

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

March 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  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

Staff: Cathy Salgado  
Jamie Dodson  
Chloe Ritter, Public Works

Guests: John Paul Cameron - Boy Scout  
Dennis Burke  
Tatum Anderson

Absent: Kim Luckabaugh

**1. Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order by Chair Ross*

**Time:** 7:05 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

*Agenda for March 11, 2021 meeting.*

*Chair Ross motioned to strike item 3, adoption of minutes, to April 8, 2021 meeting*

*Motion: Evie Ifantides*

*Second: Zinta Rodgers-Rickert*

*Approved unanimously*

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

*Minutes from February 11, 2021 meeting deferred to April 8, 2021 meeting*

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

**4. Presentations/Introductions**

John-Paul Cameron from a local Boy Scout Troop presented his idea to add a Gaga Ball pin at Van Dyck Park.

**5. New Business**

**a) New Student Member**

*The board votes to formally recognize Tatum Anderson as new Student Representative to PRAB.*

*Motion: Zinta Rodgers-Rickert*

*Second: Pat Gallagher*

**b) FY22 CIP Discussion – Public Hearing 3/23 and Work Session 4/6**

Ms. Salgado reported there was a short introduction to the FY22 held on March 9, 2021 at the City Council meeting. No one called in with comments on the CIP. One item has been cut from the department's CIP, the underpass lighting for Old Lee Highway. The second CARES Act was passed, and the City of Fairfax will be receiving a substantial one-time allocation, the City Manager is hoping to use some of that money towards the City's CIP Program. She will provide updates as more information is released and hopes this may be a way to have the underpass lighting project added back to the list.

**c) FY22 Operating Budget Discussion –Public Hearing 3/23 and Work Session 4/6**

Ms. Salgado shared there were no call ins or comments on the operating budget during the March 9, 2021 City Council meeting. The City Manager's budget recommended no general tax increase, except a ½ penny on the stormwater tax. However, with the CARES Act allocation that could change. He also recommended the Urban Forester position be approved. The City has taken money out of the department's reserve account for July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities. More money will be released as we continue to move towards reopening and resuming department activities.

**d) Discussion and Presentation on Bike Master Plan – Chloe Ritter, Multi-Model Transportation Manager**

Ms. Ritter presented a preview of the Bicycle Master Plan – Bike Fairfax City that's been a work in progress for close to a year. The project team is close to wrapping up and releasing for public comment. Attendees shared their support and appreciation of the plan and look forward to reviewing it in-depth. Additionally discussed, the timeframe of the projects proposed within the plan and the growing trend of electric bikes.

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

Vice Chair Knapp requested PRAB be kept informed as it gets closer to release for public comment. Additionally, how can PRAB be advocates for the plan? Ms. Ritter responded that the project team did a lot of public outreach and received a good amount of feedback from more experienced cyclers and would appreciate getting more comments from those who may not be as experienced to get a different perspective.

**6. Old Business - Updates**

**a) Community Center – Report on first City/County Meeting**

Ms. Salgado shared the City had a project kick-off meeting this past Friday with the County. Attendees went over a recap of where the project was at, identify key personnel, determine who is going to come up with the next agreement and a few other details. The City and County attorneys are working on a new agreement. It was decided to go out for an RFP for design services with both jurisdictions as equal partners in the project. City staff has met to discuss financing issues regarding the community center. The CARES Act allocation may change the current financial situation but has yet to be discussed and determined.

Attendees discussed the project timeline and concerns with having the appropriate city, department and PRAB representation throughout the project. Ms. Rodgers-Rickert expressed concern over the communication between the team working on the community center project and those working on traffic calming on Old Lee Highway.

Ms. Salgado responded the City's Transportation Director is in the loop on the community center project design and taking it into consideration while working on proposed traffic calming actions on Old Lee Highway.

**b) George Snyder Trail – Report on new cost estimate, changes in alignment**

Ms. Salgado reported some alignment adjustments were made. One being at the western end where it hooks up with Rt. 123. A property owner requested the trail be realigned from the middle of his property to the northern region of the parcel to allow for more options for redevelopment in the future. City staff also met with the WillowWood property owner on Eaton Place. They own a wooded 6.74-acre parcel sandwiched between two city owned parcels. There is already an existing trail easement through their parcel that the GST is following relatively close. The property owner had hoped to build townhomes on the parcel, but once informed it is in both floodplain and resource protection area and is not eligible for building, they are considering selling it. Ms. Salgado put an inquiry into the City Attorney to see if there is any interest in the City purchasing it. It would add 6.74-acres to City parkland and allow the GST to run through our property instead of private property. The GST 65% plans are progressing and will not be ready until May

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

2021 now. However, the plans are greatly improved. The new Project Manager and their team have reduced the area of disturbance substantially, which is great news. There will be a GSTAG meeting scheduled for April 14, 2021. Ms. Salgado would like to invite the GST Project Manager present to PRAB at either the April or May meeting, which requires an additional 30-45 minutes during the meeting. Vice Chair Knapp asked if the realignment of the trail where it crosses Rt. 123 changes the crossing where the HAWK light is proposed? Ms. Salgado responded, yes and it is an issue that needs to be looked at.

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> – Public Hearing FY22 Budget – Operating and CIP
- b. April 6<sup>th</sup> – Work Session – Operating and CIP
- c. Recent Council Items
  - i. Outcome of de-codifying P&R rules
  - ii. Status of new gun law signs
- d. Trail Updates
  - a. Comstock Trail: Tuesday night the City Council unanimously voted to name the trail currently known at the Comstock Trail as the John Mason Trail. Mr. The Mayor has asked Ms. Salgado to get a sign designed for future John Mason Trail and do some sort of dedication for the sign in the summer when it's safe to gather.
  - b. Pickett Road Trail
  - c. Judicial Trail
  - d. Trail Maintenance

**8. Committee Liaison Reports**

**a) Snyder Trail – Sarah Ross and Brian Cipriano**

Covered in earlier discussions.

**b) Bike Plan – Evie Ifantides**

Covered in earlier discussions.

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

Covered in earlier discussions.

**9. Stakeholder Updates**

**a) School Board - Jon Buttram**

Shared currently all but 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students have returned to school through the hybrid program. The 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders will return next week. Currently, the

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

elementary school ratio of in-person verses virtual only is 50-50%. The high school is a little less with 42% in class and 58% still entirely virtual. The playground equipment can be used safely, so schools are getting kids back outside.

**b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari**

Shared last week Planning Commission and City Council reviewed updated proposal to redevelop the Breezeway Motel and adjacent properties. The proposal seeks to redevelop the properties with townhouses, condos, and a commercial building. The project requires a rezoning of the properties to planned development-mixed use in the architectural control overlay district which requires some modifications to the master development plan. Questions arose over affordable housing and open space availability.

**c) Senior Center - TBD**

**d) Community Appearance Committee - TBD**

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

Shared their current grantees projects and performance series continue to unfold virtually. They have begun to think about performance series and activities next year.

**f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp**

Shared the parks board meeting is next week. They expecting to get some press coverage tomorrow in the Arlington into Falls Church area where an overpass has been in construction thanks to a lot of VDOT dollars that opens tomorrow. NOVA Parks is getting geared up for the summer expecting to be able to open pools for the season. A concern is being able to find adequate staffing during these trying times.

**10. Matters of the Members**

Ms. Infantides shared she is back at work in the Willow Oaks for the first time in over year. It's heartwarming to see the crossing guards back out and all the kids going into school.

Miss Anderson shared she excited to join PRAB and looks forward to learning more about GST as she plans on using it frequently.

Mr. Knapp shared he enjoyed both presentations from the scout and city staff.

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

Ms. Gibson shared she is excited to be returning to work after spring break and future clean up days with students at Thaiss Park.

Mr. Buttram welcomed Tatum to PRAB.

Mr. Cipriano informed Ms. Salgado that there is still a mud pit at Thaiss Park pavilion. Also, informing Mr. Knapp of disrepair at Gateway Park.

**11. Upcoming Meetings**

- a) **May – Joint meeting with the School Board**
- b) **Fall – Joint meeting with M/CC**
- c) **November – Joint meeting with the Commission on the Arts**

**12. Meeting Adjournment**

*Motion: Evie Ifantides*

*Second: Diana Gibson*

*Approved unanimously*

**Time:** 9:05 p.m.

***The next PRAB meeting will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm virtually using GoToMeeting.***