

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

July 9, 2020
City of Fairfax Virtual Meeting

PRAB Members Present:

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Chair
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Mike Anderson
Jon Buttram
Brian Cipriano
Amir Eftekhari
Pat Gallagher
Evie Ifantides
Kim Luckabaugh
Sandy Moshos
Sarah Ross
Staff: Cathy Salgado
Jamie Dodson

Absent:

James Rich

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:04 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for July 9, 2020 meeting

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from June 11, 2020

Motion: Sarah Ross adopted as amended to correct typo on page 2

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

4. Presentations None

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5. New Business

a) Discussion COVID19 - Current and Future Operating Status

Ms. Salgado reported facilities are still closed to the public and rentals. City Parks are open and functioning as normal and field permits have begun to be issued again. City Hall is still only open by appointment only and it might be quite a while before it opens up more. Meetings are still occurring virtually. Once we reach the point where the COVID Team is comfortable resuming rentals and programs they would only like the facility opened for that specific purposes and remain closed to the general public to limit exposure. She received a report on business tax revenues for May and while they are down 26% from the previous may it wasn't down as much as anticipated.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked if any additional demonstrations were planned that could affect parks or damage reported due to protests.

Ms. Salgado responded, there has been no damage reported and no requests have been submitted this week.

b) Park Spotlight - Daniel's Run

Ms. Salgado reported that Daniel's Run Park has had heavy use during the last several months due to the pandemic, which has brought some issues to light. Several signs have been installed advising park users to wear face masks and follow CDC guidelines. She received complaints about dogs being off leash and owners not properly disposing of dog waste. Signs are being made and installed to advise dog owners of proper park use. Ms. Salgado shared that she has received a good amount of praise on the city's park quality. The parks crew has been working diligently to restore parks and trails after summer storms.

c) Fall Child Care

Ms. Salgado reported last week emails were circulating regarding Fairfax County Public School's plan for the fall and how it was going to look. The City asked Parks and Recreation to provide some sort of childcare program for working parents. Department staff met with Superintendent Pajardo last week to begin discussing basic parameters. Today was the first meeting with both staff and Main Street Child Development Center to begin planning and understanding the needs, requirements and potential issues a program of this type would present. Mr. Buttram shared the initial plan of Fairfax County Public Schools was to offer parents two options. The first, students would attend class in person on a set schedule. The second option would be students would be taught entirely online. It would be a four day instructional week allowing Friday's to be a planning day for teachers. The original deadline has been pushed back from tomorrow to next Wednesday, the 15th. The Superintendent is working with the School Board to decide whether or not to start school late on September 8, 2020. The County is working with the State to determine what best practices would look like for any

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sort of in person education. There are still a lot of questions in the air and the County is taking into consideration the diverse student population.

Ms. Salgado shared there is a huge demand for childcare this fall and the City is trying to compile options for parents. The City's childcare program would have a goal staff to student ratio of 1/6. The program would operate during the school's bell schedule hours and not provide before and after care. Children of City School staff and City staff would receive priority, which eats up spots for City families. A positive note is this program will allow us to hire 63 temps, which is an opportunity to get back some of those we lost.

d) Decision Points - Fall events

Ms. Salgado reported the COVID Team is leaning towards cancelling major fall events such as Fall Festival and Holiday Craft Show due to the large number of people. The decision will be made around August 1, 2020. A decision has already been made to cancel the July and August Rock the Blocks. The Labor Day Car Show is trying to find an alternative and safe way to hold some version of the event. Good news is we are able to do some events such as Movies Under the Moon at Van Dyck and Shakespeare theatre at the Veterans Amphitheater. The Fall 2020 Parks & Rec Connected brochure will be entirely online and emailed out instead of printed. One of the large budget cuts from the city was printing services. We are looking into holding a virtual craft show to connect shoppers with their favorite vendors.

6. Old Business - Updates

a) CIP and Budget Update

Ms. Salgado reported the FY21 CIP and Budget have been adopted by Mayor and City Council. No changes were made to Parks and Recreations CIP, but some changes were made to the budget. Part of the department's budget has been placed in a reserve account where it will remain until revenue begin generated again. Private rentals are scheduled to begin in August, which allows for the return of several CSR's. Ms. Salgado shared the department is finishing up FY20 CIP projects such as removing the basketball court asphalt at Westmore School. FY21 projects will start in the near future. Van Dyck Park Upper Pavilion recently received a new roof.

b) Community Center Update

Chair Rodgers-Rickert shared that she received a call from Mayor Meyer who and assured her everything is still on track with the Community Center project and believes everything is going to work itself out in time. He stressed that PRAB as individual city residents should attend any planning and public meetings where any major decisions are being made. We need the numbers from

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individual city residents. He also supports the idea of PRAB submitting a letter of recommendation.

Ms. Salgado shared she too had a similar conversation with Mayor Meyer and the City Manager. The City's CFO is in discussions with the County's CFO regarding the financing. We are still waiting on Brian Hill to instruct his staff to resume working on the project.

Vice Chair Knapp asked what PRAB's role will be when the project picks up.

Ms. Salgado responded that she doesn't know yet. The first step will be to get the county to get back in touch with us and discuss how the city prefers to process our projects with resident involvement.

c) Trail Updates - Pickett Road Trail, George Snyder Trail

Ms. Salgado shared that the trail known as the Country Club Hills/Fire Station Trail has been a point of discussion. Last week there was a meeting with the Country Club Hills Civic Association and a majority of their residents are against the trail. While a majority of the residents who have taken the Public Works online survey are in favor of the trail. This Tuesday at the City Council meeting it will be decided which projects it wants our Transportation Director to apply for funding for. One of these project is the trail, which means there will probably be a lot of community discussion. We need participation from those in support of the trail. This trail has been in our Strategic Master Plan since 2014, the Comprehensive Plan, and Multimodal Transportation Plan and staff supports this application for funding. We would not receive the funding into 2026-2027.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Upcoming Events - Wave Parade, Decision deadlines for later summer and fall events

Ms. Salgado shared several programs to include Movies Under the Moon, Independence Day Celebration Wave Parade and several of Megan's cultural programs were huge successes.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked what the sales total were for Independence Day Celebration t-shirts.

Ms. Salgado reported they were sold out.

8. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board - Jon Buttram

Shared Fairfax High School changed its mascot from a Rebel to a Lion as well as changed the name of the road in front of the school from Rebel Run to Lion Run. The School Board is in the early stages of deciding whether to change the name of Sydney Lanier Middle School.

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b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari

None - Not available

c) Senior Center - Sandy Moshos

Shared some seniors have been getting together in private to play pinochle.

d) Community Appearance Committee - James Rich

None - Absent

e) Commission on the Arts - Pat Gallagher

Shared the COA officially changed the name of their performance series to the "Old Town Hall Performance Series Founded by Bonita Lestina". Elections were held last week and the commission has a new chair and treasurer. Next week's meetings they will work on the budget and grants. The public art piece Peace Bird located at Van Dyck Park arrived today.

f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp

Shared NOVA Parks has a board meeting scheduled for next Thursday and will get a financial update. A lot of people have been taking advantage of outdoor recreation during the pandemic. NOVA Parks camping and golf numbers are up. They are currently allowing rentals with limited numbers and as the numbers increase so will revenue, which will be a major benefit.

9. Matters of the Members

a) Mr. Anderson shared it was nice to be back out on the fields for his son's FPYC league.

b) Mr. Cipriano shared the vegetation on the Wilcoxon Trail is still overgrown.

c) Ms. Luckabaugh shared how much she enjoyed the July 4th Wave Parade. Also reminded the group of an email she distributed concerning the social media campaign #GoodConnectsUs.

d) Ms. Gallagher welcomed new School Board Co-Chair Jon Buttram.

e) Mr. Knapp welcomed Jon Buttram back to PRAB. Congratulated Ms. Gallagher on the installation of Peace Bird. Asked Chair Rodgers-Rickert if it's possible to hold an in person meeting for September.

Ms. Salgado stated she hoped in person meetings may begin again in September and would advise the group once a decision had been made.

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10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:58 p.m.

The next PRAB meeting will be held on September 10th @ 7pm virtually using GoToMeeting.

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