

Minutes
July 10, 2008, 7:00 pm
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Fairfax City Hall

PRAB

Present – Harry Wilbur, Donald Johns, Brian Knapp, Esther Nasjleti, Gary Sidor, Joe Harmon, Art Little, David Bauer, Don Lederer, James Ogletree

Staff – Michael McCarty, Edwin Rivera

Absent – Zinta Rodgers, Elisa Leweck, Paul Cunningham

Meeting Called to order at 7:05 pm.

Approval of May 2008 minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Stafford Park/Draper Drive Park Update

- Directory McCarty said Draper Drive Park (field installation) is on schedule and is planning for a September opening ceremony.
- Stafford Park is on schedule (field, playground), and McCarty is developing plans for a ceremonial opening in early November.
- Providence Elementary - Phase II land actions have been approved (lights, parking, etc. for the new ball diamond) by City Council. The project is planned to go out to bid in September if all goes smoothly with the request for easement for drainage.
- Providence Park - No land use actions are required for installation of the tennis courts. The existing rain garden will need to be repaired. It will go out to bid in August 2008, and expected completion is spring 2009.
- The Ratcliffe Park drainage project is complete.
- Lanier - Irrigation system is installed, waiting for the water company to provide water meter, then seeding can progress. Concerns remain about the condition of the field (debris in top soil left by contractors for school construction).

Community Center

The Hughes Group was officially awarded design and engineering contract and has begun work. Hughes will identify potential locations for a Community Center at Van Dyck Park and present at the City Council work session in early September. Council desires minimal impact on Van Dyck Park footprint. Council does not want to spend more than \$5 million.

Election of PRAB Officers

- Board approved Brian Knapp to continue as Chair
- Board approved Joe Harmon to continue as Vice Chair.
- No volunteers or nominees for Secretary - discussion on filling the position is postponed until September PRAB meeting.

Community Garden

Graduate School intern Edwin Rivera presented slides summarizing his research on community gardens. The excellent presentation and detailed research paper included information on benefits, funding, structure for management/administration, policies to resolve at initial startup. The paper also included information on community gardens in our region. PRAB recognized that to pursue the idea, it would be critical to involve a core group with expertise, who could then act as advocates and involve more people. PRAB agreed to revisit this issue in the fall.

Priorities for `08 - `09

PRAB members identified the following topics for consideration and review:

A comprehensive visit to the parks and trails

Further progress on establishing a Foundation

Spray ground

Art in the park

Use of school facilities for parks and recreation activities (how is the balance?)

Dog Park

Community Center

Finish Bylaws for PRAB

Parks and Recreation Director's Update

- July 4th great success, tricky to coordinate because of weather

- Assistant Recreation Manager will be selected soon

- Field closed/open signs will be installed - total of 30 signs citywide

- First Fairfax may be included as a special event this year (a priority for Councilman Drummond)

- Providence Elementary - County has told the School Board that they will require about 3 portable classrooms to accommodate about 50 extra children. McCarty will report back to PRAB about the positioning of these trailers and the impact on green space or field space

- Fairfax High School track is shut down for now.

- City has authorized renewal of lease to NoVA Christian Academy at Westmore School for another year. Council has requested a staff study on potential uses of Westmore for the future.

NVRPA – Chairman Knapp said that NVRPA will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2009 with many year-long celebrations, including something in the City of Fairfax (yet to be determined).

PRAB Bylaws - Edwin Rivera provided a draft outline of bylaws for PRAB.

Adjournment at 9:05 pm.