

Minutes
June 12, 2008, 7:00 pm
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Fairfax City Hall

PRAB

Present – Amy Craig, Harry Wilbur, Donald Johns, Brian Knapp, Esther Nasjleti, Zinta Rodgers, Gary Sidor, Joe Harmon, Art Little, James Ogletree

Absent –Habib Kahn, David Bauer, Donald Lederer

Staff

Michael McCarty, Edwin Rivera, Dan Philips

Meeting Called to order at 7:10 pm

Approval of May 2008 minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

After School Programs

Dan Philips provided PRAB an update on the after-school programs at Daniels Run and Providence Elementary Schools, summarizing the entire school year (2007-2008). Both programs were very successful.

Park Projects

- Directory McCarty provided attendees a handout with updates on the Park projects (“Park Project Update”).
- Stafford Park will debut the new park signage for the City, and McCarty provided a picture of the design.
- Chairman Knapp urged PRAB members to visit the parks to see the works in progress, especially Draper, Stafford, and Providence Elementary.

Estimated schedules for completion:

Draper - August 31, 2008

Stafford - October 31, 2008

Providence Elementary - Phase one - Sept 2008; Phase two - March/April 2009

Providence Park - Spring 2009

Ratcliffe Park - June 17, 2008

Lanier Irrigation - complete, fields will be available Spring 2009

- New park rule signs will be put up in June and July.

Community Center

1. At the June 10 City Council meeting, Council approved the appropriation of \$600,000 for a design and engineering firm, but failed to endorse the Hughes Group as recommended by Staff because language of the contract award was still under legal review. The City Council will review the recommendation of the

Hughes Group again at the June 24 meeting.

2. The most likely design for the first phase, considering the budget, is approximately 14,000 sq. ft. PRAB, Commission on the Arts, FPYC, and the Senior Center Council are united in believing that such a footprint should focus on performances and cultural events and the arts.

3. The first priority for the Hughes Group, once they are officially on board, is to help Council decide the location of the Community Center.

Trails Day Festival

- The Festival on June 7 had many more visitors to the exhibitor displays than in 2007. This was largely due to the co-location of the race and exhibitors.
- Limited sponsorships - money went to cover race expenses.
- PRAB members can mark their calendars for next year - National Trails Day is on June 6, 2009.
- McCarty commented that the event took a significant amount of staff time, considering there are several other events about the same time, especially July 4. It would good to have dedicated special events funds for this Festival in 2009.

Teen Center Video

- McCarty premiered three versions of the teen center video - three versions remain under consideration.
- The video will be played at Movies under the Moon, on the local cable channel, and possibly also at schools in order to promote attendance at the Center.

Foundation

- Zinta and Joe had another meeting with the leaders of the Fairfax City Public Library Foundation who emphasized that selecting the right board members is critical to the success of a new foundation.
- Next action for Joe and Zinta is to contact and meet with leaders from the Fairfax County Parks Foundation.
- Zinta stated that establishing a foundation will require help early on from an attorney. PRAB members who can suggest names for an attorney should send them to Zinta.
- Art recommended that Zinta and Joe meet with the City's representative to the NVRPA Foundation as an additional data point.

PRAB Website

- Knapp thanked Joe Harmon for the work he is performing to improve the content and look of the PRAB website, as contained in the Parks Department site.

Parks and Recreation Director's Update

- McCarty provided a detailed written report, which highlighted upcoming events (Father Daughter Dance, Movies Under the Moon, Skate Fest).
- Recent storms caused damage at Dale Lestina Park requiring it to be closed

temporarily; it should reopen June 15.

- July 4th Parade Grand Marshall will be Admiral Patrick Walsh, Vice Chief of Naval Operations.

- McCarty welcomed graduate student intern, Edwin Rivera, for the summer.

2008-2009 PRAB Session

- Knapp announced that PRAB elections will held at the July meeting. Knapp also

urged PRAB members to consider priorities for the upcoming year. Knapp suggested

that it is time again to tour/survey the parks.

NVRPA - Art Little told PRAB members about the NVRPA “Pirate Attack” event at Pohick Bay Regional Park, June 14, to launch the Pirate’s Cove Waterpark

Amy Craig – PRAB members bid farewell to Amy and praised her contributions to PRAB.

Adjournment 9:15 pm

Next Meeting: July 10, 2008 7 PM, location TBA