

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

September 10, 2020
City of Fairfax Virtual Meeting

PRAB Members Present:

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

Absent:

James Rich
Amir Eftekhari
Kim Luckabaugh

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7:12 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for September 10, 2020 meeting

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from July 9, 2020

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

4. Presentations None

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

5. New Business

a) PRAB Officer Elections

Chair Rodgers-Rickert opened the floor for nominations for PRAB Chair.
Motion: Pat Gallagher nominated Sarah Ross
Second: Sandy Moshos
Approved unanimously

Chair Ross, first action opened the floor for nominations for PRAB Vice Chair.
Motion: Brian Cipriano nominated Brian Knapp
Second: Jon Buttram
Approved unanimously

Vice Chair Knapp thanked Ms. Rodgers-Rickert for her time and service.

b) Discussion and vote on letter of support to M/CC for the GST

Ms. Salgado shared that Vice Chair Knapp put together a nice list of items to include and Mr. Cipriano has offered to write the letter. The letter should arrive to Mayor and City Council at least three weeks before the hearing. They have already received a letting opposing the George Snyder Trail (GST), which is why PRAB's letter is very important.
Vice Chair Knapp agrees that letter should be promptly drafted and feels PRAB should be prepared to speak in person at the meeting.
The attendees discuss topic points to include in the letter.

c) FY22 CIP Discussion

Ms. Salgado reported the CIP and Budget are due earlier each year. The Parks and Recreation FY22 CIP draft is due Monday and will go through several months of review. Ms. Salgado read through the larger projects that will remain on the project list. She requested attendees send her ideas of smaller projects that need completing around \$25k range. Also, we are proposing a new plan for trail maintenance. To establish an on-call contract with a 3rd party to come in that would walk the trails two times year and take care of tree roots, drainage issues, patches and do the maintenance we don't normally do.

d) Park Spotlight - Thaiss Park

Ms. Salgado reminded the group that there has been money from CIP for a park overhaul that's been carried over for a number of years. Since a total overhaul is scheduled for FY24, the City is only going to do minor repairs this winter. Two small t-ball fields that aren't heavily used will be combined into one needed large field. We are able to reuse some of the existing fencing, but will need to add new fencing to complete the small project.

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

e) Fall Child Care

Ms. Salgado reported the first week of Fairfax City Connect Care Program went well. The program currently has 52 students and hopes to go up to 64 by the end of next week. The ratio of students to staff is perfect. The School Board supplied computers for the program. Fairfax County Schools are supplying free breakfast and lunch. Over 30 students qualified for 90% program cost reduction. A number of students are Spanish speaking and are well supported with 6 staff being fluent in Spanish. Department staff will transition back to Sherwood in a few weeks to being working on starting up two preschool programs. A couple of the challenges that have arose are Daniels Run and Providence Elementary Schools have different bell schedules. Which required reworking the arrangement of students. Instead of dividing them by grade, they are now divided by school. Also, there is no virtual school on Monday's. The Connected Care Program offers Monday Care with fun, educational and entertaining activities.

f) Decision Points - Fall events

Ms. Salgado reported the Turkey Trot and 4 miler NYE Run have been cancelled, partly because GMU is not allowing 3rd party runs to occur on campus. Staff is working hard to create a virtual Fall Festival to connect buyers and vendors. Yesterday, we received tentative approval to hold the Holiday Market due to the event naturally supporting social distancing. The market will be two weekends, with music streamed in lieu of live performers. The department is working on ideas for the Festival of Lights and Carols.

6. Old Business - Updates

a) Community Center Update

Ms. Salgado shared the Annual Meeting held between the City and County is set to occur on October 8, 2020. The Community Center will be a center of conversation. She will provide an update at the October PRAB.

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

Ms. Salgado shared the Pickett Road Trail has entered the design phase and the kick off meeting was held a few weeks ago. Regarding the Comstock Trail, the City hired Timmons to prepare documents for a property owner at the Tank Farm to provide more details. The Trail Maintenance (IFB) Invitation for Bid was approved Tuesday morning.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Upcoming Events - Virtual Fall Festival, 3rd Party Events, Holiday Events

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

Ms. Salgado already went through the upcoming events. She reported the Virtual Spotlight Gala raised \$77k. There was a baby Spotlight at Sherwood Center that was attended both live and streamed virtually that was very successful. We can look forward to more outdoor theatre within the City in October and November. The department is aiming to publish City Clips every other week to notify followers of upcoming events, activities, programs and updates.

8. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board - Jon Buttram

Shared Tuesday was the first day of school. The schools are handling a technical issue and still handing out laptops to students. The County created a help site for parents to refer to for technical issues. Daniels Run Elementary, Green Acres, and Providence Elementary Schools are participating in free grab and go meals for students. 145 students were reported absent the City's 4 schools compared to the 4,300 students reported absent Countywide.

b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari

None - Absent

c) Senior Center - Sandy Moshos

Shared the Senior Center Council is attempting to meet virtually. The Senior Center is trying to slowly begin programming again will offer Bingo and a carry out lunch at OTH or Sherwood in October.

d) Community Appearance Committee - James Rich

None - Absent

e) Commission on the Arts - Pat Gallagher

Shared the Commission reverted back to the original name for the Bonnie Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series. The grant application process is underway. The Commission meets next Tuesday. Asked Ms. Salgado for up update on the OTH column that fell.

Ms. Salgado reported the City is waiting on a report from the structural engineer. The report will determine how best to proceed with either replacing the single column or all four of them. It is not a structural issue and the building is currently safe. The damage was caused by old age/rot and not termites.

f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp

Shared NOVA Parks meets bimonthly with the next meeting being the 17th. At the upcoming meeting they will adopt the Capital Project that will then be sent to the six jurisdictions. Two weeks ago NOVA Parks had a dedication in Falls Church on the WO&D Trail to kick off a two decade process of widening the trail. They

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

are finishing up the summer, golf was very strong this year as was camping. They successfully brought back all staff that was previously laid off, let go of furloughed. Crews have begun the decoration process for the holiday light shows.

9. Matters of the Members

- a) Mr. Knapp thanked Ms. Rodgers-Rickert for her service as PRAB Chair and congratulated Ms. Ross.
- b) Ms. Ifantides, Mr. Buttram, Ms. Gallagher, and Ms. Moshos thanked Ms. Rodgers-Rickert for her time and service as Chair and welcomes Ms. Ross to her new role.
- c) Mr. Anderson expressed a safety concern at Draper Drive Park. When the field is being used by youth teams the entrance becomes overcrowded and doesn't allow for adequate social distancing. Ms. Salgado shared that the youth league provided the City with a plan of action to avoid these types of issues prior to the season starting. She will reach out and ensure they begin following the approved plan to ensure the issue doesn't continue.
- d) Ms. Rodgers-Rickert thanked everyone for the kind words and welcome Ms. Ross to the role as PRAB Chair. Reminded everyone of the retirement event for Beverly Myers this weekend.
- e) Ms. Ross thanked everyone.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 9:06 p.m.

The next PRAB meeting will be held on October 8th @ 7pm virtually using GoToMeeting.