

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

March 12, 2020
City of Fairfax
City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street
Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present:

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Chair
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Brian Cipriano
Amir Eftekhari
Pat Gallagher
Evie Ifantides
Kim Luckabaugh
Ellie Monnig
Sandy Moshos
Sarah Ross
Mitch Sutterfield
Staff: Cathy Salgado
Jamie Dodson

Absent:

Mike Anderson
James Rich

Guest:

Mr. Ross

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for February 13, 2020 meeting

Ms. Gallagher requested to add a COVID-19 update under New Business. Chair Rodgers-Rickert requested to add under presentations a brief introduction for Mr. Ross.

Mr. Sutterfield requested to add an introduction of new PRAB member Mr. Eftekhari.

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Brian Cipriano

Approved unanimously

Chair Rodgers-Rickert requested Mr. Amir Eftekhari to introduce himself to the board. Followed by Board Members going around the table to introduce themselves to him.

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3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from January 9, 2019

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Sandy Moshos

Approved unanimously

4. Presentations Mr. Tom Ross candidate for City Council introduced himself to the board and gave a brief description of his background.

5. New Business

a) Discussion of Rock the Block - Update

Chair Rodgers-Rickert shared an internal subcommittee reached out to community members and groups via several social media outlets to collect public feedback about Rock the Block events.

Ms. Salgado provided and discussed results of a Survey Monkey distributed to the Old Town Fairfax Business Association.

Attendees discussed feedback, logistics and potential improvements that could boost the success of the event for both residents and businesses.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert requested Ms. Salgado compile all of the feedback received from the various sources and return to the board in a compact format so that they can create a list of suggestions to present to City Council.

b) PRAB Service Award - Update

Ms. Salgado shared that Beverly Myers is scheduled to receive the PRAB Service Award and plaque on Tuesday, May 12th at 7pm at the City Council Meeting.

Vice Chair Knapp requested Ms. Salgado circulate all PRAB Service Award recipients and years.

c) Park Spotlight - Pat Rodio Park

Ms. Salgado picked Pat Rodio Park for the park of the month due to the impending PBI construction near this location in the fall. The City has \$150k in the FY21 budget proposed for playground replacement. The park is in both the floodplain and resource protection area. The goal is to make park improvements that allow for updated amenities that lessen the impact to the land protection areas. Ms. Salgado will reach out to the adjoining home owners association to allow for the opportunity to review different playground options and provide feedback. She provided a general description of the PBI construction and the impact it will have to the park both during and after the project is complete.

Mr. Cipriano expressed his concern of updating the playground prior to creating a masterplan that will allow for future developments.

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d) COVID-19 Update

Ms. Salgado shared that the City is following Fairfax County Health Department recommendations. The City has established a COVID-19 team that is made up of various members of City management, first responders and Emergency Management personnel. Today a decision was made to cancel a scheduled pot-luck Senior Center luncheon for safety reasons. The department provided the COVID-19 team a list of all Parks and Recreation facility rentals, programs, trips, events and park rentals through April 15, 2020.

Ms. Ross asked what is going on with our facility rentals.

Ms. Salgado reported that we are tracking all cancellations, revenue impacts, and staff hours spent on COVID-19 related tasks. At this time we haven't discussed outdoor events and are focusing on more vulnerable populations and locations. Currently, Main Street Child Development Center at Green Acres has made changes to their daily routines to allow for increased separation between children and senior citizens.

6. Old Business - Updates

a) CIP and Budget Update

Ms. Salgado shared the proposed City's Capital Improvement Project spreadsheet for FY21-25 to show that it allows for both the community center and Van Dyck renovations, Lanier Middle School and Thaiss Park without going out for a bond or asking for a park tax. It requires the City in FY22 to bring in more revenue or raise the tax rate and again in FY23 in order to fund and balance the budget. Ms. Salgado will invite City Manager and Chief Financial Officer to attend the next meeting to discuss in more detail.

Ms. Ross shared that she was pleased that the City Manager was pro Parks and Recreation projects and called them out in his transmittal letter to Mayor and City Council.

Ms. Cipriano requested obtaining the required money to get the Van Dyck design done prior to 2024 to help speed up the overall timeline of the project.

Attendees discussed the pros and cons of raising the City's tax rate to allow for putting money back into community projects.

Chair Knapp asked Ms. Salgado about the proposed Urban Forrester position.

Ms. Salgado stated it would be funded by the Storm Water Fund out of Public Works and some savings from the Recycling Center at the Property Yard. There is a job description that is being reviewed that focuses the position on various Community Development and Planning tasks. We have an Arborist on Parks and Recreation staff and will collaborate with the new position.

b) Community Center Update

Ms. Salgado shared there was an impromptu press conference at Sherwood regarding the Corona Virus and Fairfax County Chairman, Jeff McKay attended.

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Which provided the opportunity to speak on-site with the City Manager and Bryan Hill and stated they are full on board and would like to move ahead with the project. The next step is to prepare the next Letter of Intent that will allow the County to go out to bond in November.

Vice Chair Knapp asked if the discussions will resume, if so when?

Ms. Salgado replied yes, but no details have been provided as to when.

c) George Snyder Trail Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the 30% plans were submitted to VDOT and they've provided comments, so we have officially had our first review. We are working with Community Development and planning Department as this is the first trail project that has gone through a review. There are a number of approval steps that need to be completed with both the City and VDOT simultaneously. She will be scheduling an advisory meeting in the near future.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Upcoming Events

Ms. Salgado shared there is a Commission on the Arts concert scheduled for tomorrow evening at Old Town Hall. The department is working on a wine event to collaborate with the Wine House at Blenheim March, 20, 2021. The Fishing Derby and Egg Hunts are still being held as scheduled for the time being.

8. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board - Mitch Sutterfield

Shared the School Board got their budget settled for FY21. The school's share has declined in the last 10 years. The School Board approved the field naming request for Scott Peirce. There was no school on Monday to allow for preparation for home based education in light of the Corona Virus.

b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari

Shared they are looking at the Comprehensive Plan map and small area plans and will bring more information to future meetings.

c) Senior Center - Sandy Moshos

Shared the monthly Senior Center Report and calendar with the group, but is anticipating more cancellations due to the Corona Virus.

d) Community Appearance Committee - James Rich

None - absent

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e) Commission on the Arts - Pat Gallagher

The last of the three Friday night concerts is tomorrow night. Art Screen is coming up in March and they are planning for next year.

f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp

Shared Tuesday night council interviewed replacements for Art Little's replacement and they've selected Mark Chandler who served on the City's Environmental Sustainability Committee. NOVA Parks is beginning their planning for the Corona Virus as well. They are trying to address the issue of trying to attract young summer employees year after year and retain them. They are finding benefits and salary aren't enough anymore.

9. Matters of the Members

- a)** Ms. Ross shared that she had her first parent experience at Daniel Run Elementary School kindergarten registration.
- b)** Ms. Monnig shared that the Student Advisory Council she works with presented policies they'd want to implement and are presenting them in two weeks. Reported she is working on finding a replacement for her position on the board.
- c)** Ms. Infantides asked when the paving is going to happen for the Wilcoxon Trail. Ms. Salgado replied the plan is being reviewed and once approved the project will go out to bid and should begin shortly after the bid is awarded.
- d)** Ms. Luckabaugh shared at work they are monitoring the Corona Virus and working to find ways to help meet people's needs during this time and best utilize people in creative and safe ways.
- e)** Mr. Sutterfield shared that public officials participated in Reading Across America at Daniels Run Elementary School and the kids really seemed to enjoy it.
- f)** Mr. Eftekhari thanked everyone for the warm welcome.
- g)** Mr. Knapp asked if the Wilcoxin Trial lighting on a sensor or timer? If so, they need to be adjusted, because they are turning off too soon. Ms. Salgado said she would have it looked into right away.
- h)** Mr. Cipriano shared that he just finished a landscaping plan to replace the frontage at Foxcroft Colony and will be working with the City to complete the project.

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- i) Ms. Rodgers-Rickert shared that the Corona Virus has begun effecting the real estate market.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 9:17 p.m.

The next PRAB meeting will be held on May 14th @ 7pm Virtually using GoToMeeting.

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