

**City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 9, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Sherwood Community Center**

PRAB Members Present:

Jane Albro
Joe Harmon
Ester Nasjleti
Mike Slawski
Don Lederer
Harry Wilbur
Brian Knapp
Paul Cunningham
Toby Sorensen
Gary Sidor
Mike McCarty Director, Parks and Recreation Department

PRAB Members Absent:

Zinta Rogers-Rickert
Mace Carpenter

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Adaption of the Agenda

The agenda was adapted as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as amended (although later in the meeting after all participants had arrived.)

4. Matters of the Officers

Joe Harmon, President, announced that the joint meeting with the Senior Citizens Group will take place on July 14 at the Senior Center. Brian Knapp suggested that the agenda include plans relating to capital costs. Joe and Jane Albro will work on a joint agenda. On Tuesday, June 14, the PRAB awards will be presented to Joe Kirby and the Boy Scouts at the beginning of the City Council meeting. Mace Carpenter will be resigning from PRAB due to scheduling problems. PRAB will have two vacancies, however, one is expected to be filled soon. The "Get Fit Fairfax" message is getting out. Joe thanked all who came out for Trails Day. Nine people are on the waiting list for one of the 18 plots in the Community Garden. The Fairfax Connection newspaper and Patch.com each had articles about Trails Day and the Community Garden.

Ester Nasjleti, Vice-President, had no comments.

Toby Sorensen, June Secretary, had no comments.

5. Business

- **Park Steward Program (see below)**
- **PRAB Awards (discussed above)**

At the June 14 meeting, Council will also discuss fees for park facilities.

- **Legacy Prioritization**

Mike McCarty presented a draft version of the "Sherwood and Legacy Funding Recommendations" that will be presented at a City Council Work Session on July 26.

He went over the points in it and asked PRAB members for feedback and suggestions that they could bring to the July 14 PRAB meeting.

- **Rock the Park**

Mike explained that “Rock the Park” is a program to celebrate July as Park and Recreation Month. It encourages people to visit a park or recreation area each of the five weekends in July. It will be advertised with a press release and e-mail blasts.

- **Trails Subcommittee Update**

Esther reported that the next meeting will take place on June 16 at 6 p.m.

- **Dog Park Subcommittee Update**

Mike Slawski reported that the group has discussed possibilities locations and what characteristics a City dog park should have. A motion was made by Mike to appoint Jeff Hermann (?) to the subcommittee, which was seconded by Brian Knapp, and approved by the members. Karen Bixler has been assigned to be the staff representative to the subcommittee.

6. Parks and Recreation Department Report

- **Gold Medal Update**

Mike reported that staff is working on an updated video for the new Gold Medal competition. It will include the sesquicentennial reenactment of the skirmish at the Old Courthouse, the dedication of the Community Garden, and a description of the induction loop system for the hearing impaired at the Sherwood Center.

- **Marketing Update**

Jo Ormisher now spends 100% of her 40-hour work week on marketing for Parks and Rec. and does not have to split her time.

- **Miscellaneous**

A George Mason University intern is working on “Get Fit Fairfax.” Lexus donated \$20,000 to repair the upper playground at Van Dyck Park. In the future, sponsored races will have to go into a lottery to keep the number of races down, however, established races will still get a priority. There will be a new parade line-up by the Massey for the July 4 parade. Mike is hoping to have carnival rides on July 2, 3, and 4. The City would get 15% of the gross. An Eagle Scout candidate is going to work on trail markers for Daniels Run Park. A City Council member thinks that the Mayor or a City Council member, not the P & R Director, should have a message in “Leisure Times.” Joe Harmon agreed to discuss this with the Mayor.

7. Business (cont.): Park Steward Reports

Gary Sidor presented his report on Providence Park and Green Acres Fields (see addendum).

Toby Sorensen presented her report on Country Club Hills Park and Stafford (see addendum).

8. Stakeholder Updates

- **Commission on the Arts** – Harry Willbur asked about the selection of the statue that will be placed in front of the Sherwood Center. No selection has been made.(?)
- **Community Appearance Committee** – Don Lederer said the committee is getting handouts ready for the Fall Festival.
- **Fairfax Police Youth Club** – Gary Sidor said FCPS is getting ready for the Father’s Day Soccer Tournament.
- **Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority** – Brian Knapp had no report.
- **Planning Commission** – Paul Cunningham recommended that developers of new townhouses that have few amenities proffer money for the improvement of nearby parks. A new planner has been hired to work with the Planning

Commission. Paul reported that 16 new homes are going up by Arties, as well as 73 condos by Route 123 and School St. and 48 homes on the Jaguar property.

- **School Board** – Toby Sorensen reported that Fairfax High School graduation will take place at noon on June 16.
- **Senior Center** – Jane Albro reminded the committee that the next PRAB meeting with the seniors will take place at Green Acres.

9. Matters of the Members

Joe Harmon and Esther Nesjleti are willing to run again as President and Vice-President. The selection will take place at the July meeting.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

The Next PRAB Meeting is Thursday, July 14, at the Green Acres Center.

ADDENDUM 1: Park Steward Report on Providence Park and Green Acres Fields.

(Gary, can you sent me your copy?)

ADDENDUM 2: Park Steward Report on Country Club Hills Park and Stafford Park

City of Fairfax – Park/Trail Assessment

Park Name: Country Hills Community Park

Your Name: Toby Sorensen

Date of Visit: June 8, 2011

Best Features:

1. has a pavillion
2. easily accessible to neighbors
3. landscaping
4. right next to woods

Worst Elements:

1. the two small benches

Safety Issues:

The two benches are dirty, the wood is dried, one is missing a slat, the screws are rusting, and they are wobbly.

Condition of Playground Equipment: none

Pavilions:

In good shape

Fields and Turf Condition:

none

Trails, Walkways, Sidewalks:

There is a trail to the Accotink Creek. CCHCA would love Parks & Rec to resurface it and cut foliage along the side.

Fences:

none

Trees, Shrubs, and Bushes:

Probably could use some weeding

Parking:

Street parking is adequate.

Benches, Picnic Tables, Trash Cans:

Two benches, two picnic tables under the pavilion, two trash cans

Courts (tennis, basketball):

none

Bridges:

none

Signage:

One sign giving the name of the park and symbols to show what is not allowed.

Recommended Improvements:

1. paint the picnic tables
2. add a pet waste container
3. sign needs freshening up
4. Cut back foliage around the sign. It is covering the symbols at bottom.
5. Replace two old benches with two or three better quality ones and group them in a conversational arrangement.
6. Add electricity to pavilion.

How to Attract New Visitors? Any Ideas?

This is just a neighborhood pocket park and is quite nice as is.

How to Generate Revenue? Any Ideas?

none

Summary Points

The neighbors adopt spots to garden and maintain. The civic association is planning a concert in July, a Waterfest in August, a Labor Day Picnic, and an Oktoberfest. This is why the addition of electricity at the pavilion would be very helpful.

City of Fairfax – Park/Trail Assessment

Park Name: Stafford Park

Your Name: Toby Sorensen

Date of Visit: June 8, 2011

Best Features:

1. turf field
2. landscaping
3. restrooms
4. playground
5. bike racks
6. shaded trail to playground

Worst Elements:

1. no parking lot by the playground
2. trash lying around grounds and along wooded trail.

Safety Issues:

There is a broken chain on one of the toddler swings.

Condition of Playground Equipment:

Good except for the broken chain

Pavilions:

none

Fields and Turf Condition:

Looks good.

Trails, Walkways, Sidewalks:

Looks good.

Fences:

Looks good.

Trees, Shrubs, and Bushes:

Beautiful.

Parking:

Great parking by the side of the field. None by playground.

Benches, Picnic Tables, Trash Cans:

Very nice benches and bleachers, all in great condition. Four trash cans, no picnic tables.

Courts (tennis, basketball): none

Bridges: none

Signage:

Suggestion: Mark hours when the restrooms are open. Put up a sign to indicate the path to the playground through the woods.

Recommended Improvements:

1. Water fount at the restrooms is leaking and the water pressure is poor.
2. Have a clean-up day for the wooded trail area
3. Add one more pet disposal bin.
4. Put a recycle bin next to the trash bin by the restrooms.

How to Attract New Visitors? Any Ideas?

Add a small pavilion and a water spray area near the playground. (!!)

How to Generate Revenue? Any Ideas?

Using the added features suggested above, market and rent the playground area as a place for birthday parties and family gatherings.

Summary Points

A lacrosse team was gathering for practice and a woman was jogging on the wooded trail to keep out of the sun on a very hot day.