

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

September 13, 2018  
City Hall, Council Work Session Room

**PRAB Members Present**

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Jane Albro  
Mike Anderson  
Elizabeth Breslin  
Brian Cipriano  
Pat Gallagher  
Evie Ifantides  
Brian Knapp  
Sarah Ross  
Mitch Sutterfield  
Karen Wheeler-Smith  
Staff: Cathy Salgado

**PRAB Members Absent**

Kirk Holley

**Guests**

Ryan Kim, Eagle Scout Candidate  
Ron Brooks, Ron Tugwell, Betty Tugwell, Janice Miller, Bonnie Botts, Carol Fognani,  
Steve Schey, Joseph Tipton, Katie Jackson, Joseph Rossmann, Kim Chu

**1. Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert*

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

*Agenda for September 13, 2018 meeting*

**Motion:** Brian Cipriano

**Second:** Jane Albro

*Approved unanimously*

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

*Minutes from July 12, 2018*

**Motion:** Brian Knapp

**Second:** Sarah Ross

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

*Approved unanimously*

#### **4. Presentations**

Eagle Scout Project presentation

Ryan Kim – Troop 1865

Project will be mulching approximately 100 yard length of trail in Providence Park. Ms. Ifantides asked where in the park. The area is behind the tennis courts. Mr. Cipriano asked what type of material he is using. Mr. Kim is using wood chips not mulch. Mr. Knapp made a suggestion to Mr. Sutterfield that it might be nice for scouts to present in front of the school board when projects are located at our schools.

#### **5. New Business**

- a. Park Rule Changes – Ms. Salgado explained that the General Assembly has enacted a new law permitting the use of drones and that we need to update our rules and recapped the discussion from July. Mr. Knapp inquired as to who wrote the language. Ms. Salgado replied that it was the City Attorney. Reference to the state code is always used instead of the law verbatim so that when changes are made by the state the city does not have to change the park rules. Ms. Salgado then addressed the request to amend the rules to allow pickleball to be played on tennis courts. Ms. Gallagher spoke to the request to add pickleball lines at tennis courts and that this is not a minor change. Ms. Gallagher further stated that the Van Dyck Master Plan stated that no new uses would be added to the park. She added that this is not the best way to go about requesting a change and it should not be cast as a minor change and that the city does a lot for pickleball users and nothing for tennis. She stated we have very few tennis courts. Ms. Gallagher emailed Ms. Janice Miller suggesting that adding lines at Providence Park tennis courts would work and not Van Dyck Park until the Van Dyck Master Plan is settled, and definitely not all the courts at Van Dyck. Mr. Knapp asked what our intention was tonight. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked that a motion be made on the rule change recommendations and ask for comments from board members and then the public. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked for a motion. Motion made by Mr. Cipriano and seconded by Ms. Ifantides to amend the park rules as presented. One motion for drones and a separate motion for tennis rule change to allow pickleball.

Further discussion ensued with Mr. Cipriano explaining the changing trends in court use and that jurisdictions are relining for multi-use. Mr. Anderson reminded all that there are also courts at Fairfax High School. Perhaps we need to think

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

about adding lights at the high school. However they are not available during the school day or when extracurricular activities are occurring on the courts. Mr. Cipriano explained that courts are already being used not within the rules. Ms. Salgado agreed. Mr. Knapp asked that Ms. Salgado come forward with a proposal for the change and how it would be implemented. Ms. Salgado's proposal was to sign and line two courts at Van Dyck and the courts at Providence Park.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert invited others in the audience to speak. Ms. Miller stated that the City Council adopted the Van Dyck Master Plan and it stated that tennis and pickleball could be played on the courts at the park. Ms. Miller also said that we need dual and multi-use facilities in the city. Our athletic fields are multi-use for multiple sports. There is a long history of providing a variety of sports in our city and that she hopes we can add pickleball. Ms. Miller also stated that there is a need for lighted courts for those that work and Van Dyck Park is a first step. Then we can gauge community usage and look into building new courts or converting some tennis courts to pickleball. Finally, Ms. Miller said that adding lights at the high school would take a great deal of effort as there is a proffer with Country Club Hills that dates back to the 1970's. It is very difficult to modify a proffer and a special use permit. Mr. Tugwell then spoke and said that there is an upcoming demonstration at Green Acres on Monday @ 7:30 p.m. Ms. Ross suggested that we identify spaces to build pickleball courts in the future such as Westmore school site and Providence Park.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert called for a vote on the first motion to amend the rules to add pickleball as an approved use on tennis courts. Approved 10-1, with Ms. Gallagher dissenting.

Second motion was to amend the rules to permit drones where approved by the FAA. Mr. Knapp opposed the confusing language. Approved 10-1, with Mr. Knapp dissenting.

- b. Bond Update – Chair Rodgers-Rickert and Ms. Salgado reviewed their meeting with Mayor Meyer and the Acting City Manager David Hodgkins. Ms. Salgado reviewed the list provided. Chair Rodgers-Rickert did ask about bonds for maintenance and Mr. Hodgkins had said bonding for maintenance is not the correct way, however there may be some interest. Chair Rodgers-Rickert discussed the timing in 2019 or 2020. 2020 is more likely – it's a presidential election. Mr. Knapp asked where this issue was going with PRAB. Chair Rodgers-Rickert stated that PRAB could help develop the bond projects and push for its passage. Mr. Knapp suggested creating an ad hoc committee. Mr. Cipriano said he likes to hear everyone's opinion and that we should keep under

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

\$20million. Chair Rodgers-Rickert stated that there is not a big difference between \$20 and \$25million. Mr. Cipriano recommended removing the museum and Ashby Pond. Not sure what city should do with the West Drive property. Ms. Ross stated that it is important to build wide community consensus. Mr. Sutterfield stated that we do not have open space in the southeast part of the city. Ms. Salgado said that there was no available property to purchase. The last was a two lot property off of Roberts Road that is now new houses. Mr. Knapp asked if the Mayor was thinking two bonds – one for parks and the other for historic resources. Chair Rodgers-Rickert said one bond. Mr. Knapp does not see the Mayor backing off the museum component. Chair Rodgers-Rickert said that supporters of museum are voters and that the Mayor feels strongly about having a museum component and without we don't know if he will support. Mr. Knapp said that ADA sells and that our bond language should be high level with just enough detail. All agreed that an ad hoc committee of the chair, Mr. Knapp, Mr. Cipriano and Ms. Ross will meet with Ms. Salgado to put together a more detailed plan.

**c. CIP 2020**

Mr. Knapp thanked Ms. Salgado for the CIP information and suggested that members review for further discussion in October. A few of the bigger items may go over to the bond side – the ad hoc group can discuss. Ms. Salgado will provide a “Top 10” list a few days before the October meeting. Ms. Salgado also explained the mandatory commitments we have and that she would like to regroup the categories.

**d. Strategic Master Plan Discussion**

Chair Rodgers-Rickert stated that our discussions on bonding and CIP will help us evaluate and update our Strategic Master Plan.

**6. Old Business**

**a) Community Center Planning Site Evaluation Process Update**

Ms. Salgado reported that staff will be meeting with county staff next week to discuss next steps.

**b) Van Dyck Master Plan**

Adopted remove from agenda

**c) Dog Park**

Ms. Salgado reported that the dog park construction contract was awarded and should start shortly. Looking for late November opening.

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

**d) Trail Updates**

Ms. Salgado explained that the Snyder Trail map that was provided. The black parts of the trail are already constructed and the yellow are proposed. Negotiations are still ongoing with the design consultant.

**7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports**

**A) Upcoming Events**

Rock the Block – September 29<sup>th</sup>

Fall Festival – October 13<sup>th</sup>

Hometown Thursdays – September 14<sup>th</sup>

**Additional Comments**

Mr. Knapp noted the dramatic increase in craft show applications both via mail and on-line. Ms. Salgado believes that as shows are going away the good shows that remain are getting more applications. Mr. Knapp also explained the photos of the Pickett Road Underpass and Thaiss Park. NOVA Parks has allocated funding to do repair and find an engineering solution to remediate the water issue. However, even before the underpass water overflowing the stream into the Thaiss Park parking lot was an issue, so it might not be a perfect solution.

**8. Stakeholder Updates**

• **School Board – Mitch Sutterfield**

Mr. Sutterfield reported that with Erin Linert as the new principal at Fairfax HS they had to hire a new principal at Lanier MS. Tammara Hanna is the new principal. She comes from Stafford County. Adam Erbrebht has left Daniel's Run ES. Tray Taylor is the new head football coach at Fairfax HS. Daniel's Run was named a Naturally Green rated school again – 60 schools are named out of 1,200 schools across the nation.

• **Planning Commission – Karen Wheeler-Smith**

Work continues on the comprehensive plan. Still need to finish the housing section. Paul VI was approved by council, 3-2 vote.

• **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

Ms. Albro reported that there is a luau tomorrow.

• **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

No report

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

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

Ms. Gallagher reported that they elected new officers and that Molly Grimsley was elected President. They are looking forward to Megan DuBois starting as the new Cultural Arts Manager. Old Town Hall concert series is booked for the fall. There will be public art on Old Town Square – a Girl and a Dog bronze statue. Art for Armistice Turtora location has not been decided yet. Pat provided a list of the current public art in the City.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp reported that NOVA Parks just adopted its \$13 million CIP budget for 2019-20 (at its Sept meeting). This past year, NOVA Parks installed new boat racks in the number 2 boathouse at Sandy Run, the same boat house used by Fairfax High School. Mr. Knapp provided an update on discussions with the City of Alexandria regarding Cameron Run. Currently negotiations call for a 7 year lease extension with a package of year round amenities that could be added including a winter park and portable field.

## 9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Ifantides reported she is doing bike/ped counts for the City.

Mr. Sutterfield has retired from coaching football after 41 years.

Ms. Breslin reported that homecoming parade is the first week in October.

Mr. Knapp thanked Ms. Salgado for the updated PRAB contact list.

Mr. Cipriano reported that while doing improvements at Foxcroft Colony they have learned that the community sign is on City property.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert reported she has a property for rent on Sideburn – which is owned by former PRAB member Mike Slawski.

## 10. Meeting Adjournment

**Time:** 9:30 p.m.

*Next regular PRAB meeting is **October 11th, 2018 at 7 p.m. City Council Work Session Room***