

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Minutes – September 10, 2009

Minutes taken by : Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

Members Present:

Don Lederer
Joseph Harmon
Harry Wilbur
Brian Knapp
Esther Nasjleti
Gary Sidor
Donald Johns
Paul Cunningham
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Toby Sorensen

Members Absent:

James Ogletree

Guests:

Frank Linton
Dick Shell
Deb Skeins
C. Money
Mace Carpenter

Meeting called to order: 7:02 pm Green Acres

Guest Presentation: Bike Trail Initiative by Frank Linton an extensive initial report regarding recommendations for improved Signage and Route recommendations were presented to PRAB members. (Draft form dated 6-21-09) both organizations look forward to having more discussions in the future as we move Fairfax City into a more bike friendly community.

- Bike safety classes being offered
- Considering a “Bike Fest” type event
- Need for bike safety info in Spanish (Z. Rickert)
- City trails and their connection to County trails (D. Lederer)
- Daniels Run and Regional Park connection issues (B. Knapp)
- Trail connection from Daniels Run to Pickett Road and Gateway and the tunnel closure problem at Thaiss (B. Knapp).

Minutes for July meeting approved unanimously.

The 2009-2010 meeting schedule was provided and a member roster for review.

Requests were made for future meeting minute takers:

Volunteers came forward (B. Knapp and T. Sorenson) but we discussed how it will cycle thru James, Zinta & Gary.

Oct. James Ogletree
Nov. Gary Sidor
Dec. Toby Sorensen
Jan. Brian Knapp

Provided in our packets was also the initial PRAB Park visit summary for 2008-09 with a priority plan recommendation to be developed by the Nov. PRAB meeting to initiate for the Comprehensive Plan review.

Parks and Recreation Department Report – provided to members in it's new “newsletter” format. Very well received by PRAB! This report will go on to City Council and School Board as well.

Touching on updates for:

Park projects

Community Center - Directory McCarty gave an update on preparations to go to bid for construction of the Center, and he showed the latest renderings of the inside of the building.

Ashby Pond

Leisure Times

Additionally addressing items such as:

Youth and Teen programs

Adult programming

Senior Programs

Athletics & Fields

Cultural Arts

Special Events

Be sure to visit the City's website regularly for many of these updates.

Mike McCarty also noted that the City Council has created a Environment Sustainability Committee to further a “Green Challenge” and members for the committee are being sought. Plus the City is looking more seriously at the prospects for a Community Garden and a “Fit City of Fairfax” program focusing on children – “No child left inside”.

Business

Video Book Tour Commercials on City site – all were encouraged to explore them. We saw the Parks and Recreation one.

PRAB Volunteer Service Day to be held Saturday, Nov. 14 similar to the event held on Trails Day but at this time of year most of the leaves will be down and trash will be more accessible and visible.

Online Community Group Joseph Harmon to create a Google email group to make the exchange of ideas, concerns, hopes easier and assist in our role as advisors.

Park Stewardship Program

Esther Nasjleti created a break down of the City's parks and each PRAB member has volunteered to serve as one. A few times a year we are committed to checking in on our designated park(s) and its neighbors to see what's needed if anything.

Legacy Program and Foundation Development Update

Mike McCarty shared with the group that he will be discussing a possible donation program called "Legacy for Parks" with the City Council at a future work session. This will be the first time to hear of this program proposal and provide guidance and direction to staff. The Legacy for Parks program could provide funds for naming rights for community center rooms, benches, bricks, tress, etc.. Mike also reported that the foundation paper work from the State has been received.

Joseph Harmon indicated that in his opinion the Foundation is still a work in progress, but that at this time it is on a back burner until further directed by Council. He informed the members that he has been and will continue discussing the Legacy Program with Council members and the Mayor.

Brian Knapp urged PRAB to take a decision on whether to continue its planning work for the Foundation. PRAB members then had a discussion about the issue with Don Lederer and Harry Wilbur saying that foundation planning should continue.

Member Matters:

Brian shared with all that Art was grateful and humbled by the attention of PRAB upon his departure last July.

Adjournment 9:40pm