

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

May 15, 2017
Fairfax High School

PRAB Members Present

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

PRAB Members Absent

Eric Mitnacht
Robert Reinsel – at School Board meeting

Guests

None

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:40 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for May15, 2017 meeting

Motion: Janet Jaworski

Second: Sarah Ross

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from April 13, 2017

Motion: Janet Jaworski

Second: Evie Ifantides

Approved unanimously

4. Presentations

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None

5. New Business

None

6. Old Business

a) Van Dyck Master Plan Update

Van Dyck Master Plan Advisory Group members Kirk Holley, Brian Knapp and Sara Ross provided update on the process. Mr. Holley reported that overall people liked the character of the park and would like to keep what is there. The consultant prepared two options taking the current developed area and reshuffling the components. Ms. Ross reminded members that the next public meeting is scheduled for May 18th at 7:30 p.m. Lardner Klein will present the options and ask attendees to comment on each. In addition photo boards and the two options will be on hand (Mr. Knapp provided a copy for members to look at) and attendees will be asked to say what they like/dislike about each. From this information Lardner Klein will put together an additional option for presenting in June. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked about the skate park and was there input from users. Mr. Holley reported that representatives from skaters provided a design concept and it is shown on the photo board. There is still a willingness to entertain a linear skate park design or a hybrid of some kind. Mr. Knapp asked for Ms. Salgado to comment on how she felt Lardner Klein was doing. Ms. Salgado felt that the consultant was doing a nice job engaging the community and gaining consensus. Ms. Ross noted that they identified detailed programmatic elements that might not be needed in the master plan but that would remind people that small elements such as picnic tables, grills, benches, water fountain, etc. would be discussed in the master plan text. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked about open space and sledding. Ms. Ross commented that Ms. Lardner appreciates what our park is. Mr. Knapp noted that she is a good listener and that he thinks there was great community involvement. Ms. Salgado noted that Ms. Lardner was also willing to challenge our ideas and make sure we think about issues big and small. Ms. Salgado will send out the May 18th materials via email and link to the Van Dyck website page. Ms. Salgado believes Van Dyck master plan update will be on a June 10th Council work session at Blenheim.

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b) Community Center Planning Site Evaluation Process Update

Ms. Salgado provided an update on the community center site evaluation process. Volkert is working on the final report for the Mayor and Council but based on the finding City Hall has been eliminated. The Mayor, two Council Members and city staff met with county staff to discuss the possibility of partnering on a project to be located at the Willard site. The county is planning to demolish the existing building which houses health and family services and construct a new facility. They have approached the city to see if we would be interested in having a senior center, gym and associated facilities on site. The city is interested. City and county staff will be meeting prior to the June 10th council work session to discuss how the process would work. The county would like to go to bond in 2020 which works well with the city planning. City staff will provide Council with additional information on June 10th and a based on this information the Mayor and Council will discuss with the County Board of Supervisors at their June dinner meeting. Mr. Knapp asked if it was good timing for PRAB to weigh in on the possible joint project endorsing further discussion. Ms. Salgado believes it would be good to have PRAB's endorsement to move forward with further discussions. Ms. Gallagher asked about including a theatre in the planning. Ms. Salgado stated that the Green Acres report does not include a theatre however nothing is decided at this point. Mr. Knapp stated that he would be happy to work on some bullet points for discussion at the June 8th PRAB meeting that can be delivered to the Mayor and Council before the June 10th meeting.

c) Budget Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the FY18 budget passed and that Parks and Recreation CIP and operating budget were not cut. However, there was lots of discussion on FTE's and temporary employees. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked that Ms. Salgado in the future notify PRAB that the budget has passed sooner. Ms. Salgado will send out the approved CIP budget. Mr. Knapp asked that the budget memos related to Parks and Recreation be sent out as well. Ms. Salgado will provide via email. Mr. Knapp congratulated Chair Rodgers-Rickert on the dog park funding.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

A) Upcoming Events

Rock the Block starts May 26th

Fit Foodie 5K is June 3rd along with Fido Fest at Sherwood

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B) Designation of Ashby Pond as a Wildlife Habitat through the Audubon Society

Ms. Salgado reported that Ashby Pond received the Audubon Society Wildlife Habitat designation. Mr. Knapp noted that with the recent rain the wood chips have washed out and that we may need to look at a better way of keeping the trail intact. Ms. Salgado will discuss with Mac Ryan.

8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Robert Reinsel**

None

- **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**

Ms. Jaworski reported that they had their first joint work session meeting on the Comprehensive Plan with Boards and Commissions. The parks and recreation chapter will be discussed on June 12th, 7 p.m. at Blenheim. All the meetings are open to the public. Ms. Jaworski recommended speaking with Ms. Petkac on where we will be on the agenda. Ms. Salgado will send the full schedule of meetings out via email. Ms. Jaworski likes the off-site work sessions as it seems to allow attendees to talk more openly. There will be additional opportunities to speak on these topics.

IDI is almost finished with the first building at the Enclave and are having a “topping off” event this Saturday, 1-4 p.m. With the new proffer legislation enacted last summer and with the formal proposal that IDI submitted the City Council and Planning Commission can no longer speak with IDI about Paul VI redevelopment. Mr. Knapp asked if there was a planning item on the June 10th work session. Ms. Jaworski not sure but there usually is.

- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Ms. Albro reported that there was a reception before the May 9th Council Meeting for seniors who volunteer at the center. It was not well attended but the food and presentation were lovely. Next events are the Mother’s Day Tea and the Memorial Day BBQ. On May 31st there will be free fitness classes all day long. The appraisal fair was a success raising \$1,100. May is Older Adults Month and special events are being planned. There will be a reception for the Senior Center volunteers on May 9th followed by a proclamation presentation from the Mayor at the Council meeting.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

Mr. Holley reported on the work being done on Main Street – 40 planters will be installed on Main Street between Chainbridge and University. Public works is installing and Parks is maintaining. Mr. Knapp asked high wide the planters were. Mr. Holley explained that there are 3 sizes about 24” wide. They will have

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evergreens, perennials and annuals. Public works will be doing sidewalk repairs after Memorial Day and finishing before July 4th. Community Development and Planning are hiring a consultant to do a Main Street Master Plan to include treatments for both public and private property including street furnishings, lighting, building colors. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked about the building paintings and how it was approved. Mr. Holley explained the Façade Grant program administered through the Economic Development Authority. Applicants now go through the Board of Architectural Review but currently the BAR does not have strong language to guide color decisions. Mr. Holley is aware that the DeClieu building will have 4 colors and that Have-A-Bite has an application pending with the EDA. Ms. Jaworski asked what the planters were made out of. Mr. Holley responded fiberglass and that the style was recommended by the Ferns garden club. The variation and height will provide a feeling of safety.

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

Ms. Gallagher reported that The John Mason award was presented to Kathleen Stark and Mark O'Meara and they had a nice reception (program was sent around the table). They have wrapped up the Bonita Lestina concert series and all were well received. Armistice Turtora was released from the hospital and is recuperating at home. Ms. Salgado will send a get well card from PRAB.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp provided promotional pieces for several NOVA Parks facilities including golf courses and the Carlisle House – Revolutionary site. Mr. Knapp also thanked members for attending the Pickett Road Underpass Trail dedication. NOVA Parks Board will be holding their annual off-site meeting in June and plan to adopt their 5-year strategic plan. When the plan is completed Mr. Knapp would like to get on a City Council work session to present. The FY18 annual budget was approved. Mr. Holley asked about the status of Cameron Run. Mr. Knapp reported that the City of Alexandria is doing a resident survey to see what they would like on the site. A consultant has been hired and ideas such as athletic fields and a dog park have been presented. Some ideas do away with the water park. NOVA Parks has provided feedback to the City of Alexandria on what role NOVA Parks can play. Mr. Holley noted the important role that regional parks play in the area. They provide facilities that we can't such as golf courses, natatorium's, etc. Chair Rodgers-Rickert suggested PRAB send a letter supporting Cameron Run.

9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Ifantides reminded members of her party this coming Saturday and hoped we could attend. Mr. Knapp reminded Ms. Salgado to think about outdoor space that might be needed at the Willard site to support the senior center.

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10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:50 p.m.

*Next regular PRAB meeting is **June 8, 2017 at 7 p.m. City Council Work Session Room***

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