

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

September 14, 2017
City Hall, Council Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present

Jane Albro
Mike Anderson
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Kirk Holley
Evie Ifantides
Janet Jaworski
Joe Lawler
Sarah Ross
Robert Reinsel

Staff: Cathy Salgado

PRAB Members Absent

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Brian Knapp
Elisabeth Breslin
Eric Mittnight

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Mike Anderson

Time: 7:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for September 14, 2017 meeting

Motion: Kirk Holley

Second: Sarah Ross

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from June 8, 2017

Motion: Robert Reinsel

Second: Janet Jaworski

Approved unanimously with change in Kirk being present and not absent

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4. Presentations

a) Comprehensive Plan – Kelly O’Brien

Ms. O’Brien presented an update on the Comprehensive Plan. The 2-year planning process will be wrapping up in the spring of 2018. Currently we are in the plan development stage which they hope to complete in the winter of 2018 with the final plan being adopted in spring 2018. The city is writing the plan without a consultant except for the transportation chapter. Ms. O’Brien reviewed the Guiding Principle for the Community Services chapter which includes Parks and Recreation. Ms. Jaworski and Ms. Salgado asked Ms. O’Brien to remove the word “programmed” in front of parks. Mr. Reinsel asked why some of the text was underlined. Ms. O’Brien explained that the underlined portions represent changes that were recommended after meeting with the various boards and commissions. Mr. Lawler asked what the comprehensive plan is used for. Ms. O’Brien explained that they are the overarching guiding principles used by the city that affects the CIP programs, development, City Council goals. It is a state requirement. Ms. Jaworski explained that the last plan was completed in 2004 with minor updates provided every five years. The last update was in 2012. This time the city is completely overhauling the plan. It is not legally binding and not mandatory to follow however it is used to guide policy making. Mr. Holley asked how the goals and objectives are going to be evaluated. Ms. O’Brien explained that metrics will be grouped at the end of each section. Mr. Holley suggested adding some fiscal metrics. Ms. O’Brien explained that operational items with fiscal impact were not included per Mr. Hardin. Mr. Holley understood and noted that the P&R SMP will be updated with the new comp plan and can include operational and programmatic metrics. Ms. Salgado agreed.

b) Van Dyck Master Plan

Ms. Salgado presented the draft concept plan and provided background and the steps that were undertaken to get to this point. The draft plan is based on two concepts that were originally developed based on input from the public meetings, on-line surveys, community meetings and input from the Van Dyck Master Plan Advisory Group. Concept 2 was preferred with a few modifications from Concept 1. The first was the reconfiguration of parking to a more linear lot which still nets an additional 12 spots. The second was to create a better entrance to the park from the Sherwood Center side. The third was to create a walk system that connects the entrances with the main shelter. Finally the skate park was integrated more into the front plaza creating a more natural setting.

Mr. Holley provided additional information and commented that Lardner Klein did a terrific job with keeping the heart of our park and embracing it. He feels that

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the plaza and green front provides an urban feel while still keeping the connections to the neighborhoods. He likes the plaza and the skate park together and thinks it functions much better. The relocation of the picnic shelter provides a focal point. He likes the linear parking as it keeps the front of the park greener and connects well to the Sherwood lot. He is happy with the neighborhood connectivity and the inclusion of opportunities for urban art throughout the park. Mr. Holley believes the green connection from Van Dyck to Old Town is still missing but it is a good starting point. Mr. Anderson also liked that the parking was changed. Ms. Ross was pleased that we took the comments of the community to heart and that Lardner Klein did a great job recognizing and respecting what the community likes. Mr. Cipriano commented that we might consider switching the volleyball courts with the playground. Ms. Ross explained that based on the community input they preferred the playground further away from Old Lee Highway. Mr. Cipriano also commented that he was not sure that a plaza is a good fit for Van Dyck Park. Ms. Ross inquired into the sewer connection and the location and cost. Ms. Salgado explained that unfortunately the location requires a long connection down the park towards University however we can certainly look to see if there was another way to hook-up. Mr. Reinsel likes the cross-walk adjustments and the pathways. Mr. Holley commented that the cost estimating does a great job presenting this project as a prime candidate for park bonding. Mr. Reinsel commented that timing right now has the schools possibility asking for bonds in 2025. Ms. Salgado suggested that the bond be requested earlier as some of the items including the skate park need to be replaced sooner and that it may fit into any project that may develop with the joint City/County master planning of Sherwood/Police/Willard/Jorgenson sites.

5. New Business

None

6. Old Business

a) Community Center Site Planning Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the master plan process with the county just kicked off but she is happy to report that the timeline for the work is quick. Three preliminary concepts will be provided. The architect Lemay Erickson will have a draft master plan for presentation to the city and county by Christmas with a final by February 2018. Ms. Salgado will share information received from the architects and anticipates a council work session around Christmas.

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b) Dog Park

Ms. Salgado reported that Council approved moving ahead with the design of a dog park at the Westmore School site. She has met with the Westmore Civic Association and they are supportive of moving forward as well. We hope to start the design in mid-October and provide for PRAB and council review in early winter 2018. We will need to move forward with fundraising efforts as the budget is limited. Ms. Salgado hopes that interested residents will want to fundraise and that Parks and Recreation will be promoting sponsorships and donations for the park construction.

c) George Snyder Trail Update

Ms. Salgado reported that we have still not heard from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority regarding the funding requests – no decisions for any jurisdictions have been made.

d) Judicial Drive Trail Update

Ms. Salgado that the trail concept is being completed for presentation at the October 3rd council work session under the transportation funding item. Ms. Sanford and Ms. Salgado will be applying for Transportation Alternative Programming funding in November.

7. Upcoming Events

Rock the Block with George Mason – September 22nd
Fall Festival – October 14th
Holiday Market at Old Town Square – 3 weekends in December

8. Stakeholder Updates

- **School Board – Robert Reinsel**
Reported that schools are back in session. HVAC equipment, as needed, is being replaced at Daniel's Run and Providence. They are hoping to move ahead with opening the orchestra pit at Fairfax High School purchasing a removable pit filler. This will allow it to be removed and filled as needed. Hope to happen early next year.
- **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**
Reported that there will be a joint Planning Commission/Council work session with PVI/IDI on October 3rd.

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- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Ms. Albro reported that they are having end of summer party tomorrow and that planning for the Crafty Flea Market for October 21st is going well. Tables are \$35 if you are interested.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

None

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

Ms. Gallagher reported that they are back meeting next week. The Old Town Hall Series has been finalized and that they will have a table at Fall Festival.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

None

9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Ifantides reported that she saw a great app called ClickFix. It would be nice for City to look at as a way for people to report problems.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:45 p.m.

*Next regular PRAB meeting is **October 12, 2017 at 7 p.m. City Council Work Session Room***