

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

September 9, 2021
City of Fairfax Hybrid Meeting
10455 Armstrong Street and GoToMeeting

PRAB Members Present:

Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Mike Anderson
Tatum Anderson (arrived @ 7:15pm)
Jon Buttram
Brian Cipriano
Amir Eftekhari
Pat Gallagher
Diana Gibson
Kim Luckabaugh (arrived @ 8pm)
Staff:

Cathy Salgado
Richard Wyant

Absent:
Sarah Ross, Chair

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Knapp

Time: 7:02 p.m.

Attendance taken. Vice Chair Knapp noted that Zinta Rodgers-Rickert had decided to resign from PRAB after many years of service. We will discuss with Chair Ross how to commemorate Zinta. Vice Chair Knapp also asked that Chair Ross and Ms. Salgado provide meeting calendar. Also asked that PRAB think about the PRAB Service award.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for September 9, 2021 meeting. Vice Chair Knapp changed order of meeting moving stakeholder and member comments to after Presentations.

Motion: Jon Buttram

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from July 9, 2021 meeting.

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Motion: Pat Gallagher
Second: Jon Buttram
Approved unanimously

4. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Vice Chair Knapp stated that Chair Ross was agreeable to continue serving as chair. Vice Chair vote was deferred until next month.

Motion: Pat Gallagher
Second: Jon Buttram
Approved unanimously

5. Presentations - Presentation from Vice Chair Knapp on NOVA Parks Adopted FY22 Budget

Vice Chair Knapp presented highlights of the NOVA Parks FY22 Adopted Budget. Highlights included that with Covid NOVA Parks is still being impacted especially related to venue rentals. Vice Chair Knapp is current treasurer and has held every board role since being appointed by the Mayor and Council. NOVA Parks operating budget is \$87.6 million with \$12.4 million coming from jurisdictional partners including the City of Fairfax. Contributions from the City are made to both operating and capital budgets and is based on population. Towns (Vienna and Herndon) within Fairfax County do pay full amount as they are fully taxed by Fairfax County. Vice Chair Knapp highlighted Beaverdam Reservoir and that the City sold the property to Loudoun Water who in turn sold it to NOVA Parks. Loudoun Water in turn asked NOVA parks to manage the location as a future regional park, with a focus on open space and passive uses like rowing and hiking.

The park is a location for area rowing clubs. Vice Chair Knapp also highlighted Cameron Run Regional Park and that it is a leased park, not owned by NOVA Parks. Gateway Park has the same arrangement, it is leased by the City of Fairfax to NOVA Parks. Vice Chair Knapp also explained that NOVA Parks has bid on River Farm an historic property currently owned by the American Horticultural Society.

Ms. Gibson asked about Gateway Park and if there are any plans to improve it. Vice Chair Knapp indicated that there was a presentation about Gateway looking at building a bridge to Wilcoxon Trail. The NOVA Parks Board is focused on looking at adding a constructing a visitor's center along the W&OD Trail. Perhaps for coffee, bike repairs, merchandise. Mr. Cipriano stated that he would prefer that the City contribution not go to NOVA Parks since there is no direct access to a park in the City. The contribution would be better spent on City parks.

6. Stakeholder Updates

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a) School Board - Jon Buttram

School started on August 23rd. Fairly small number of Covid cases. There is a shortage of bus drivers. Virginia High School Athletic League has required vaccinations for all students wanting to play fall sports. Teachers have until the end of October to get vaccinated. Interim principal at Fairfax HS until position filled. Acting principle at providence ES until Mr. Phillips returns. Homecoming is October 1st.

b) Planning Commission – Amir Eftekhari

Reported they have just returned to meeting from summer break and the September 13th meeting has been pushed back to September 27th. They will be looking at the housing assessments and the Kamp Washington Small Area plan.

c) Senior Center – No rep

d) Student Representative – Tatum Anderson

No update

e) Commission on the Arts – Pat Gallagher

Resuming monthly meetings after summer break. New chair Dan Smith. Bonita Lestina music series beginning again along with the movie series. They plan to have a table at Fall Festival and will be considering grant applications later this fall. Ms. Gallagher and Cathy will coordinate a date for the joint meeting in November.

f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp

Vice Chair Knapp reported that the first meeting after summer break is next Thursday. The board will review summer revenue and will look at the five year capital plan.

7. Matters of the Members

Mr. Cipriano reported that Foxcroft Colony will be getting a painting refresh.

Ms. Gibson reported that the city had a successful camp season and that her daughter is back to school at Daniel's Run. Ms. Gibson is doing volunteer coordination for parks to include cleanups, invasive removals and other projects.

Mr. Buttram mentioned that Fairfax HS won their first 2 football games!

Mr. Knapp reported that water remains an issue on the Wilcoxon Trail. Mac Ryan is aware of the issues.

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8. New Business

a) Review of Cooperative School Use Agreements

Rich Wyant, the Athletic Field and Gym Coordinator was introduced. Mr. Wyant explained what he did – he schedules all city fields including school fields at Katherine Johnson, Daniels Run and Providence ES. He also schedules the stadium field at Fairfax HS – when not in use by the school. Most of the scheduling is with youth groups however there are a few adult groups that rent fields. Vice chair Knapp asked how far in advance are the fields scheduled. Mr. Wyant explained they are scheduled seasonally, 3-months at a time. Vice Chair asked who scheduled special events. Mr. Wyant explained that Mitzi Taylor is responsible for third party special events. Vice Chair Knapp asked what are we short on? Mr. Wyant said we need more fields for outdoor activities, sports and to increase field light time at Draper and add lights at Stafford.

Vice Chair Knapp said that the school cooperative agreements will be rescheduled for the October meeting. He plans to vote no.

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

Ms. Salgado shared that the Mayor and Council have been on summer break and had their first meeting since the break on Tuesday. Council will review the third party event road closure requests on September 14th and consider a funding application for the John Mason Trail. There will be a public hearing on the Pickett Road Connector Trail in October. Council retreat on September 18th.

c) American Recovery Plan – Status if information is available

Ms. Salgado reported the Council will be briefed on this on September 18th.

d) FY 23 CIP Budget Process

Ms. Salgado reported that the FY23 CIP process is beginning and that she will have suggested CIP budget ready in the next couple weeks. She will send out to PRAB for review and input. It will be on the October PRAB agenda for initial discussion.

e) PRAB Meeting November Date

The November PRAB meeting falls on Veteran's Day, November 11th which is a holiday. Ms. Salgado suggested moving it to joint Commission on the Arts

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Meeting which the COA is hosting. The date would be November 16th. Ms. Gallagher and Ms. Salgado will confirm.

9. Old Business

a) Discussion on Parks Bond

Both Chair Ross and Vice Chair Knapp have spoken at the City Council meeting's public comment period to introduce the park bond idea. Vice Chair Knapp reported that Chair Ross would like to have a joint meeting with the Mayor and City Council. PRAB would need to get prepared and to speak with a unified voice. Mr. Cipriano reminded members to look at what is not on the list and what should be added. Ms. Luckabaugh reported that she believes some on council do not think a park bond is needed because of the approved five year CIP.

10. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

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

Vice Chair asked several questions about the Green Acres pickleball courts progress. Ms. Salgado reported that funding is available from previous CIP carry forwards and that work will progress and aims to be complete in the spring. Mr. Cipriano asked to review the 60% Snyder Trail plans. Ms. Salgado reported that the plans are in staff and VDOT review and that she will send out and would ask Ms. Alexander to attend a future PRAB meeting to discuss. Ms. Salgado provided an updated trail report in the meeting documents.

Ms. Luckabaugh asked about park issues at Kutner and specifically picnics that have been too loud with too many people. She suggested the application and use agreement be reviewed to make sure everything is covered. Ms. Salgado reported that she would review the documents.

Ms. Salgado reported that the John Mason Trail public comments focused on requesting council not move ahead with the project. The public who have spoken at council meetings are concerned about the loss of trees. The council will be discussing the trail again at the October 5th council meeting.

b) Upcoming Meetings, Events and Programs.

Ms. Salgado shared that plans are finalized for Fall festival. Ms. Gallagher inquired about mask requirements. Ms. Salgado reported they are required indoors but not outdoors. Ms. Luckabaugh inquired about facility numbers being way down at Green Acres. Ms. Salgado reported that the facility is being used for programming more than rentals.

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

11. Committee Liaison Reports

- a) **Snyder Trail – Sarah Ross and Brian Cipriano**
Covered in earlier discussion by Ms. Salgado.

12. Upcoming Meetings

- a) **November – Joint meeting with the Commission on the Arts**

13. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 8:57 p.m.

The next PRAB meeting will be held on October 14th @ 7:00pm at City Hall and Virtually.