

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

February 13, 2020
City of Fairfax
City Hall, 10455 Armstrong Street
Work Session Room

PRAB Members Present:

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Chair
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Mike Anderson
Brian Cipriano
Pat Gallagher
Evie Ifantides
Kim Luckabaugh
Sandy Moshos
Sarah Ross
Mitch Sutterfield
Staff: Cathy Salgado
 Jamie Dodson
 Mitzi Taylor
 Michael "Mac" Ryan

Absent:

Amir Eftekhari
Ellie Monnig
James Rich

Guest:

Councilmember Stehle

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for January 9, 2020 meeting

Mr. Cipriano requested to add PRAB's potential role reviewing development projects under New Business.

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Evie Ifantides

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from December 12, 2019

Motion: Sarah Ross

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*Second: Brian Cipriano
Approved unanimously*

*Minutes from January 9, 2020
Motion: Sarah Ross
Second: Brian Cipriano
Approved unanimously*

*Minutes from January 29, 2020 Special Meeting
Motion: Sarah Ross - To be adopted as amended
Second: Brian Cipriano
Approved unanimously*

4. Presentations None

5. New Business

a) Discussion of Rock the Block - Councilmember Stehle

Councilmember Stehle requested PRAB members to take a month and talk to each other and community members about the City's Rock the Block events and report back on ways that the event could be made better. Would like two iterations of the event with different layouts.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked Councilmember Stehle if there are specific highlights of the event PRAB should address.

Councilmember Stehle suggested, how do business both downtown and around town feel about the event, the layout, how is data being captured, and stressed he didn't want the group focusing on the cost of any potential improvements at this time and to get creative.

Councilmember Stehle left the meeting and the discussion continued.

Ms. Taylor shared the event has had multiple layouts and the current one has been the most successful. To her knowledge businesses biggest concern is road closures. Which can be affected by changing layouts to allow enough time for setup and breakdown of equipment.

Ms. Salgado shared that all City restaurants are invited to participate in the events, but many don't. However, downtown businesses usually see an increase in volume during the events due to all the extra people in the area.

Mr. Ryan informed the group the City's showmobile requires two hours to set up, in addition to the three hours for sound equipment to be set up. The same goes for breaking it all down. Placement of the showmobile can be tricky due to the size of it and making the stage level.

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Ms. Ross suggested rethinking the location of the sponsor tent to better utilize that prime location.

Mr. Cipriano asked why it is held at Old Town Square and not a larger park.

Mr. Anderson stated the location is ideal for families, because it allows parents the comfort of being able to keep an eye on older children while also providing everyone space to enjoy the event.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if the event has ever had an over population issue.

Ms. Taylor reported that the May 2018 event was the largest to date and did not reach the tipping point and the Fire Marshall has yet to express population concerns.

A small group volunteered to continue the discussion via email and will report back to PRAB at the next meeting.

b) PRAB Service Award - Nominees

Ms. Salgado shared that Beverly Myers was suggested to her as a PRAB Service Award Nominee for all her service over the last 25 years on IDCC and Chocolate Lovers Festival. This will be her last year, because she's retiring and moving out of the area.

Vice Chair Knapp agreed she would be a good recipient. In addition the Service Award is a good way to spotlight both a deserving person and PRAB. Requested Ms. Salgado send out a list of recipients.

Motion: Pat Gallagher

Second: Sandy Moshos

Approved unanimously

c) Park Spotlight - Ranger Road Park

Ms. Salgado shared that she wanted to spotlight Ranger Road Park, because the George Snyder Trail will run through it. The Scout of the Circle project proffered \$30,000 for the parks basketball court. Discussed different ways to use the money to improve the court such as replacing the hoops, adding player benches, restriping the court for multiple sports.

d) PRAB Reviewing Development Plans

Mr. Cipriano shared he would like it to become policy or practice that at a certain point during a park development or design all of PRAB members get access to the drawings and/or documents for a cursory review to create a one page PRAB comment document. This document would then be used to incorporate PRAB's vision into the project. PRAB has a diverse group and specialty range that would allow for a fresh review perspective that would be to the City's benefit. Would like to see PRAB have a larger involvement in park projects to help eliminate the concerns that occurred with the George Snyder Trail Project.

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Ms. Salgado responded that the current procedure for plan development is the Planning Commission to review plans first and make a recommendation to City Council. There currently is not a formal process for PRAB to review plans. The George Snyder Trail Advisory Group is the first of its kind to just look at milestones and give opinions.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert responded that PRAB has had similar opportunities for plan review in the past. However the current committee has a lot more involvement and expertise than in the past, which she is pleased to see.

Mr. Cipriano agreed and would like to see a formal policy or practice put into place for all park projects going forward.

Vice Chair Knapp summarized that PRAB does not have many opportunities to review plans due to the limited park development projects, but going forward would like to be more involved in the process at Ms. Salgado's discretion.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked Ms. Salgado to keep PRAB better informed and let the board know when they can ask questions and have presentations during the review process.

Vice Chair Knapp suggested that something NOVA Parks does is hold meetings in the parks for a more hands-on approach, it might be something to consider doing at PRAB meetings during the warmer months.

a) CIP and Budget Update

Ms. Salgado reported that the final CIP goes to City Council in two weeks. City staff and management are still balancing the budget and asked her which additional items from our budget can be cut. She was specially asked about the Providence Park Rectangular Field and was suggested we move it back to next year, as it has been pushed back for the last 10 years.

Ms. Ross shared that she would rather keep the Providence field project on this year's budget and defer the \$85,000 All Parks-Sign Replacement & Park Entrance Beautification. Since there is no signage plan from the City yet.

Vice Chair Knapp suggested Ms. Salgado respond that PRAB's two most important projects are the Providence Park field and the tennis courts.

b) Community Center Update

Ms. Salgado reported that City Manager, Rob Stalzer informed her that Fairfax County is still looking into proceeding as a joint project. At this time there is nothing official or in writing.

c) George Snyder Trail Update

Ms. Salgado reported that Stantec shared the 30% plans with cost estimate that are below budget, allowing for the western route of the trail. They are coming in next week to meet with Community Development and Planning and she will share any updates at the next PRAB meeting.

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6. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Upcoming Events

Ms. Salgado shared that a new event the Asian American Heritage Festival is will be held at the Blenheim Interpretative Center on Saturday, May 9. Also, department staff is in the beginning phases of discussing a new wine festival that would be held in March 2021 called, Fairfax Uncorked. Summer camp registration opens on Monday. Registration for the Fishing Derby is now open. The department purchased a kayak to be used at Ashby Pond to remove trash and debris.

7. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board - Mitch Sutterfield

Esposito's is going out of business and sold the property to Capital Petroleum who sent a request to the School Board for an easement onto Rebel Run. The School Board declined the request. Lanier Middle School is in the process of renovating their library with money from several sources. He's going to an advisory for a Fairfax High School Auto Tech Program that is flourishing with full classes.

b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari

None - absent

c) Senior Center - Sandy Moshos

Distributed February Senior Center Report and noted new programs including book club, open basketball play, and world religions study. Distributed letter from Senior Council Chair requesting a lockable room designated specially for the Senior Center to be used for a game and activity room.

Ms. Salgado responded that she will work with department staff to assess the space and availability at Green Acres and report back to the Senior Center Council.

d) Community Appearance Committee - James Rich

None - absent

e) Commission on the Arts - Pat Gallagher

The Old Town Hall Performance Series is going very well. Tomorrow night's show is Craig Gildner Trio's "A Valentine's Date". Thanked Cathy for the great job department staff does with set up and break down of the events. The Commission on the Arts is trying to adjust their calendar to avoid using Old Town Hall during one of the Rock the Block events. Is hoping to get an update at Tuesday meeting on the Public Art including the armistice piece items.

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f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp

Thanked everyone involved in Tuesday's NOVA Parks presentation to Art Little. Was proud of PRAB's part in the Scott Piece field dedication. At the last NOVA Parks Board meeting in January they reviewed the success of the three light shows and found they hit high marks!

8. Matters of the Members

- a)** Ms. Ross shared that she's been thinking for a couple months about different ways to build community support in a positive way for City parks. The efforts would aid community understanding on the importance of obtaining a bond or sunset tax to pay for park improvements and projects. She's started by taking pictures to document parks in various conditions. She continued that crowd sourcing ideas or an action, using social media, hashtags, and Facebook groups could be a way to accomplish this and to email her to help the thought.
- b)** Ms. Gallagher shared that each year the group Virginians for the Arts holds an annual conference that she attended and it was very good.
- c)** Ms. Ifantides shared that she went to the Chocolate Lovers Festival Saturday and really enjoyed the Liquid Chocolate tent.
- d)** Mr. Sutterfield shared that each of the School Board members is assigned a school and his is Lanier Middle School and was so impressed with its celebration of Black History Month.
- e)** Ms. Luckabaugh asked when the last time the City applied for the Gold Metal award was and what does it take to achieve it? Ms. Salgado responded that the last time we applied and won was in 2011 and offered to send Ms. Luckabaugh information on the award. Ms. Luckabaugh reported a vandalism issue at Kutner Park. Ms. Salgado shared that the City Police are involved and handling the situation. Ms. Luckabaugh continued that she thinks it would be beneficial to the City if we tried to do our own trail light show, such as at Van Dyck Park.
- f)** Mr. Knapp shared that he went to the Chocolate Lovers Festival and also enjoyed the Liquid Chocolate tent. That Michael Cadwallader one of the previous Parks and Recreation Directors attended Tuesday's meeting for the presentations for Art Little and Scott Peirce. The Wilcoxon trail lights have been installed and are working under Pickett Road. Lastly, Mac Ryan, Parks Manager is a great asset to the City and we are lucky to have him.

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- g)** Ms. Rodgers-Rickert shared that she too went to the Chocolate Lovers Festival and enjoyed the Liquid Chocolate tent. Asked how the word is getting out about how the City is not recycling glass anymore. There is a purple container located at the Burke Holder building on Judicial Drive to place glass items in the large purple container. Is wondering if the compost program is expanding.

9. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 9:28 p.m.

The next PRAB meeting will be held on March 12th @ 7pm in the City Hall, Work Session Room

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