

**City of Fairfax  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)  
Minutes of Meeting  
November 10, 2010  
Green Acres Community Center**

PRAB Members Present

Joseph Harmon, Chair  
Esther Nasjleti, Vice Chair  
Jane Albro  
Paul Cunningham  
Brian Knapp  
James Ogletree  
Gary Sidor  
Toby Sorensen  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Harry Wilbur

PRAB Members Absent

Mace Carpenter  
Donald Lederer  
Michael Slawski

Staff Present

Mike McCarty  
Alex Verzosa

Guests Present

Frank Linton, Advocates for Better Bicycling, Fairfax Chapter  
Steve K – graduate student working on his master’s (looking at the Willcoxon Trail)

1. Call to Order

The Chair, Joe Harmon, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Harmon announced that this was a joint meeting between PRAB and the bicycling advocates in the City of Fairfax.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

So approved.

3. Approval of the October Meeting Minutes

The October minutes (October 14, 2010) were approved with minor modifications. Paul Cunningham abstained since he had missed the October meeting.

4. Matters of the Officers

Chair/Harmon:

--Harmon circulated the recent NRPA magazine (October issue) and pointed out an article written by our own Parks Director, Michael McCarty. Congratulations to Mike!

--Harmon asked that PRAB members consider attending the Mayor's Ball for the new Community Center in April 2011. He welcomed Board Members to join the PRAB table that he is organizing. It is a table of 10 people, and 5 individuals have already signed up.

Vice Chair/Nasjleti: no report

Secretary/Knapp: no report

#### 5. Joint Meeting with the Bicycle Task Force

Harmon introduced Frank Linton who is helping to lead the efforts with the Bicycle Task Force. Linton provided the following report and update since PRAB last met with him in 2009.

--The Task Force (TF) completed a survey of Old Lee Highway (signage and photos).

--The City spent \$5000.00 last year improving bicycle signage around the City.

--The TF is currently focusing its efforts on the trails between GMU and the Vienna Metro Station.

--Officials from GMU are playing an active role in the TF.

--The TF is looking at George Mason Boulevard for bike lanes. Unfortunately, the street is too narrow for lanes dedicated to bicycles only. Instead, the TF is advocating for a "share the road" solution and putting "sharrow" signage on the streets.

--With all the housing construction at the Vienna Metro Station, the TF is suggesting that new residents in this development might be drawn to our City center using established bike lanes.

--The TF supports a parks master plan that includes a vision for bike trails.

--The TF is realistic and recognizes that bicycling improvements in the City can be achieved in incremental steps (better signage, better maps, more bike racks, etc.).

Alex Verzosa (Transportation Director for the City) provided two reports from the City staff perspective.

--He believes that Council will likely embrace the sharrow idea for GM Boulevard, provided the funds can be found to pay for the road pavement signage.

--The City has applied for a Federal transportation grant to cover the costs for several important projects, including the long sought master plan for parks, possible new trails, and identifying ways to link parks to trails. The grant could approach \$2.4M. The Thaiss crossing could also be addressed through this grant.

Harmon noted that Nasjleti is the PRAB representative to this Bicycle Task Force

#### 6. Business

##### a. Community Center Update

--Harmon announced that the Commission on the Arts has endorsed the draft vision statement for the Community Center that PRAB and Mike McCarty tinkered with several months ago.

--McCarty announced that the recent Golf Tournament held to raise funds for the Community Center yielded excellent results (approx. \$10K raised). Thanks to all who participated. The tournament will be held again in 2011.

--McCarty said that there were three major fund raising priorities right now for Community Center – civic green, stage walk, and patio. Significant donors will be eligible for naming rights.

##### b. Pocket Parks Update

--McCarty encouraged PRAB members to attend the opening of the new University Park on November 13 near GMU. City Council recently approved the naming of this park.

c. Park Steward Reports

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

Daniels Run – the park is well maintained and looks beautiful; the bridges look good; usage is very high. She recommended that the playground area be converted to a dog park. She noted some erosion in the usual areas where water runoff is prevalent. Rodgers-Rickert also visited Ashby Pond and noted some issues with trash.

Gateway – the day that Rodgers-Rickert visited, there was heavy rain. This results in a pond developing in the park (the park sits in a flood plain area).

Gary Sidor

A two-page written report was provided by Sidor describing his visit to two parks. Highlights include:  
Green Acres – lack of parking is an issue; field condition is poor due to over usage; play equipment looks good and is well used; portable toilet is a welcome feature.

Providence Park – lack of parking is an issue; field condition is very poor; could use some seating for athletic events; play equipment is very popular and in good shape; portable toilets are welcome features; signage could be improved; pavilion is heavily used; construction of tennis courts continues; FPYC Clubhouse has some outside storage issues that could be improved.

d. CIP Review

--Harmon circulated the updated list of CIP projects and reviewed with Board members the priority projects for FY11/12.

--There was a discussion about some of the bigger projects for the out years, like the replacement turf at the high school.

--McCarty and Harmon will present to the Planning Commission on November 29.

--There was also a short discussion on user fees generated from field usage and how these fees should go back to the Parks and Recreation Department for future projects at the fields, like fencing and dugouts and turf replacement.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Report

--McCarty noted that while the City of Fairfax did not win the top honor in the recent Gold Medal competition (Golden, Colorado was the winner), it was still significant for the City to be honored, especially as a first time applicant.

--The next annual NRPA conference will be held in Atlanta (Nov 1-4).

--McCarty announced that the Sherwood Community Center will host a ribbon cutting ceremony on February 12 in the morning.

--McCarty reported that the tennis courts at Providence Park are looking good. The final surface coatings will be applied in spring 2011.

--McCarty announced that Laura Lister is now a full time employee on his staff, and she will serve as facilities coordinator.

--McCarty will soon advertise for two positions to help run the new Community Center. Karen Lussier will serve as the Community Center Manager.

## 8. Stakeholders Updates

Harry Wilbur/Commission on the Arts (COA): The Public Art Committee is working to populate the Civic Green by the Community Center with public art. COA is organizing an event at the Sherwood Community Center on Feb 4 to introduce the Center to potential users from the arts community.

Gary Sidor/FPYC: There is a meeting on November 29 to review fees for school usage. School Board President Janice Miller plans to host.

Paul Cunningham/Planning Commission: The public hearing for CIP projects is scheduled for December 14.

Toby Sorensen/School Board: The Fairfax City School Board recently conducted its annual meeting with Fairfax County School Board.

Brian Knapp/NVRPA: Knapp welcomed PRAB members to visit Bull Run Regional Park and see the annual light show. NVRPA is also helping the City with decorations (lighting) in Kitty Poser Garden.

Jane Albro/Seniors Center: The Center is getting close to issuing its 1000th membership card. The Center will host the annual feast/dinner on Thanksgiving.

## 9. Matters of the Members

Rodgers-Rickert: She is trying to organize a meeting with Mike McCarty to discuss a dog park for the City.

## 10. Adjournment

Harmon adjourned the meeting at 9:10 pm. The next PRAB meeting is scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup> at the new Sherwood Community Center.

Minutes prepared by Brian Knapp.