

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

January 14, 2020  
City of Fairfax Virtual Meeting

**PRAB Members Present:**

Sarah Ross, Chair  
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair  
Mike Anderson  
Jon Buttram  
Brian Cipriano  
Amir Eftekhari  
Pat Gallagher  
Diana Gibson  
Evie Ifantides  
Kim Luckabaugh  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Staff: Cathy Salgado  
      Jamie Dodson  
Guest: Jay Lamb, Senior Center Council  
      Tatum Anderson  
Absent:  
      James Rich

**1. Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order by Chair Ross*

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

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

*Agenda for January 14, 2020 meeting*

*Motion: Jon Buttram*

*Second: Evie Ifantides*

*Approved unanimously*

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

*Minutes from December 10, 2020 meeting*

*Motion: Jon Buttram*

*Second: Evie Ifantides*

*Approved unanimously*

**4. Presentations**

None

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**5. New Business**

**a) FY22 CIP Discussion – Council review and direction 1/5/21**

Ms. Salgado shared Tuesday evening the City Manager inquired with Mayor and City Council to get approval if they are comfortable with City staff proceeding with final development of the FY22 CIP to include several feasibility studies and a potential rain tax. Three requested were a property yard, police station and Green Acres. City staff would also like to move ahead with another small area plan. No comments were given on any individual department's CIP projects. It is believed more detail will be available in February or March. Departments were not given any direction from the meeting. Budget wise the numbers look good for CIP. The City's goal is not to cut the CIP to balance the budget as done previously.

Vice Chair Knapp requested an update on the Planning Commission's review of the Draper Drive Restroom project.

Ms. Salgado reported that the Planning Commission wrote a letter to the Mayor and Council that was presented Tuesday evening that included an endorsement of the project.

**b) FY22 Operating Budget Discussion**

Ms. Salgado reported that there has been no update from the City Manager on the FY22 proposed budget. She should know more in February or March. The City is waiting for tax assessments in February which is important because it provides the City's revenue numbers. There will most likely continue to be a reserved budget at least the first quarter.

Chair Ross asked if there are any staff requested the department is advocating for.

Ms. Salgado responded they are advocating for an Urban Forester to tackle our 35,000 trees located on City parkland. A consultant is finishing up an Urban Forester implementation plan with hopes of hiring another arborist for the City. The consultant will be making recommendations to possibly reorganize and have an Urban Forestry Division to include the efforts currently made by several departments including Community Development and Planning, Code Enforcement, Public Works and Parks and Recreation.

**c) Discussion of Tennis and Pickleball Courts**

Ms. Salgado shared court inventory as requested. The City has 13 tennis courts with 6 being at Fairfax High School that has limited access. Van Dyck courts are the only within the City that are lit. The City is below the National average of number of courts compared to the number of citizens. We do not have any data on current court use, apart from the group of pickleball players who have collected their own data at Van Dyck from November 15 through December 14,

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2020. It's important to remember these numbers are likely to change as the weather gets warmer and whenever indoor facilities become available again. Ms. Salgado recommends no lining the Providence and Kutner Parks tennis courts for pickleball. Line the two remaining tennis courts at Van Dyck for pickleball and look into creating courts behind Green Acres. Once the Green Acres courts are completed resurface the two tennis courts at Can Dyck back solely for tennis.

Chair Ross shared she feels Ms. Salgado's recommendation seems like a reasonable compromise to accommodate the increased number of pickleball players, while finding a better long-term solution for both tennis and pickleball players.

Attendees discussed the potential logistics, budget, and pros and cons of Ms. Salgado's recommendation.

Chair Ross postponed voting on the proposed project until the February meeting, first requesting staff provide in writing what funds are available and where they originated from.

**d) George Snyder Trail update**

Ms. Salgado reported the George Snyder Trail is moving along to planning. The City had a scoping meeting with VDOT on Monday that ties in the milestones for the project progression and links it to the funding. The 65% plans are slated to be complete by March 1, 2021. An Advisory Board meeting will occur to review the plans before continuing to move through the review process. Staff met with Community Development and Planning to discuss the review and approval process in detail and determined it will be lengthy and intricate due to the complexity of trail and multiple parcels.

Attendees discussed the review process and timeline of the project and their concerns.

Vice Chair Knapp asked Ms. Salgado if Mayor and City Council have given her any instructions or feedback that PRAB should be aware of.

Ms. Salgado responded the City hired a third-party consultant firm to review the alignment and tree removal plan. They will present any recommendations they have to staff to be vetted before going back before Mayor and Council in March at a work session. The current trail alignment can be changed much as we near the 65% plan completion.

**e) Park Spotlight – Daniel's Run Park**

Ms. Salgado shared the City is in the middle of creating a Bike Master Plan and received public comments requesting more park trails to be directly connected to on road bike lanes, sharrows, etc. In addition, that City trails be more uniform, paved and accessible. This led her to share that there is no intention of ever

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paving Daniel's Run Park trails and wanted to make sure the board was under the same consensus.

**6. Old Business - Updates**

**a) Community Center Update**

Ms. Salgado reported the joint City County Annual meeting occurred virtually. The community center project was the first agenda item. Bryan Hill along with four members of the Board of Supervisors were in attendance. The Board members gave the agreement that it will be a joint project. In response, the City sent an agreement today to the County requesting in writing the it will be a joint project. The City Manager put a request for proposal (RFP) out for project management services.

**b) Trail Updates – Comstock, Pickett Road Trail, Trail Maintenance**

Ms. Salgado shared the bid for Wilcoxon Trail was awarded to Veterans Kitchen Maintenance. A pre-project meeting will occur in February and work should begin in March. The Judicial Drive Trail project had a public hearing with no public comment. The City Attorney is reviewing the current easement agreements due to complexities such as floodplain before it goes through the review process with Community Development and Planning. Pickett Road Trail is going smoothly with the consultant JMT doing a great job.

**7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports**

**a) Upcoming Events and Programs**

Ms. Salgado reported a Directors meeting was held last week with the other agencies where they discussed the status of operations and when events, camps and programming would resume. Despite a lot of uncertainty, the planning for summer camps is moving ahead with the hope of being able to get into the schools. Staff is working on Spotlight for April and May with both in-person and virtual components. Along with sending craft show vendor information with hopes that our fall shows can be held. Facilities are busy continuing to cancel rentals due to current restrictions limiting gatherings to ten people. Connected Care staff will begin signing up next week to get their COVID-19 vaccinations.

**8. Stakeholder Updates**

**a) School Board - Jon Buttram**

Shared Karen Lussier with Parks and Recreation provided the School Board with a great presentation on the Connected Care and the Giving Tree programs and an update on summer programs. The School Board is also working on their CIP, specifically one project being the fields at the High School in need of renovation and care. Additionally, Fairfax County Public Schools released today a 3-4-week plan to get all teachers and staff vaccinated for COVID-19.

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**b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari**

Shared the Planning Commission reviewed the Hill Street Connection and Draper Drive Restroom projects and provided recommendations and endorsements to Mayor and City Council. They recommended the Hill Street Connection remain a dead-end street and create a small pedestrian path in the space. They also endorsed the Draper Drive Restrooms project.

**c) Senior Center - Jay Lamb**

Shared the Senior Center has limited classes running at the Sherwood Center. Pickleball players are seeking out places to play. Bocce players are using the outdoor court. However, all other activities and programs are on hold.

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

None - Absent

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

Shared the grant funds have been dispersed and some of the grantees have been presenting their projects. Thank you to Parks and Recreation for allowing them to use City locations. Old Town Hall Performance Series is being held virtually and hopefully next year will be back at Old Town Hall. They will be holding a literary competition and more information will be available next meeting.

**f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp**

Shared the NOVA Parks light shows are still open and the viewing time was extended due to COVID-19. More information on location details can be found online. The first NOVA Parks Board meeting for 2021 will be held next week where a new Chair will be decided along with a couple of other positions. NOVA Parks is building a ropes course at their Upton Hill park in Arlington. This will be the only one of its size within the region.

**9. Matters of the Members**

Ms. Gibson shared she works at New School of Northern Virginia and they are looking for volunteer judges for a High School Science Fair.

Mr. Knapp shared he'd like to proceed with the idea of creating a welcome handbook for new PRAB members.

Ms. Gallagher welcomed Mr. Lamb and Miss Anderson and wished everyone a happy new year.

Miss Anderson thanked the board for welcoming her.

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Mr. Anderson asked is Tatum needs to officially apply to become an official student representative of PRAB.

Ms. Salgado directed Tatum to the City website where she can apply.

Mr. Cipriano shared with Ms. Salgado he's noticed an influx of people allowing dogs on the field at Thaiss Park where they are going to the bathroom making a mess. Encouraged placing signs informing owners dogs are not allowed on the fields. Also, the stone just around the pavilion is all muddied up from dirt running off the field and is a mess.

Ms. Salgado replied she will have staff look into both items.

**10. Meeting Adjournment**

*Motion: Pat Gallagher*

*Second: Jon Buttram*

*Approved unanimously*

**Time:** 9:14 p.m.

***The next PRAB meeting will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm virtually using GoToMeeting.***