Report
- **Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling – *Douglas Stewart***
-Bike Happy Hour went very well at Coyote Grill with about 35 people that attended the event
- **Fairfax Police Youth Club – *Gary Sidor***
-David Carr from FCPS was very accommodating to FPYC with loaning equipment. Nine kids from the running team will be in the upcoming National tournament. The girl's rugby team won the State Championship.
- **Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – *Brian Knapp***
-No Report
- **Planning Commission – *Jennifer Passey***
-No Report (Absent)
- **School Board – *Toby Sorensen***
-Dr. Noonan officially took over his role of School Superintendent. Schools are now working on their summer maintenance.
- **Senior Center – *Jane Albro***
-The seniors only had a small representation at the parade because of the extreme heat. Frank Kelly and Ruby Looney were excited to be named King and Queen of the Young at Heart Senior Center.

14. Matters of the Members

Brian Knapp met with NVRPA and Bob Sisson to discuss re-linking Gateway Park and Thaiss Park with the trail.

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert mentioned that we should work on partnering with and supporting the Lorton Workhouse.

15. Adjournment

Joseph Harmon made motion to adjourn at 9:40pm and Zinta seconded it.

The next PRAB Meeting will take place Thursday, Sept. 13. There will be no meeting in August.

Minutes prepared by Karen Lussier, Recreation Manager-Sherwood Center

