

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
THURSDAY September 14, 2006 - 7:00 P.M.
SUMMARY NOTES

Members present:

David Bauer	Brian Knapp, Chair	Harry Wilbur, COA
Amy Craig, School Board	Arthur Little, NVRPA	
Molly Grimsley, COA	James Ogletree	
Joseph Harmon	Gary Sidor	

Apologies: Zinda Rogers

Staff present:

Michael McCarty, Director of Parks and Recreation
Leslie Herman, Special Events Coordinator
Joanna Ormesher, Cultural ,Tourism & Marketing.

Guests: No Guests

- 1) Meeting called to Order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2) Advisory Board Members and staff provided introductions and welcomed Mr. McCarty to the City and his new position.
- 3) Approval of June 2006 Minutes: Minutes were approved.
- 4) Old Business
 - a) Update on Stafford West Planning
 - i) Brian Knapp gave a brief overview of the progress of the Stafford West Planning. Mr. Knapp highlighted key points from presentation given by Director McCarty at the September 12, 2006 work session. Mr. Knapp emphasized that PRAB has endorsed Concept 2, along with FPYC and Fairfax Little League and City Staff.
 - ii) Director McCarty shared findings since the Sept 12 work session regarding fields at Lanier and potential field development at Green Acres. He also outlined his plan to address questions from the Council at the next work session scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2006.
 - iii) Amy Craig provided information on the possibility of the County funding a second synthetic turf field in the City within 2-3 years. Amy recalled that the 20/20 project said the City lacked fields in general in the mid-90's.

- iv) Brian Knapp received approval from the Board to draft a position letter, which will be sent to the Council prior to the September 26, 2006 work session. The letter would assert that the installation of only one field at Stafford West would not be cost effective.
 - b) Update on Providence Park- Phase II Implementation
 - i) Brian Knapp informed PRAB that the Providence Park Phase II project is currently on hold pending a decision on the Stafford West Property.
 - c) Kitty Pozer Garden
 - i) Brian Knapp suggested that a Task Force be created, whose membership could include all future users of the yet-to-be-planned expanded Kitty Pozer Garden (children, teens, young adults and seniors). The task force could develop concepts for a downtown gathering place with a possible water spray playground for children, seating, and other amenities attractive to all.
 - d) Community Center
 - i) Mr. Knapp reported that the City Council requested a report from City Staff (last June) analyzing the potential of making Green Acres the permanent Community Center. Knapp explained how far the PRAB Sub-Committee for the Community Center had gotten last May with its work analyzing Green Acres. The goal is to get the Council to focus on this issue in the fall, after finalizing plans for Stafford and Providence Parks.
 - e) CIP-Update on current projects
 - i) Director McCarty updated PRAB on status of existing and funded capital projects. Director McCarty informed PRAB of progress of the bridges at Daniel's Run, Tennis Courts at Van Dyck, Irrigation at Providence Park and Lights at Providence Elementary. Director McCarty also shared that the following capital projects will be bid this budget year: Ratcliffe Park irrigation, asphalt parking at Thaiss and Van Dyck, and Cobbdale Park bridge.
 - ii) Mr. Knapp asked for Director McCarty to clarify the current appropriations for Van Dyck, Ratcliffe, and Providence Phase II (is it \$100K per project?).
- 5) New Business
- a) CIP-FY08
 - i) Mr. Knapp asked all board members to look at the FY07/08 items, suggest new items and prioritize their requests for the October meeting. Amy Craig expressed concern that last year's CIP defined projects that would make permanent the soccer field at Van Dyck Park.
 - b) Fall Festival
 - i) Leslie Herman, Special Events Coordinator gave an update of the planning for the Fall Festival. Mrs. Herman informed PRAB of the new addition, Festival Superstar, at the Fall Festival. The Holiday Craft Show is filled, despite Fairfax High School renovations – all is on track.
 - c) Parks/Trails Review
 - i) Brian Knapp sought endorsement by PRAB members to undertake an extensive

- assessment of all parks/trails in the City's inventory. Two-member teams were established from the ranks of PRAB.
- ii) Director McCarty requested that the teams visit parks from the user perspective using an evaluation tool that will help identify key areas. PRAB members were asked to review the list and offer feed back for changes and corrections to the forms.
 - iii) Team assignments and evaluation forms will be sent out within a week. This task is to be completed by the November meeting, if possible.
- 6) Update from Director of Parks and Recreation
- a) Director McCarty informed PRAB of his meeting with the Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Park Authority and learned that NVRPA is undertaking an extensive needs assessment. It might be possible for the City to leverage this tool to gain additional information about City resident needs.
 - b) Director McCarty explained that PRAB would be asked at a future meeting to provide feedback through a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats tool (SWOT analysis).
 - c) Joanna Ormesher informed PRAB of the Fall for the Book Festival, Movies Under the Moon, and her work with Woody's Ice Cream for his event. She also urged the Board to consider visual art in their park visits.
- 7) Members Time
- a) Art Little: Gave Director McCarty a copy of the Blenheim report.
 - b) Olgetree: Noted the success from the June's trails day.
 - c) Amy Craig: Updated PRAB on the progress of the High School and Lanier renovations. Ms. Craig inquired about the potential to reposition the field at Daniel's Run Elementary School for drainage issues.
 - d) Brian Knapp: Highlighted the need for a needs assessment and reminded folks that the Task Force on Children and Families had strongly recommended such an assessment.
 - e) Harmon: Discussed trails day and ways to improve the event in June 2007, especially through publicity/advertising (making this a City special event). Pictures from the 2006 Trails Day were shared.
 - f) Sidor: Noted recent disturbances at Green Acres, possibly due to teens from Teen Center. Noted that the referendum for another Open Space Initiative was not approved by Council. Asked about the current vacancy on PRAB.
- 8) Adjournment
- a) The meeting was adjourned at 9:45pm.