

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

July 8, 2020  
City of Fairfax Hybrid Meeting  
10455 Armstrong Street and GoToMeeting

**PRAB Members Present:**

Sarah Ross, Chair  
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair  
Mike Anderson  
Jon Buttram  
Brian Cipriano  
Amir Eftekhari  
Pat Gallagher  
Diana Gibson  
Jean Hower Massie  
Evie Ifantides  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

**Staff:**

Cathy Salgado  
Jamie Dodson  
Megan DuBois  
Serrita Farnsworth  
Karen Lussier  
Katie MacCammon  
Mitzi Taylor

**Guest:**

David Meyer, Mayor  
Rob Stalzer, City Manager  
Samantha Villegas-Raftelis, Blue Heron  
James Patteson, Blue Heron  
Vrushali Oak, Fairfax County  
Martha Sansaver, Fairfax County

**Absent:**

Tatum Anderson  
Kim Luckabaugh

**1. Call to Order**

*Meeting called to order by Chair Ross*

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

*Introductions of all in attendance*

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

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

*Agenda for July 8, 2021 meeting. Chair Ross added a brief break between items four and five to celebrate and recognize Evie Ifantides' retirement with cake for those in attendance.*

*Motion: Jon Buttram*

*Second: Pat Gallagher*

*Approved unanimously*

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

*Minutes from June 7, 2021 meeting.*

*Motion: Jon Buttram*

*Second: Pat Gallagher*

*Approved unanimously*

**4. Presentations - Presentation from James Patteson with Blue Heron on Community Center Project**

Mayor Meyer started by introducing the Blue Heron group. He shared three observations on the project. This is the first joint capital construction project with the county in our 60-year history. It won't require the use of any current designated open space within the city. Lastly, the City Council and himself unanimously supports the project and they along with Mr. Hardin welcome PRAB's input.

Mr. Patteson and Ms. Villegas-Raftelis shared the project PowerPoint and went through the same information gathering exercises as they had previously done with Mayor and City Council. PRAB provided input on items such as programming functions, specific features, and design elements they'd like incorporated within the new community center.

**5. New Business**

**a) Summary of recent Council meetings actions pertaining to Parks & Recreation**

Ms. Salgado shared a new special event was passed by Mayor and City Council. Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup> on Main Street in Historic Fairfax an Asian Festival will be held and is sponsored by the Old Town Fairfax Business Association. There has been some action on the two-year transportation plan that has trails in the funding request. One of the major ones is to move forward with the John Mason Trail to preliminary design work to apply for smart funds. Additionally, the Transportation Division is leading the proceeding of beginning a preliminary design for the phase two George Snyder Trail crossing at Fairfax Blvd.

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

**b) American Recovery Plan – Status if information is available**

Ms. Salgado reported the only new information available is the City has been informed it will receive half of the money up front and the other half approximately a year later. Mayor and City Council will determine how and when funds will be spent.

**c) Review of School Cooperation Agreements**

*Vice Chair Knapp requested to defer discussion to September meeting per comment in the GoToMeeting Chat log. (Chat log included after minutes.)*

*Motion: Evie Ifantides*

*Second: Pat Gallagher*

*Approved unanimously*

**6. Old Business**

**a) Discussion on Parks Bond**

Chair Ross shared she spoke at the City Council meeting's public comment period to introduce the park bond idea. Vice Chair Knapp will attend and speak and next week's City Council meeting. She encouraged others to speak at upcoming meetings both as a PRAB representative and City resident.

Mr. Anderson asked Chair Ross how she felt the park bond idea was being received?

Chair Ross responded she felt City Council was surprised by the initiative. She described how she explained to them that PRAB started the park bond discussion back in 2017 and that they shouldn't have been surprised. PRAB feels that Council continuously kept deferring park projects and not engaging with PRAB. She does not feel that anyone is outright discouraging PRAB to continue with the park bond initiative. PRAB's job is to advocate for Parks and Recreation so they will and need to continue doing so.

Mr. Cipriano shared that he's seen an increase in other local jurisdictions putting substantial money into the parks, so City of Fairfax isn't alone in its efforts.

**7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports**

**a) Project Updates – Trail repair, Green Acres Pickleball Courts, Community Garden**

Ms. Salgado reported the Trail Repair work is finishing up, they just have one section left to do. They are going through and finishing up the edging and should be done within the next week or two. Recently the City was made aware of it's

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

ownership of some pedestrian and connector trails within the City that need minor repairs and will be included in future trail maintenance.

Mr. Buttram asked if these newly identified trails will be required to be ADA compliant like other City trails.

Ms. Salgado responded that it's too soon to know for sure and that further discussion and research is needed.

Ms. Salgado reported department staff met with American Tennis regarding the pickleball courts at Green Acres and are awaiting an estimate for six courts. The City Manager is fully behind the project and excited to have a place for the large active pickleball community to play. Also, department staff stripped the sod off the expansion area of the City Hall Community Garden and is waiting for availability to complete the project.

**b) Upcoming Meetings, Events and Programs.**

Ms. Salgado shared Rock the Block in June was fabulous with a great crowd. There was supposed to be a performance this evening at the Veterans Theatre but was cancelled due to weather. Tomorrow Movies Under the Moon is scheduled at Van Dyck Park. Event planning is currently full steam ahead.

**c) Trail Updates – John Mason Trail, Pickett Road Trail, Judicial Trail, Trail Maintenance (see monthly project status report)**

**8. Committee Liaison Reports**

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

Covered in earlier discussion by Ms. Salgado.

**b) Bike Plan – Evie Ifantides**

Shared Mayor and City Council adopted the Bike Master Plan and the City is moving forward of implementation.

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

Ms. Rodgers-Rickert needed to sign off. No update provided.

**9. Stakeholder Updates**

**a) School Board - Jon Buttram**

Shared the Parks and Recreation summer programs are in full blossom at the schools. They have had two acting principals at Fairfax High School and Providence Elementary School. The replacement process for the High School Principal is ongoing and they're hopeful for a return of Providence's Principal. Fairfax County Public Schools is moving forward with the plan of five days a

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

week in-person learning. The first day of school is set for Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The School Board elections are tonight.

**b) Planning Commission – Amir Eftekhari**

Reported they haven't had a meeting in a month.

**c) Senior Center – Jean Hower Massie**

Shared the Senior Center participated in the Annual Independence Day Parade with a float. They are organizing an end of October Halloween fundraiser. Group exercise classes and bingo are being held at Old Town Hall. The center is scheduled to reopen on September 7<sup>th</sup>.

**d) Student Representative – Tatum Anderson**

Absent – No update provided

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

Shared the Commission help elections and has a new Chair, Dan Smith. The other officers stayed the same. The Grant Committee revised the Grant Guidelines to reinstate in-person performances. The Commission is busy planning fall events and performances.

**f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp**

Vice Chair Knapp needed to sign off. No update provided.

**10. Matters of the Members**

Ms. Gallagher congratulated Ms. Ifantides on her retirement.

Ms. Ifantides thanked everyone for their well wishes and was excited to share she achieved her goal of biking 10,000 miles before retirement.

**11. Upcoming Meetings**

**a) October 5<sup>th</sup>? – Joint Meeting with M/CC**

**b) November – Joint meeting with the Commission on the Arts**

**12. Meeting Adjournment**

**Time:** 9:13 p.m.

***The next PRAB meeting will be held on September 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm at City Hall.***

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

**Chat Log C:\Users\Jododson\Documents\ChatLog PRAB July 8th Meeting 2021\_07\_08 21\_14.rtf**

**Zinta Rodgers-Rickert (to Everyone):** 7:19 PM: Can you put camera towards a screen?

**Jamie Dodson (to Everyone):** 7:20 PM: Cathy is trying to adjust the camera

**Zinta Rodgers-Rickert (to Everyone):** 7:21 PM: the screen to your left would work best but thank you for trying.

**Jamie Dodson (to Everyone):** 7:21 PM: James Patteson is going though the PowerPoint Presentation Cathy emailed on Tuesday. I will resend it now.

**Jamie Dodson (to Everyone):** 7:22 PM: I'm wrong it wasn't emailed Tuesday that was something else, sorry!

**Zinta Rodgers-Rickert (to Everyone):** 7:22 PM: Please, I was just now checking emails for it

**cathy (to Everyone):** 7:23 PM: It was not available for email on Tuesday. I'll email now.

**cathy (to Everyone):** 7:24 PM: I just emailed to everyone.

**Zinta Rodgers-Rickert (to Everyone):** 7:27 PM: Thank you very helpful

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 7:28 PM: Thank you--it is somewhat hard to hear/see (I would have come in if I had child care)

**cathy (to Everyone):** 7:28 PM: If you have any questions after the presentation and don't want to speak out loud over GoTo please let me know through the chat that you have a question/comment.

**Zinta Rodgers-Rickert (to Everyone):** 7:31 PM: Diana -- I turned up my speaker on computer and it did help

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 7:38 PM: Yes

**cathy (to Everyone):** 7:39 PM: Please feel free to speak out! We can hear you!

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 7:52 PM: I'd love to see more LEED-certified buildings, and as much green tech as possible!

**Serrita (to Everyone):** 7:53 PM: Yes!

**Mike Anderson (to Everyone):** 7:53 PM: Will they have what I would describe huddle rooms for small 3-4 person groups to meet. Like mini-conference rooms, I could see something like that being helpful.

**Brian Knapp (to Everyone):** 8:16 PM: Sarah - as I shared earlier, I am departing the meeting now as I am in Montana. I ask that the Stalnaker agreement agenda item be postponed. It is extremely difficult to appreciate what changes that Cathy is proposing. I also wish to better understand Article 4, fees, which we do not seem to be implementing. This document has not been updated since 2016; it can wait a few more months. Thanks.

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 8:35 PM: Agreed, Sarah

**Diana Gibson (to Everyone):** 8:44 PM: I need to do some bedtime wrangling and I'll need to leave a little early but thank you all :)

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

**Mike Anderson (to Everyone):** 8:44 PM: If the City receives any COVID relief funding, can it be used to fund any of our open projects? Just curious, if parks and rec be helped with budget from any of this funding.

**Mike Anderson (to Everyone):** 8:50 PM: The work on the Dale Lestina trail in Mosby Woods, definitely peaked interest in what was being done there and if it will eventually connect to the Snyder Trail.

**Amir (to Everyone):** 9:12 PM: Madam Chair, apologies but I had a hard stop at 9:00 PM. Let me know if you or anyone has any questions/concerns. Good hearing and seeing some of you. Amir

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