

**City of Fairfax  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes  
January 14, 2010, 7:00 p.m.  
Green Acres Center, Room 110**

**Members Present**

Jane Albro  
Paul Cunningham  
Joseph Harmon  
Brian Knapp  
Don Lederer  
Esther Nasjleti  
James Ogletree  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Gary Sidor  
Mike Slawski  
Toby Sorensen  
Harry Wilbur  
Mike McCarty, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

**Members Absent**

Mace Carpenter

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

A modified agenda was adopted to reflect the fact that Mace Carpenter was absent and could not do his own presentation.

**3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the December 10 meeting were approved as presented.

**4. Matters of the Officers**

*Chair Joseph Harmon* welcomed new member Mike Slawski.

Mike McCarty would be doing a video presentation of some Little League issues of concern to member Mace Carpenter.

Joseph congratulated Mike McCarty on a successful groundbreaking ceremony for the Sherwood Community Center.

The annual joint meeting of PRAB and the City School Board will take place at 6 p.m. on May 13 at the Green Acres Center.

Members were asked to think about nominations for the PRAB Service Award.

Joseph reported that Mace Carpenter talked to the people at the KIT music store who recommended that a Yamaha grand piano be purchased for the Community Center rather than a Steinway. The cost would be anywhere between \$10,000 and \$50,000.

*Vice Chair Esther Nasjleti* reviewed the list of recording secretaries for the next several meetings.

*Secretary Toby Sorensen* had no report.

## **5. Parks and Recreation Department Report**

Mike McCarty reported that the tennis court and baseball field projects are on hold due to the cold, with the hope that work can resume by the end of January and be completed by the end of April.

The tennis court drainage problem at Providence Park has been resolved. The cost is still to be determined and will probably come out of the contingency fund.

Work is progressing on the Community Center. A fence has been erected around the site, and the contractor has begun erosion control and tree removal and relocation. Sigal, the contractor, thinks the work can be completed in eight months.

The Chocolate Lovers Festival will take place on Feb. 6 and 7.

The Fairfax County Parks and Recreation Department will lend the City some holiday lights from their Bull Run display for this year's Festival of Lights.

Mike presented City Manager Bob Sisson with an operational budget that included a 3.8% increase for Parks and Recreation.

The members discussed the City's Park and Trail Naming Policy and Mike will bring our comments forward to the City Council.

## **6. Business**

The Legacy for Fairfax program is described on page 8 of the January PRAB report which Mike handed out to the members. Fundraising for the Legacy Program was discussed. Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Toby Sorensen, Mike Slawski, and Mace Carpenter volunteered to work on a fundraising sub-committee. Mace is working on having a fundraiser at the Army-Navy Country Club.

Members discussed having the Mayor and/or City Council approach the owners of the tank farm about supporting the Legacy program. Spotlight on the Arts is thinking of raising money for the grand piano.

The Trails Sub-Committee had no report. However, it was noted that Pacers was thinking of having a run the third weekend in May, which would compete with Trail Days.

Possible locations for a community garden were discussed, including Kutner Park and an area by City Hall.

Regarding the use of leftover funds from the Sherwood Community Center, the following motion was made by Harry Wilbur and seconded by Brian Knapp:

1. Leftover funds would be used to set up an endowment for capital improvements.
2. A certain percentage of those funds could be reserved for FF & E (Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment).
3. No leftover funds could be used for operations.

The motion passed unanimously.

## **7. Matters of the Members**

For absent member *Mace Carpenter* Mike McCarty presented a handout and slideshow regarding some of Mace's concerns about Little League. He proposed altering the route of the Little League parade for safety and cost concerns; he presented some ideas on the baseball fields and parking at Providence Elementary; and he suggested adding a baseball field and a softball field on Fairfax High's practice field.

*Esther Nasjleti* reported that she is working a New Members' Packet.

*Brian Knapp* gave a brief report on the NVRPA negotiations with the City regarding the leasing of Beaver Dam for recreation purposes. There has been a suggestion for a full upfront payment or for a phased payment over twenty years.

*Jane Albro* gave the members a flyer announcing a Spaghetti Dinner at the Senior Center on Saturday, February 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. She described the renovation of the fitness room and the ladies room at the Center. Karen Bixler has been voted as the Virginia Delegate to the National Institute of Senior Centers. Jane thanked Mike McCarty for his presentation on the Legacy for Fairfax program at the Senior Center Membership meeting on January 5.

## **8. Adjournment**

Joseph Harmon adjourned the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

*First Draft of Minutes submitted by Toby Sorensen  
January 31, 2010*