

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

October 8, 2020  
City of Fairfax Virtual Meeting

**PRAB Members Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Mike Anderson  
Sandy Moshos

**1. Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order by Chair Ross*

**Time:** 7:01 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

*Agenda for October 8, 2020 meeting with the addition of a presentation by Councilmember Miller*

*Motion: Kim Luckabaugh*

*Second: Zinta Rodgers-Rickert*

*Approved unanimously*

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

*Minutes from September 10, 2020*

*Motion: Zinta Rodgers-Rickert*

*Second: Jon Buttram*

*Approved unanimously*

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**4. Presentations**

City Councilmember Janice Miller reported on the huge success of adding pickleball lines to the tennis courts at Van Dyck Park. The courts are heavily used Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 1:30pm by approximately 35-45 players. She suggests creating a CIP project for additional courts to be added elsewhere in the city.

**5. New Business**

**a) Review of Snyder Trail Letter and Upcoming Public Hearing**

Chair Ross shared the letter was sent to Mayor and City Council this week. She will be forwarding to the George Snyder Trail Advisory Board shortly. Reminded that the public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday.

Ms. Salgado added the hearing date is October 13, 2020. The George Snyder Trail is the first item on the agenda. There will be a detailed presentation that she will forward to the board tomorrow.

Chair Ross announced she will be speaking on behalf of PRAB at the hearing and invited others to submit comments of support or speak to make sure PRAB's voice is well represented.

**b) FY22 CIP Discussion**

Ms. Salgado shared she received multiple project suggestions from members to add to the FY22 CIP. One being to light the underpass on the Wilcoxon Trail as a \$25,000 item. Also, added some shade structures over at the bleachers at Stafford Drive Park. We went through the CIP review with City Manager and the next step is to put the pages together, distribute and rereview. She believes the first of many CIP presentations is scheduled for a City Council work session sometime in November.

Chair Ross asked with CIP presentations beginning shortly, do we want to add a project to include additional pickleball courts?

Mr. Cipriani suggested adding two courts at Van Dyck next to the existing tennis courts.

Ms. Salgado agreed to look into it.

Ms. Rodgers-Rickert suggested looking at Providence and Kutner Parks which are both closer to the City lines.

Ms. Salgado replied that Kutner Park is tight on space but may be workable.

Providence Park is a bit tricky due to the construction of the park being on a shelf but may also be possible.

**c) Strategic Master Plan Update**

Ms. Salgado reminded the group the strategic master plan was pushed back a year and now is the time to decide whether we want to begin the process or wait

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for things to return to a pre-COVID state. Things to keep in mind is the upcoming reaccreditation of the department, which will require a significant amount of staff time.

Vice Chair Knapp is in favor of beginning the strategic master plan process as they provide a roadmap for future projects and funding.

Chair Ross asked Ms. Salgado what the timing and duration the project would be.

Ms. Salgado responded it is currently in the CIP for FY22 for \$50,000 for July 1, 2021. She would start by making sure that amount is enough to complete the update. She estimates it would take 9-12 months to update the strategic master plan. She thinks it would be great is a small group of PRAB members volunteered to help do leg work and help with necessary events alongside department staff. Ms. Salgado explained the importance and process of reaccreditation and the manpower it requires.

Ms. Ross asked to revisit the topic at the December meeting.

**d) Park Spotlight – Daniel’s Run**

Ms. Salgado reported a month ago a trail walk occurred with Councilmember Ross and multiple residents along with the City’s Stormwater Engineer to look at and discuss stone dust trail erosions. We are working on a plan with the engineer to create a plan to do a little inhouse repairs around bridges and trail ruts to avoid further erosion. With COVID the use of the park and trail has grown tremendously. An invasive plant removal day is scheduled with the Old Lee Hills HOA for next Saturday over at the end of Queen Anne at the park entrance. The department is also doing a bench inventory in the park.

**e) Report on P&R programming and events**

Ms. Salgado shared the department is working with Providence and Daniels Run Elementary Schools on a few Halloween events for a driveway pumpkin patch on Lions Run on Friday, October 30. We are also working with A Place to Call Home for a food drive collection. We are asking residents to carve a pumpkin and drop it off for residents to drive through to see all the lit pumpkins. We are hoping for 400 pumpkins. The department slowly offering in person classes for seniors at Sherwood Center. We regularly send out emails to the group and are finding 50% are comfortable with in person session and the other 50% are not. Will continue to offer both in person and virtual programs. Ms. Salgado and Mizti Taylor are in conversation with Mayor and City Council regarding the Festival of Lights and Carols and the holiday tree lighting. The Holiday Market has been approved by the City’s Safety Officer to be held in person.

**6. Old Business - Updates**

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**a) Community Center Update**

Ms. Salgado shared Mayor Meyer had a meeting with Chairman McKay on Tuesday and doesn't know the results of the meeting. They are trying to schedule the City-County annual meeting where the community center will be a topic of discussion. The project is still part of the county bond for November, but the location is 50-50 between at Willard Center and Massey Complex. The City would like to get commitment from the Board of Supervisors that the location would be 100% Willard Center.

Mr. Cipriano asked if they center is moved to the Massey Complex can the City get dibs on the property?

Ms. Salgado responded that the City is in discussion of backup plans in the event the center moves to the Massey Complex.

**b) Trail Updates – Comstock, Pickett Road Trail, George Snyder Trail, Trail Maintenance (out to bid!)**

Ms. Salgado reported they are working on an alignment for the Comstock trail with the tank farm owners. This is needed as part of an agreement to support the application package for funding. Work has begun with the consult JMT for the Pickett Road trail and is going very well. The Trail Maintenance is going out to bid. Once it goes out to bid and then the bids come back it goes back to VDOT for another 60-day review. Then it goes to Mayor and Council for approval of spending the money and awarding the bid.

**7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports**

**a) Upcoming Events - Virtual Fall Festival and Holiday Craft Show, In-person Holiday Market, Festival of Lights and Carols**

Previously covered in earlier discussions.

**8. Stakeholder Updates**

**a) School Board - Jon Buttram**

Shared Fairfax County Public Schools is moving into a slow and gradual return to school starting in October. Starting with four groups based on special education, English language learned and some of the CTE and academy classes that need hands on instruction certifications for graduation totaling approximately 6,700 students within the county school system. The City Superintendent is looking at how it effects our schools since we do have some of those type of classes within our schools. The School Board is working on their CIP. They will hold a retreat later this month. Last month the School Board voted to rename Sydney Lanier Middle School and received approximately 300 suggested names. The Superintendent is working a process to narrow the list and select a new name.

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**b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari**

Shared Planning Commission met last week and discussed possible redevelopments at 10829 Fairfax Blvd and 10565 Main Street during their work session. No update on approved Wawa location on Fairfax Blvd.

**c) Senior Center - Sandy Moshos**

None - Absent

**d) Community Appearance Committee - James Rich**

Shared the committee lost the core of its year due to COVID between April Clean-up month and the Fall Festival event. They are looking forward to 2021.

**e) Commission on the Arts - Pat Gallagher**

Shared the Commission is evaluating applications for grants from various organizations and artists for the coming year. At their October meeting they will look at the applications and hope to be able to provide something for City residents to enjoy. They are considering how to proceed with the traditional Old Town Hall Series on Friday nights.

**f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp**

Shared that their three light shows will be opening soon and he welcomes questions or feedback concerning them. A big project he is tracking with NOVA Parks is Beaver Dam, the old water facility the City use to own. Work will be commencing soon over two years to develop it into a full-scale regional passive park.

**9. Matters of the Members**

**a)** Mr. Cipriano shared the project he worked on for Arlington County Parks and Recreation last year won the VRPS Award for best new renovation of a park, playground or trail.

**b)** Mr. Knapp requested staff provide an updated PRAB roster and November – July PRAB calendar to help organize upcoming important dates and meetings.

**c)** Ms. Luckabaugh shared Volunteer Fairfax is launching Volunteerfest on October 24-25 and can be found on their website.

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**10. Meeting Adjournment**

*Motion: Kim Luckabaugh*

*Second: Jon Buttram*

*Approved unanimously*

**Time:** 9:21 p.m.

***The next PRAB meeting will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm virtually using GoToMeeting.***

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