

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

February 11, 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

Stefanie Kupka, Community Development and Planning/Public Works

Guests: Billy Bates

Mark Chandler, NOVA Parks

Sam Crumpler, Senior Center Council

Jean Hower, Senior Center Council

Charles Paceley, Senior Center Council

Absent: None

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Ross

Time: 7:04 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for February 11, 2021 meeting

Motion: Jon Buttram

Second: Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from January 14, 2021 meeting

Motion: Kim Luckabaugh

Second: Diana Gibson

Approved unanimously

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4. Presentations/Introductions

Introduction of Senior Center Council guests Jean Hower and Charles Paceley.

5. New Business

a) FY22 CIP Discussion – Public Hearing 3/9 and 3/23

Ms. Salgado shared two important upcoming dates March 9 and 23, 2021 where the City Manager will be presenting the FY22 CIP to Mayor and City Council and discussions will begin. So far, no cuts or changes have been mentioned or made and the numbers are looking good.

b) FY22 Operating Budget Discussion – City Manager Presentation to M/CC 2/23. Public Hearing 3/9 and 3/23

Ms. Salgado reported again the two important upcoming dates where the City Manager will be presenting FY22 Operating Budget to the Mayor and City Council. Part of the Parks and Recreation's budget will remain in the COVID format of a reserve account. When the time comes that programs, events, and facility rentals begin resuming the money will be moved out of reservation. No changes to the department operating budget have been made to date.

c) Presentation and Recommendation from P&R to Expand City Hall Community Garden and Composting Center

Ms. Salgado shared she has received multiple requests by current Community Garden Program gardeners to expand the number of plots at the City Hall location. The waiting list for the location constantly remains long and several half-size plot gardeners would like to upgrade to full-size and have been unable to do so for several years. Additionally, staff is looking into the feasibility of relocating the Composting Center onsite to minimize the use of program participants double-parking in handicap and garden spots. A preliminary design has been created to add 9 additional full-size plots to the west of the garden. The addition would be kept below 2500 s.f. to ensure a major review by Community Development and Planning would not be needed. Instead allowing for the City Manager to review and approve the project. Costs associated with the project include a new fence and painting the existing fence. Staff is working with a sponsor to minimize costs. In addition to youth organizations building the new beds and gardeners expressed a desire to fill the beds themselves. Moving the Composting Center would require a Board of Architectural Review, which could result in leaving it where it is.

Attendees discussed designated parking spaces, City-wide composting collections, adding additional gardens around the City such as Van Dyck.

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d) Discussion Urban Forester Program – Stefanie Kupka

Ms. Kupka presented the Urban Forestry Program Evaluation Report. Attendees discussed the need for additional city staff to apply for grants and funding to better support the City's tree population.

PRAB to send a letter of support to create dedicated Urban Forester position.

Motion: Sarah Ross

Second: Brian Knapp

Approved unanimously

e) Comstock Trail Naming

Vice Chair Knapp motioned to name the trail known as the Comstock Trail in honor of former City Mayor John Mason, as elaborated in a PRAB email dated Feb 6.

Note: The Mayor and City Council asked that this action remain confidential until proper notification could occur. Such notification has taken place.

Second: Pat Gallagher

Mr. Cipriano counter-motioned to defer the trail naming until all members are better informed on the nature of the name.

Second: Diana Gibson

Opposed via roll call vote of 3-8-0, recorded as follows; in favor: Mr. Cipriano, Mr. Eftekhari, and Ms. Gibson, opposed; Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Rodgers-Rickert, Ms. Luckabaugh, Mr. Knapp, Ms. Ifantides, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Buttram, Ms. Ross, abstained: none.

Vice Chair Knapp motions to approve the trail naming.

Approved via roll call vote of 8-1-2, recorded as follows; in favor: Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Rodgers-Rickert, Ms. Luckabaugh, Mr. Knapp, Ms. Ifantides, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Buttram, Ms. Ross, opposed: Mr. Cipriano, abstained: Mr. Eftekhari, Ms. Gibson.

Mr. Cipriano noted he does not like how little time was given to make an educated decision nor the formality of how it was handled.

6. Old Business - Updates

a) Discussion of Tennis and Pickleball Courts

Chair Ross shared the five options created for PRAB to vote on to decide the best plan of action for city staff to proceed with pickleball within the City. Members were given the five options to review prior to the meeting. Attendees discussed the pros and cons of the five options.

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OPTION 1: Add one more pickleball court at Van Dyck. Van Dyck has two of four tennis courts with the necessary striping for pickleball. This option would add striping to one more tennis court (three out of four tennis courts).

Schedule: Spring 2021

Cost: \$1,400

Funding: Park maintenance budget located in operating budget (note: Cathy's department budgets for unanticipated repairs and improvements that may be needed.)

No motion of approval made

OPTION 2: Add two more pickleball courts at Van Dyck. This option would add striping to two more courts (four out of four)

Schedule: Spring 2021

Cost: \$2,800

Funding: Parks maintenance budget located in the operating budget (note: Cathy's department budgets for unanticipated repairs and improvements that may be needed.)

No motion of approval made

OPTION 3: Add pickleball lines at both Providence Park Tennis courts (2 courts), providing 4 pickleball courts

Schedule: Spring 2021

Cost: \$1,400

Funding: Parks maintenance budget, operating

Motion to approve option 3

Motion: Brian Knapp

Second: Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

Approved unanimously

OPTION 4: Upgrade the outdoor pickleball courts at Green Acres

Install five pickleball courts with nets on ½ of the existing blacktop located behind Green Acres and add 12-foot-high fencing around courts. Basketball court will remain along with access to the playground. The basketball court and pickleball court locations would swap so that pickleball would be where basketball court is now and vice versa.

Schedule: Fall 2021

Cost: \$40,000 estimate which includes fencing, asphalt repair, and recoating and painting lines

Funding: Capital Improvement budget using carry-over funds from fencing and park maintenance accounts.

Motion to approve option 4

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Motion: Brian Knapp

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

OPTION 5: Install a permanent pickleball facility at Van Dyck Park. Six courts (totally separate from the tennis courts). Incorporate this permanent structure in the new VD master plan

Potential cost: \$250,000

Possible location: Adjacent to the tennis courts at Van Dyck

Timing: Earliest FY26

Motion to approve option

Motion: Brian Knapp

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

To add a caveat to approved option 5, by removing all pickleball lining from Van Dyck tennis courts once the permanent structure is completed.

Motion: Brian Cipriano

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Upcoming Meetings, Events and Programs

Ms. Salgado reported the following upcoming meetings and updates on department topics.

- a. March 2nd – Tentative work session GST will coincide with 65% plans and tree announces.
- b. March 9th – Public Hearing FY22 Budget – Operating and CIP
- c. March 23rd – Public Hearing FY22 Budget – Operating and CIP
- d. Recent Council Items
 - i. Briefing on gun rule passed on Tuesday evening pertaining to City buildings and parks. Council opted not to move forward with City events and provided relief for reenactors and honor guards. Council lowered the penalty violation from a class 1 to a class 4 misdemeanor.
 - ii. Outcome of de-codifying P&R rules. The introduction of a hearing meeting on February 23 and a public hearing on March 6. Council seem very receptive to the change.

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- e. George Snyder Trail. We have a new project manager that started two weeks ago. City staff is pleased with the progress of the trail design and has had three meetings in the past two weeks with the designer.
- f. Trail Updates – Comstock, Pickett Road Trail, Judicial Trail, Trail Maintenance. Provided PRAB members an updated trail chart prior to the meeting with project updates.
- g. Community Center Update. The Mayor and City Council and Fairfax County all signed an agreement to move forward with the project. The City received 11 applications for the RFP for a project management consultant. A small group of City staff are reviewing the applications and hope to interview the top three or four applicants in early March. A kick-off meeting is scheduled for March 5 with the County.

8. Committee Liaison Reports

a) Snyder Trail – Sarah Ross and Brian Cipriano

No update

b) Bike Plan – Evie Ifantides

Ms. Salgado shared there is a meeting next week to review the second draft.

Vice Chair Knapp asked for clarification on what the Bike Plan group does. Ms. Ifantides responded that it's a group of citizens, staff and a hired company that is working together to outline pedestrian and bicycle safety within the City.

c) Old Lee Highway Improvements Committee – Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

Shared the next meeting is next Wednesday. Since bike safety is a huge part of the committee, she encourages someone from the bike plan to join in. The group is focused on balancing both the safety and accessibility of the area. The committee is recommending two round-a-bouts along Old Lee Highway along with every possible calming effort and imposing all of them.

9. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board - Jon Buttram

Shared the School Board are working through CIP and Budget. Last week Fairfax County School Board agreed to begin the return to school plan as laid out. Schools will start increasing in person education next Tuesday with a modified bell schedule.

b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari

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Reported via GoToMeeting chat box prior to his departure. "There is nothing new from the Planning Commission. Based on feedback, staff updated the 2020 Annual Report, with an advanced update to the 2035 Comprehensive Plan, Old Town Fairfax Small Area Plan, and Northfax Small Area Plan implementation guides."

c) Senior Center - TBD

d) Community Appearance Committee - TBD

Ms. Salgado shared that James Rich moved out of the City and has resigned. The City is looking into the future of the CAC as they have had several members resign.

e) Commission on the Arts - Pat Gallagher

Shared Jeff Sessions and Deb Dillard have resigned from the Commission on the Arts and three new members have joined. They meet next Tuesday, and she will provide up update at the March PRAB meeting.

f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp

Thanked Mark Chandler for sitting in on tonight's PRAB meeting. The next NOVA Parks meeting is in March. One of their biggest challenges is figuring out how to prepare for summer when they don't know what it will look like due to COVID.

10. Matters of the Members

Ms. Gibson reported she is still looking for volunteer judges for a High School Science Fair at New School of Northern Virginia. Also, it is Black History Month and shared the organization Outdoor Afro who talk about African Americans in outdoor spaces and recreation.

Mr. Anderson apologized for Tatum not being able to attend, she had a scheduling conflict with field hockey.

Ms. Infantides shared she received her first vaccine.

Mr. Cipriano shared Foxcroft Colony was going to make updated to the landscaping, but the board meeting was delayed due to COVID. They are looking into updating the colors of the buildings.

Mr. Knapp shared that he is planning to work with Chair Ross to propose a future discussion dedicated to a City Park Bond. He's concerned that the notion of how to pay for the VD Masterplan is slipping through our fingers. With large City projects and needs such as the Police Station upgrades and School CIP projects how can we

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keep PRAB's projects and needs relevant and in the Mayor and City Councils line of sight.

Ms. Luckabaugh shared Volunteer Fairfax has been removed from their office to allow for non-COVID testing to take place there. They just finished the 2021 Valentine's Challenge where they collect approximately 10,000 Valentine's Day Cards. She gave kudos to City schools for all they are doing for our students.

Ms. Gallagher shares she received her first vaccine.

Ms. Salgado shared she is receiving her first vaccine on Saturday.

Ms. Ross shared her kindergartner is starting in-person class in 10 days and they are very excited.

11. Upcoming Meetings

- a) February 23rd First Reading Public Hearing – De-Codification of Park Rules**
- b) March 9th Public Hearing – De-Codification of Park Rules**
- c) May – Joint meeting with the School Board**
- d) TBD – Joint meeting with M/CC**

12. Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Pat Gallagher

Second: Evie Ifantides

Approved unanimously

Time: 9:30 p.m.

The next PRAB meeting will be held on March 11th @ 7pm virtually using GoToMeeting.