

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

November 12, 2020
City of Fairfax Virtual Meeting

PRAB Members Present:

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

Absent:

Amir Eftekhari
Kim Luckabaugh
James Rich

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Ross

Time: 7:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for November 12, 2020 meeting with the addition of decodifying park rules and regulations policy, pickleball discussion, Old Lee Highway Report

Motion: Evie Ifantides

Second: Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from October 8, 2020 deferred to December 10, 2020 meeting

4. Presentations

Chair Ross welcomed Diana Gibson to PRAB as a new member. Attendees went around and introduced themselves.

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5. New Business

a) FY22 CIP Discussion - Strategic Master Plan Update

Attendees discussed FY22 CIP line items.

Ms. Salgado reported she spoke with a consultant and the \$50,000 designated to update the 2014 Parks Strategic Masterplan is not enough. The new cost would be \$75,000.

Chair Ross opened the conversation to the board whether they were in favor of asking for additional \$25,000 to complete the project.

Attendees discuss the project, whether to pull the \$25,000 from another line item or defer to a later year due to staff and COVID constraints.

Approve the CIP with moving Strategic Master Plan to FY23 and taking that savings and placing toward ADA improvements.

Motion: Brian Knapp

Second: Mike Anderson

Approved unanimously

b) FY22 Operating Budget Discussion

Ms. Salgado reported some of the department's money has been placed into a reserve fund where it will remain until we are able to resume events and activities. There was not a lot of change in the operating budget. City management is looking closely at revenue and taxes. She will update the board as more information becomes available.

c) George Snyder Trail – Environmental Sustainability Committee review and December 8, 2020 M/CC work session, hiring of 3rd Party arborist and landscape plan reviewer

Ms. Salgado shared there has been some slight change in staff handling the project. Christina Alexander, CIP Manager within Public Works is now overseeing all the VDOT and plan review processes. Ms. Salgado will continue to be responsible for all the presentations and public outreaches. A George Snyder Advisory Board meeting will be scheduled for January 2021 when the plans reach the 65% completion. The Environmental Sustainability Committee decided to review the trail project. Ms. Salgado has a presentation for the committee to show the full spectrum of the project and its importance for the City.

d) Park Spotlight – Dale Lestina Park

Ms. Salgado reported the Request for Proposal (RFP) is out for the Trail Maintenance project and a section at Dale Lestina was added in addition to a few others. A new map will be shared once available. Once submitted the VDOT review takes 60 days and the project will begin hopefully in spring 2021.

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e) Report on P&R programming and events

Ms. Salgado shared she was informed the likelihood of the community center remaining at the Willard Center is very likely. The City will be working with the County shortly in addition to an individual who will help establish a long-term agreement. Money has been placed into CIP for design next year.

Ms. Salgado reported the in-person Chocolate Lovers Festival has been cancelled, with a possibility of holding a virtual event like the Holiday Craft Show and Fall Festival. Staff is also looking into having an outdoor gourmet food market at the end of January or February.

f) Decodifying park rules and regulations policy

Ms. Salgado proposed to the board to decodify the department's park rules and regulations. This would remove the rules and regulations from City Code and turn them into City policies. The benefit would be that necessary changes can be made in a timely matter with approval of City Manager. To accomplish the change the topic would be brought to Mayor and City Council as a work session item, then open for discussion at a public hearing before being voted on. If approved park rules and regulations would still be enforceable by City Police.

Approve decodify the department's park rules and regulations and turn into City policy.

Motion: Sandy Moshos

Second: Evie Infantides

Approved unanimously

g) Pickleball Discussion

Ms. Salgado shared an email received by a City resident regarding the growth of pickleball within the city. She was asked by Mayor Meyer to discuss the request of lining all tennis courts for dual use.

Attendees discussed the pros and cons of the request. A decision was made to table the conversation until the January 2021 meeting to allow for board members to poll community members and better research the proposal.

Vice Chair Knapp requested staff provide white paper with all court inventory within the City for January meeting.

h) Old Lee Highway Report

Ms. Rodgers-Rickert reported the City held a community outreach run by a hired company to focus on how to resolve the high-speed traffic issue on Old Lee Highway. She expressed disappointment in the direction of the meeting being

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more focused on how to slow things down and not enough on how to fix the issue. As well as the lack of diversity within the group, being primarily composed of those directly affected by the neighborhoods. Those in attendance of the outreach all agreed safety is the highest priority but was unable to agree on the definition of safety. One proposed idea was to install a traffic circle on Old Lee Highway near Fairfax High School. Another is to narrow the neighborhood entrances by installing medians and trees. She would have liked for City Police to have been included in the discussion.

6. Old Business - Updates

a) Community Center Update

Covered in earlier discussions.

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

No update

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, Chocolate Lovers

No update, except previous Chocolate Lovers discussion

8. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board - Jon Buttram

Reported Sydney Lanier Middle School will be renamed to Katherine Johnson Middle School. A pilot program to accelerate the return to school is planned to bring students back into the building. Eleven teachers and 300 students volunteered with wide curriculums.

b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari

None - Absent

c) Senior Center - Sandy Moshos

No update

d) Community Appearance Committee - James Rich

None - Absent

e) Commission on the Arts - Pat Gallagher

Shares the Commission issued \$23,000 in grants and is encouraging virtual performances.

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f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp

Shared two of the three NOVA Parks light shows are already open. Informed Mark Chandler is unable to join a PRAB meeting just yet. Next Thursday's NOVA Parks meeting will include its annual audit. A topic of conversation is how COVID hit parks and recreation in such areas as waterparks and pensions. NOVA Parks is reviewing firearms and carrying rules and regulations within parks to ensure adherence to recently passed legislative.

9. Matters of the Members

Mr. Cipriani shared Foxcroft Colony is painting its buildings to match Scout on the Circle across the street in efforts to be more modern. The community is also working to update the landscaping.

Mr. Knapp posed the question how PRAB can interact with the Old Lee Highway Project. He requested staff share the 2017 CIP with the board.

Ms. Gallagher welcomes Diana to the group.

Ms. Moshos asked if the large tree at Ratcliffe Park is being turned into a sculpture? Ms. Salgado responded, yes. Department staff is currently working with an artist on a design which will go through a review process.

Ms. Rodgers-Rickert shared the Harmon Herald email is doing a really good job getting information out on relevant topics and issues. She's concerned about how PRAB can reach out to people for community aid. Reminded the group the Sherwood Giving Tree family nominations and donations are due by December 4th. Shared she would like to receive more input from City Police on their concerns and feedback.

Ms. Gibson said thank you and it was nice meeting everyone.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Evie Ifantides

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

Time: 9:53 p.m.

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