

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
City of Fairfax
Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2008
Location: City Hall

Members in Attendance: Brian Knapp (Chair), Joe Harmon (Vice-Chair), Arthur Little, David Bauer, Donald Johns, Donald Lederer, Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Esther Nasjleti, Harry Wilbur, James Ogletree, Paul Cunningham, Gary Sidor

Absent: Elisa Lueck

Staff in Attendance: Leslie Herman, Jo Ormesher

1. Meeting called to order 7:05 pm.
2. Minutes for November 2008 approved (Motion – Little, Second- Lederer)
3. New Business – Presentation by Patrick Spung of Boy Scout Troop 187, requesting permission for a proposed Eagle Scout Badge project. A packet and summary of improvements to be made to the Van Dyck Fitness trail were provided.
4. Old Business –
 - a. Capital Presentation Update – our packet included the presentation given to the Planning Commission by Mike McCarty which clearly detailed how Mike’s Department and PRAB are looking strategically to the future. Mr. Cunningham shared that the presentation was excellent, but unfortunately with expected budget short falls, most future projects will have to be a joint effort between volunteers and minimal material supplies. A \$12.5 million dollar short fall is expected. Safety issues will take priority, and those items that can increase economic activity for the city. PRAB has recommended 2 bridges be replaced in the coming fiscal year.
 - b. Park Project Update –
 - a. Draper Drive – Park is fully functioning but still no lights. Nothing new on the easement issue.
 - b. Stafford Park – contractor issues related to curbs/ramps and asphalt path slope. Therefore, the park is not deemed yet substantially completed. Dedication will be scheduled for the spring.
 - c. Providence ES – 90 foot baseball field – still waiting to resolve easement issue related to drainage. Providence Park – the bid for the tennis courts has not been released.

- c. Community Center – Things are moving along. Stakeholders (Senior Center, Commission on the Arts, FPYC & PRAB) had a productive meeting with the architect in November. Timeline, design recommendations, and budget information were in our packets. Chairman Knapp announced that Council had decided on a footprint for the building at its December 9 work session. He shared his and PRAB’s admiration and respect for all stakeholders and individuals (especially Jeanne Agee) that have worked so hard and quickly in cooperation on the Community Center design/plan to bring it to this point.
- d. Park Visit project 2008 update
 - a. Team updates: Bauer team presented in November – Great presentation. Many thanks to Dave and his team. Harmon team to present this evening. Knapp team to present in January and Sidor team to present in February.
 - b. Harmon team park presentation:
 - a. Cobbdale: issues mentioned had to do with drainage/erosion and encroachment. There park enjoys community support and involvement by local residents.
 - b. Kitty Pozner: overall good and group recommends further expansion of this park. Benches and fencing need attention. This is a good location for “art in the park.”
 - c. Ted Grefe Park: deemed natural and passive. Trail could be improved with addition of a new bridge.
 - d. Ranger Road Park: A large park in good condition but trail could be a safety issue due to homeless in area. Park could use a pavilion and the tree canopy needs to be raised. The signage needs to be closer to the road.
 - e. Willcoxon Park: another natural park but might be a bit overgrown. Difficult to find. A possible name change was recommended (trail vice park).
- e. Park Foundation update: City Council support is evident and the City’s lawyer has been asked to look into this further, per a request of Council Member Cross. There are potentially many stakeholders. A motion was made by Harmon and seconded by Little that a steering committee of PRAB members be established to start looking into a Park & Recreation Foundation.

5. Parks & Recreation Department Update:

- a. December Festival of Lights – a success with big crowds.
- b. Chocolate Lover Festival (February) – community and participants are stepping up to help pull it all together, even with City budget cuts.

- c. Holiday Craft Show – 1/3 less in estimated sales and low turn out for Sunday but there were more vendors.
 - d. Downtown stimulus – Fri & Sat. space provided for free to local artists to try and draw people in.
 - e. First Night (Dec 31) – a number of partnerships are coming together to make this a successful event. Need volunteers. See flyer and info in packets. Community is supportive.
6. Beaver Dam: The City Council and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority are talking about the possibility of turning this city-owned asset into a park in Loudoun County. The City would have to grant an easement to the Park Authority. In turn, the Park Authority is offering to fund the long-planned park project at Ashby Pond (drainage of pond, build a trail, install a small pavilion). Detailed information (including a map) was provided in packet.
7. Members Time: A number of members expressed favorable kudos for all that the City and staff do to make this City a great place to live and play.
- Zinta updated PRAB on her discussions in the community regarding a dog park.
- Harry said that PRAB meetings are too long and address too many agenda items. He strongly recommended that future meetings be kept shorter.
8. Adjournment: 9:45 pm.