

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

April 8, 2020  
City of Fairfax Virtual Meeting

**PRAB Members Present:**

Sarah Ross, Chair

Brian Knapp, Vice Chair

Mike Anderson

Tatum Anderson

Jon Buttram

Brian Cipriano

Amir Eftekhari

Pat Gallagher

Diana Gibson

Evie Ifantides

Kim Luckabaugh

Staff: Cathy Salgado

Jamie Dodson

Wendy Sandford (Public Works)

Christina Alexander (Public Works)

Guests: Chuck Monnig

Steve Zeender (Stantec)

Philip Latasa (Friends of the Accotink)

Judy Frasier

Kim Schauer

Absent: Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

**1. Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order by Chair Ross*

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

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

*Agenda for April 8, 2021 meeting.*

*Motion: Evie Ifantides*

*Second: Jon Buttram*

*Approved unanimously*

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

*Minutes from February 11, 2021 meeting*

*Motion: Evie Ifantides*

*Second: Mike Anderson*

*Approved unanimously*

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

*Minutes from March 11, 2021 meeting*

*Motion: Evie Ifantides*

*Second: Pat Gallagher*

*Approved unanimously*

**4. Presentations/Introductions**

Presentation by Steve Zeender from Stantec with George Snyder Trail project updates including trail alignment, environment impact, preliminary architectural features chosen, cost estimate and schedule updates.

**5. New Business**

**a) FY22 CIP Status – Work Session 4/6**

Ms. Salgado distributed the PowerPoint presentations from the April 6, 2021 City Council work session regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Review of the FY2021 Budget and the FY2022 Budget Discussion via email to PRAB prior to the meeting. No changes have been made to date to the current budget by Mayor and City Council. Detailed questions have not been asked or addressed and are anticipated for the April 20, 2021 work session.

**b) FY22 Operating Budget Discussion – Work Session 4/6**

Covered in previous conversation under 5a.

**c) American Recover Plan – Recommended Funded Projects**

Ms. Salgado reported no update at this time.

**d) Discussion on Parks Bonds**

Vice Chair Knapp presented the idea of beginning a park bond campaign to help complete park projects that have been sitting in waiting on the department CIP for years. His concerns are receiving the support of Mayor and Council and the City allocating funds to updating schools, fire and police stations taking precedent over park projects. He expressed the feeling of losing ground within the City of Fairfax and a park bond is the only way forward. Building a campaign would require a large-scale group effort made by all and much more than a letter sent by PRAB to Mayor and Council.

Ms. Salgado added that a large portion of creating a successful campaign will be education. The average person has no idea the cost of building the incredible parks and playgrounds found in other jurisdictions.

Attendees were in general support of the idea and agreed to continue the conversation at the May meeting.

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

**6. Old Business**

**a) Community Center – Report hiring a project management firm, status**

Ms. Salgado shared that the City and County have hired a project management firm and the first meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at the County. They will begin working through the first stage of creating a joint agreement between the two jurisdictions.

**7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports**

**a) Upcoming Meetings, Events and Programs. Includes projected reopening dates for Sherwood and Green Acres**

Ms. Salgado reported the department has created three reopening plans for summer camps, Sherwood and Green Acres depending on how and when the Governor lifts COVID-19 restrictions.

**b) Trail Updates**

Ms. Salgado shared the Trail Projects Monthly Tracker with PRAB via email prior to the meeting with updates.

**8. Committee Liaison Reports**

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

Covered in earlier discussion.

**b) Bike Plan – Evie Ifantides**

Ms. Ifantides shared the City is seeking public input on the Bike Master Plan.

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

Absent – No update provided

**9. Stakeholder Updates**

**a) School Board - Jon Buttram**

Mr. Buttram shared last night Fairfax County Public Schools made the decision to increase in-person days from two to four days a week. The transition begins next week using a phased approach. Two-day students can opt to do all four days in person depending on available space and staff. More information regarding the number of students will be available on April 20, 2021. The Fairfax High School Gymnastic team won First State Title.

**b) Planning Commission - Amir Eftekhari**

No update at this time

**c) Senior Center - TBD**

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

**d) Community Appearance Committee - TBD**

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

Ms. Gallagher shared the Old Town Hall Series has been being held virtually. However, Sunday at 2pm there will be a live performance at the Veterans Amphitheater located outside City Hall. The Commission had begun planning for next year.

**f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp shared the new WO&D Trail bridge located on the Falls Church/Arlington border has received rave reviews. The bridge helps users safely cross a busy portion of Lee Highway. To the west in Falls Church the first installation of dual use, walk/run/bike construction has begun rolling out. It was chosen as the first portion of conversion due to it being an original WO&D section and all the trail land belongs to NOVA Parks. Nearby at Upton Hill Park the construction continues for the premier outdoor rope course scheduled to open mid-summer.

**10. Matters of the Members**

Ms. Gibson shared she had a successful clean-up day with her students at Wilcoxon Park.

Ms. Infantides asked Ms. Salgado about the Mayor's Fitness Challenge. Ms. Salgado responded that it is a friendly eight-week fitness challenge between residents of the Town of Vienna, City of Falls Church and City of Fairfax for bragging rights to be the Fittest City. Ms. Salgado encouraged attendees to sign up and represent the City. She will distribute the challenge information via email.

Miss Anderson shared her field hockey team is playing in the District Final tomorrow.

Ms. Ross suggested adding the School Representative to the Stakeholders portion.

Ms. Luckabaugh shared the Woman's Club was discussing pollinators and was wondering if the monarch garden is still at Van Dyck, if so what its status is. Ms. Salgado responded that yes, it is still at Van Dyck and is in good condition due to a group of volunteers maintaining it.

Mr. Cipriano requested that PRAB emails and shared documents be bundled together better.

Mr. Knapp shared that Boy Scout Troops 1888 and 1887 are holding a clean-up day at Ashby Pond Saturday.

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

**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**

**Time:** 9:08 p.m.

***The next PRAB meeting will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm virtually using GoToMeeting.***

DRAFT

**Chat Log C:\Users\Jododson\Documents\ChatLog March PRAB Meeting 2021\_04\_08 21\_08.rtf**

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 7:25 PM: I'll just put some questions here so I don't forget...

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 7:26 PM: The last slide of how the trail was adjusted essentially was opening up a parcel for development... how does that affect the goal to reduce impact on trees as a part of the project? I would rather see that last parcel undevelopable because of the impact and also how close it bumped up against the trail--it will likely make it unattractive as a treed trail for trail users if the development comes that close in the future.

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 7:27 PM: Another question--how will the lighting design reduce light pollution/reduce impact on animals/insects? You mentioned not being sure about power source--how viable is solar power for the lighting project?

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 7:28 PM: Comment: The boardwalk/bridges look really attractive :)

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 7:28 PM: Regarding the bridges, will they be affixed in such a way that high waters will not dislodge them?

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 7:34 PM: Question on where things are with the ranger and stafford portions that were left as existing gravel/ stone dust, but specifically the stafford portion that would almost need to be built now due to the necessary earthwork operations? This is something GSTAG has brought forth as an issue.

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 7:34 PM: Will that be bright white light or a softer yellow light? That would help protect the impact on the wildlife

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 7:37 PM: perhaps it could be a hybrid powered lighting

**kim schauer (to Everyone):** 7:37 PM: I'd like to thank the staff for considering public input and making efforts to alter the plan to reduce cost and environmental impact. I joined a few minutes late, so I am sorry if your presentation already addressed these questions.

1. Is there still intent to include permeable pavement on part of the trail,

and if so, what will its annual maintenance costs be, and where will that funding come from?

2. I think I understood the presentation to say that the updated number of trees that will be impacted with the new plan has not been determined. When will that number be determined, and when and where will it be made public?

**Wendy Sanford (to Everyone):** 7:57 PM: Additional funding amount is \$3,660,000

**kim schauer (to Everyone):** 8:03 PM: Thanks!

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 8:11 PM: As president of teh Woman's Club of Fairfax, I can ask them for support, too

**Mike Anderson (to Everyone):** 8:16 PM: I don't think this works unless we also engage the public

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 8:18 PM: With a resolution, can we craft a one pager regarding the issues we are facing and get that out to the public and what we would do with the critically needed funding?

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 8:18 PM: We need to get the community association presidents on board. They also hold weight, and possibly get them to speak to council.

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 8:19 PM: yup

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 8:21 PM: 20-25 million over a period of so many years

**Sarah Ross, PRAB Chair (to Everyone):** 8:21 PM: Kim - I believe we crafted a one-pager in 2018/2019 RE support for a parks bond - it needs some clean up probably, but it was right after the Van Dyck Master Plan was adopted

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 8:21 PM: PErfect

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 8:21 PM: So the bones are there already!

**Amir Eftekhari (Private):** 8:39 PM: Hey Jamie, I got my second vaccine earlier today and probably need to call it a night. I'm not feeling well. Great meeting. Per my email, there are no updates re PC.

**Amir Eftekhari (Private):** 8:39 PM: Thanks.

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 8:43 PM: I apologize, I thought i was muted. Have a girl going through a challenging night.

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 8:53 PM: If Gateway Park wasn't prone to flooding, it would be a good size for mini golf!

**Evie Ifantides (to Everyone):** 8:55 PM: Register here for Sunday's performance:

[https://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity\\_Search/13809](https://apm.activecommunities.com/fairfaxcityrecdept/Activity_Search/13809)

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 8:55 PM: I'm doing the fitness challenge, too!

**Evie Ifantides (to Everyone):** 8:57 PM: Good luck, Tatum!

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 8:57 PM: Good luck T!

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 9:02 PM: Don't forget about the Spring Wave Parade this Saturday stepping off at 10 a.m.!

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 9:03 PM: maybe upload to an ftp

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 9:03 PM: and let people download

**Kim Luckabaugh (to Everyone):** 9:06 PM: do we know when we'll start considering resuming in person meetings?

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 9:06 PM: after heard immunity?

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 9:06 PM: herd\*

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 9:06 PM: july 4

**Brian C (to Everyone):** 9:07 PM: I like the at home zoom meetings... i say we stay like this

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 9:07 PM: Or if we don't have child care

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 9:07 PM: haha