

City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2017
City Hall Council Chambers

PRAB Members Present

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Jane Albro
Mike Anderson
Emily Deivert
Jeff Ferrell
Pat Gallegher
Kirk Holley
Evie Ifantides
Janet Jaworski
Brian Knapp
Sarah Ross
Robert Reinsel
Staff: Cathy Salgado

PRAB Members Absent

Jeff Ferrell
Eric Mitnacht

Guests

Joe Harmon
Mayor David Meyer
Brian Pevarnik and Dad

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert
Time: 7 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for March 9, 2017 meeting

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from January 12, 2017

Motion: Evie Ifantides

Second: Robert Reinsel

Approved unanimously

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4. Presentations

Eagle Scout candidate Brian Pevarnik from Troop 1887 presented his project proposal for a portable toilet enclosure at Providence Park. Members thanked him for doing. Mr. Knapp noted that this was the third or fourth restroom enclosure project from Troop 1887. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if the enclosure was secured to the concrete pad. Mr. Pevarnik replied yes.

5. New Business

Budget Update – Moved from Old Business

Chair Rodgers-Rickert welcomed Mayor Meyer to the meeting. Mr. Knapp asked that the budget agenda item move up so that Mayor can listen to the report. Mayor Meyer reported that we are in the midst of the budget process and that parks and recreation has significant CIP projects – most of which will survive for approval. Mr. Knapp asked for a report from Ms. Salgado regarding the budget presentation, specifically what did not make it into the City Manager's proposed budget to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Salgado reported that two position upgrades were requested. The first was a request to change the special events coordinator position from .75 FTE to 1 FTE. The second was to change the .75 temporary cultural arts position to a .75 FTE position. However, Ms. Salgado was able to make this request directly to the Mayor and Council. Ms. Salgado believes that the request elicited positive response from council members. Ms. Salgado also pressed for the inclusion of CIP project requests including additional funds for playground equipment, trail maintenance and larger long-term needs. Mr. Knapp asked what CIP projects were cut and did not make the proposed budget. Ms. Salgado responded that Ashby Pond dredging and Providence Park rectangular field renovations were eliminated. In addition cuts were made to the playground replacement at Ratcliffe, ADA Compliance and asphalt repairs. Mr. Knapp expressed concern over the cuts before it gets to council. Specifically the skate park and that eventually we will have to close it. Mr. Reinsel asked about the administrative division and why such a high percentage. Ms. Salgado explained that it also includes programs – which is most of the division. Ms. Salgado would like to separate administrative and program divisions however the Finance Director was not inclined to do so this year as it was felt the administrative division would be very small. Mr. Reinsel also asked to keep focus on maintenance issues vs CIP items in that the City sometimes does not differentiate between the two. Overall the CIP proposed budget increased from FY17 to FY18. Mayor Meyer encourages PRAB to come to council meetings, speak and endorse the proposed budget. Mayor Meyer thanked everyone and said his goodbyes for the evening.

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Comprehensive Plan – Community Services Draft UPDATE

Guest: Joe Harmon

Mr. Harmon asked that PRAB approve the draft chapter goals and outcomes in the PRAB packet. The original draft goals, as presented by Kelly O'Brien, were good however it is felt that they did not include the six goals in the Parks, Recreation, Trails, Open Space, Events and Cultural Arts Strategic Master Plan. Mr. Harmon presented the suggested goals and outcomes and asked that PRAB approve them so he can then take them back to the Planning Commission. Ms. Jaworski expressed support for Mr. Harmon's version and thanked Mr. Harmon for his work – he is an asset with institutional history. The idea of not reinventing the goals makes perfect sense. There was one minor grammatical correction to PR 1.3. Mr. Reinsel stated that the draft was spot on and is in favor of approving. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if any chapters content conflict. Mr. Harmon responded that while Cultural Arts is separate there is some overlap. Ms. Jaworski stated that they are cross checking all chapters and that staff is synthesizing the public comments. There was still work to be done. Mr. Knapp thanked Mr. Harmon for coming to PRAB and for carrying the Strategic Master Plan forwarded in his Planning Commission work. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked for a motion. Motion was made to approve the draft parks and recreation goals and outcomes as presented by Mr. Harmon. Mr. Holley asked to amend the motion to say "endorse" instead of approve. All agreed.

Motion: Janet Jaworski

Second: Robert Reinsel

Approved unanimously

6. Old Business

a) Van Dyck Master Plan Update

Ms. Salgado reviewed the Van Dyck Master Plan status including the opening of the on-line survey (320 responses to date), meeting with Mr. Don Lederer, the formation of the advisory group and the status of connecting with stake holder groups. The on-line survey is up and running and word is spreading thru the help of PRAB members. Ms. Ifantides recommended the survey be translated into Spanish which Ms. Salgado will do. Mr. Lederer provided additional background information for Van Dyck including the original master plan and renderings for a proposed community center on site. The advisory group will be meeting on March 22nd at 7 p.m. at Sherwood. The group includes PRAB members and several community members. We will report back at the April PRAB meeting.

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Many stakeholder groups have been contacted and Ms. Salgado is meeting with several. In addition PRAB members have been doing a great job of contacting stakeholders and sending links to the on-line survey. Ms. Salgado provided a brochure for members to use. In addition a banner has been posted at Van Dyck and the web page www.fairfaxva.gov/vandyck50 is up and running. There is a lot of great historical information and pictures. Ms. Deivert will work with Fairfax HS to distribute survey at English classes. In addition, she will make a QR code and email it to us. Mr. Holley suggested posting the QR code on site around the park. Ms. Salgado will post at various parks and around the city and will ask Ms. Cohen to place in the City Scene.

b) Community Center Planning Site Evaluation Process Update

Ms. Salgado provided an update on the community center site evaluation process. Volkert is completing work on several concepts for City Hall, Providence Park and Van Dyck/Sherwood. The concepts will be presented to Council this Saturday at the Council retreat. Councilmembers Miller and DeMarco are leading the process for Council. In addition we will be discussing possibilities at Willard Center (in conjunction with Sherwood), Old Fairfax High School (World Gym) and Paul VI. The Mayor had a meeting at Paul VI on Monday with the new bishop and will be letting Council know the details. Mr. Knapp asked when PRAB would be able to weigh in on the community center project. Ms. Salgado said very soon and that she would send the power point to members once Council receives it on Saturday.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

A) Upcoming Events

Ms. Salgado reminded members of the joint meeting with the Commission on the Arts scheduled for Tuesday, March 21st at 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood. In addition, the joint meeting with the school board is scheduled for Monday, May 15th @ 6 p.m. at Fairfax High School. After the joint meeting PRAB will continue with the regular May meeting – therefore the May 11th meeting is moved to May 15th – in a meeting room at the high school. Please mark your calendars. Mr. Reinsel noted that dinner will be provided. Ms. Salgado also wanted to let PRAB know that summer camp registration is now available on-line. In the past we could not do on-line registration because of limitations of the software, however we are now working with Campdocs.com and they are handling all the registration. Campdocs.com cost less to use than the currently used software Active Net and they direct deposit into the city treasury. To date we are over \$293,000 in revenue, ahead of last year.

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8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Robert Reinsel**

Mr. Reinsel thanked PRAB members for being kind to his colleagues in January and February. The School Board presented the FY18 proposed budget to Council with a .001% increase. While there is an increase in per pupil charge from FCPS, there is a decrease in the enrollment. It might be due to the loss of Oak Knoll. Mr. Reinsel explained that the overall pupil ratio in the city is .41 however at Layton Hall it is .91. Therefore it may be that Oak Knoll had a higher ratio than the city overall. There is also increased revenue from the state, lottery and meals tax. Chair Rodgers-Rickert noted that a while back she was contacted to help promote the quality of schools in the city and that from a real estate perspective some type of city campaign to spread the good news may be needed.

- **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**

Ms. Jaworski reported that the Planning Commission is continuing to work on the comp plan. The Boulevard Marketplace empty pad site is coming to council for approval. The Planning Commission approved changing the use from drive thru bank to specialty food, increasing the square feet by 1,500. There may be possibility of outdoor seating. While the adjacent marketplace has three vacancies, that portion is no longer owned by the developer of the final pad. They will be making some improvements to landscaping and signage as you connect to the George Snyder Trail. The Mayor had a meeting with Scout on the Circle developers. Mr. Anderson asked what can be done about businesses coming and going so quickly. Ms. Jaworski noted that the Economic Development Authority is working on retaining businesses.

- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

All is well at the Senior Center. Antiques Appraisal on March 25th.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

No report from the CAC however the Downtown Appearance Committee has been working on improvements. Brooke Hardin has agreed to modify the RFP for the city design standards to include master planning for Main Street. Public Works presented the downtown sidewalk plans to Council. Reception was not very positive in that they were asked to coordinate better with ongoing improvement efforts to avoid not sequencing work properly. Council asked staff to work on improving the sidewalk improvement plan to reduce the removal of landscaping and trees that were just planted via the Downtown Appearance Committee. Mr. Holley is pleased that there is support for having an overall plan including better lighting and that over the next several years he hopes to see substantial changes.

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- **Commission on the Arts – Pat Gallegher**

Ms. Gallegher reported that the Commission on the Arts is looking forward to the joint March 21st meeting and is working on an agenda. The committee has a work group working on long range planning and public art with Mr. Holley. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if there are any plans for public art. Ms. Gallegher responded that a subcommittee is working on public art.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp reminded all that there is a reception for Art Little, celebrating his 30 years of service to NOVA Parks and the City on Thursday, March 16th, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Blenheim. The reception for Art is an opportunity for City leaders to show their appreciation for his part in fostering a partnership with NOVA Parks. Mr. Knapp explained that the NOVA Board meets every other month, three times at the headquarters and three times at different locations in Northern Virginia. In the past NOVA Parks board meetings have been held once at Sherwood and once at Blenheim. The Pickett Road Trail Underpass is under construction with the ribbon cutting scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd at 9:30 a.m. Mr. Knapp asked about the NOVA Parks item on Council's work session agenda for Saturday. It is Ms. Salgado's understanding it would be a discussion on how the City and NOVA Parks can work together more.

9. Matters of the Members

Mr. Knapp asked about the future of a dog park and what the status is. Two sites have been mentioned, Kutner Park and Westmore School Site. Kutner Park is a site initiated by residents in Fairchester Woods. Chair Rodgers-Rickert met with residents at Kutner a couple of weeks ago and handed over her dog park folder from meetings several years ago. Mr. Knapp asked if it would come back to PRAB for a recommendation. Ms. Salgado said it would. She also said that residents from Fairchester Woods have contacted her as well and that she was meeting them at Kutner on March 25th. A dog park at Kutner would have a limited size but it is possible. Ms. Salgado thinks that Westmore is a good site because there is more space and there is plenty of parking. Mr. Holley thinks Westmore residents would support a dog park as many people use the park for their dogs already. Ms. Salgado explained that public outreach would need to be done for either site.

10. Meeting Adjournment

*Next regular PRAB meeting is **April 13, 2017 at 7 p.m.***

Time: 8:30 p.m.