

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

October 14, 2021
City of Fairfax Hybrid Meeting
10455 Armstrong Street and GoToMeeting

PRAB Members Present:

Sarah Ross, Chair
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Mike Anderson
Tatum Anderson
Jon Buttram
Brian Cipriano
Frank Francis
Pat Gallagher

Staff: Cathy Salgado
Megan DuBois

Absent:
Amir Eftekhari
Diana Gibson
Kim Luckabaugh

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Ross
Time: 7:02 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for October 14, 2021 meeting.
Motion: Jon Buttram
Second: Pat Gallagher
Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from September 9, 2021 meeting. Vice Chair Knapp requested one change – NOVA Parks manages Beaver Dam.
Motion: Pat Gallagher
Second: Jon Buttram
Approved unanimously

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4. Election of Vice-Chair

Vice Chair Knapp was nominated.

Motion: Pat Gallagher

Second: Jon Buttram

Approved unanimously

Introduction of new member Frank Francis.

5.

A) Presentations - Presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act from David Hodgkins, COF CFO

It was requested that PRAB and other boards and commissions review the proposed ARPA plan and provide feedback to the Mayor and Council prior to a scheduled work session on October 26th. Mr. Hodgkins reviewed information provided to PRAB including an overview of ARPA, funding status, the process, ARPA spending requirements and a list of recommended projects. Mr. Hodgkins reviewed the recommended projects that were presented to the Mayor and Council on September 18th. Of the list \$8.5m is proposed to be allocated for park projects currently in the CIP, \$6.075m in additional funding for the Sherwood/Willard project, the addition of \$1m (on top of the already budgeted \$1m) for A&E for the Van Dyck Master Plan Implementation, and funds for capital project managers and consultants.

Mr. Hodgkins explained that by expediting the timeline on park projects in the CIP, additional CIP money would be available for other projects along with moving the timeline up for projects scheduled in the FY22-26 CIP.

Mr. Buttram asked if the list of projects was set and if there was consideration for infrastructure improvements such as broadband. Mr. Hodgkins explained that the list, depending on input from boards and commissions and the Mayor and Council, may change slightly. He also explained that broadband is not a need in Northern Virginia – it's mainly for needed in more rural areas. Mr. Knapp, who was at the September 18th council retreat, said it was unclear what we are asking the council to do on October 26th. Mr. Hodgkins said we would like council to endorse the projects so that we can proceed with using the ARPA money as the funds need to be spent by the end of 2026. Mr. Knapp said that some of the projects such as restrooms at Draper are now costing much more than when they were originally included in the CIP. Mr. Cipriano stated that when proposed they were grossly underestimated.

Mr. Knapp asked that PRAB postpone discussion until after the stream restoration project. Ms. Ross asked for a motion and Mr. Knapp made motion to endorse five

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park projects. Ms. Gallagher suggested adding the Sherwood project as well. The discussion was tabled until after the stream restoration presentation.

b) Stafford Park Stream Restoration – Satoshi Eto, Storm Water Engineer and Kimley Horn Engineers

Satoshi Eto and Kimley Horn presented stream restoration project which is located in Stafford Park. The presentation including 3 options. The original plan was to proceed with original design which would be best practice in stream restoration but which would remove the most number of trees. Option 1 and 2 provided some tree removal reductions but are not best practices in stream restoration. For example, the amount of credits that the city would receive for Option 1 and 2 is less than for the original plan but it does save trees. Vice Chair Knapp noted that stream erosion was rampant in the city. Ms. Gallagher suggested there should be a balance between restoring streams and removing trees. Mr. Cipriano asked if the engineers had looked at which option saves the largest and best trees. He noted that removal of trees in excess of 12" impact the environment and that Option 2 provides for more large trees to be saved. He would be in favor of Option 2.

Chair Ross asked what was needed from PRAB. Vice Chair Knapp asked that Mr. Eto explain the approval process. Mr. Eto provides information and plan options to the Mayor and Council and that they approve. The Mayor and Council would like for PRAB and the Environmental Sustainability Committee to review and provide a recommendation on the options. There will be more public engagement as the process proceeds.

Mr. Buttram expressed that he would like to review the plans and to provide input at the November PRAB meeting for discussion and recommendation. Vice Chair Knapp asked where the funding comes from. It comes for 50% city stormwater funding and 50% SLAF (Stormwater Local Assistance Fund).

It was agreed that members can review the presentation and plans and be prepared to discuss at the November PRAB meeting.

A) Return to discussion - Presentation on the American Rescue Plan Act from David Hodgkins, COF CFO

Return to discussion on a PRAB recommendation for ARPA plan. The proposed motion on the table included the park projects and the community center. Vice Chair Knapp does not think the community center needs a voice, but parks do. Mr. Cipriano asked what the council was asking of PRAB. Chair Ross explained that the council wants PRAB's input and do we endorse the plan concepts. Ms. Gallagher asked if this took away PRAB's interest in a park bond. Vice Chair Knapp said that

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the City Manager and the Mayor have said the CIP is fully funded. Vice Chair Knapp does not believe this.

Chair Ross would like motion for 5 park projects – Van Dyck, Thaiss Park, Katherine Johnson, Stafford Drive Park and Draper Drive Restroom. Also added into the motion was for the A&E to commence on Van Dyck Park at the earliest possible date. Mr. Buttram asked that a statement be added to the motion that we endorse the five park projects to no exclusion of anything else on the list.

Motion made: Jon Buttram

Seconded: Pat Gallagher

Motion passed 7-0 with Mr. Cipriano abstaining.

6. New Business

a) Summary of recent Council meetings

Nothing to report

b) Discussion on School Cooperative Use Agreements and Recommendation to Council

Chair Ross asked Vice Chair Knapp what his concerns were. Vice Chair Knapp requested to speak last. Motion was made by Mr. Buttram to approve the agreements. No discussion from PRAB. Mr. Knapp said he was voting No because of substance and process. Mr. Knapp noted that two members of the School Board and two from PRAB should have been appointed to review the document as stated in the agreement. The agreement does not say that the four appointed individuals are to review the funds that are collected. Instead the funds collected are to be reviewed at the joint School Board/PRAB meeting. There was no paperwork or discussion at the joint meeting with the school board on the agreements. PRAB was never given any presentation or memo on the recommended changes. Mr. Knapp feels that there is total disregard of PRAB by staff and that it needs to end. Mr. Cipriano agreed with Mr. Knapp but he told Mr. Knapp he did the same thing with the John Mason Trail naming. Mr. Buttram will take Vice Chair Knapp's comments to the school board.

Motion made: Jon Buttram

Seconded: Pat Gallagher

Motion passed 5-1-1

c) FY23 CIP Budget DRAFT Review

Mr. Knapp asked where the Westmore Master Plan was and why it was deleted. Ms. Salgado reminded him that PRAB asked for it to be deleted because they did not want another master plan done that will sit around and not be funded. Mr. Knapp

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also asked about the Performance Space Feasibility Study and where that project went. Ms. Salgado will ask Ms. DuBois. Finally Mr. Knapp asked about the Ashby Pond Gazebo that was in the CIP budget several years ago. Ms. Salgado said it was deleted because the area that the gazebo was slated to go was too small.

d) Community Center Communications Plan – Chair Ross and Vice Chair Knapp

Ms. Ross sent the plan out to members for their review and information along with her synopsis of the September 18th council retreat discussion.

7. Old Business

a) Discussion of Parks Bond

No discussion

8. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Project Updates – Community Center

Architect firm has been selected and is in contract negotiations.

b) Upcoming Meetings, Events and Programs

Fall Festival a big success. Lots of holiday events and programs are scheduled.

c) Trail Updates

Vice Chair Knapp asked for an update on John Mason Trail. Ms. Salgado said that council did not approve moving forward with a funding application at this time.

9. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board - Jon Buttram

Principal selection at Fairfax High School restarting. Homecoming parade and game last week – FHS won 48-0. Woodson HS game tomorrow night. Field Hockey team is 16-0. Mr. Phillips should be back in mid-November at Providence ES. School Board started the CIP process this month. On opening day of school had about 2% less students at city schools, which equals about 90 children. There was some transportation issues but they were all worked out. School Board has their fall retreat on October 23rd.

b) Planning Commission – Amir Eftekhari

Absent

c) Senior Center – No rep

d) Student Representative – Tatum Anderson

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Field Hockey team 16-0. Quarterfinals coming up.

e) Commission on the Arts – Pat Gallagher

Fall Festival a success and thanked Ms. DuBois. Old Town Hall concert series starts tomorrow night with a reservation system. Grants meeting next Tuesday and PRAB joint meeting in November.

f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp

Vice Chair Knapp reported that there was a dedication of the W&OD – Falls Church area trail with widening and dual walker/biker lanes. November 18th is yearly audit review. River View has decided to not sell but NOVA Parks may have role in helping to manage property. Mark Chandler chaired subcommittee to recommend large projects in the next 5 years for the board to consider. Project list includes a complete redo of Gateway Park.

10. Matters of the Members

Asked that we put the PRAB Service Award on the schedule to consider.

11. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 10:08 p.m.

The next PRAB meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16th @ 7:00pm at City Hall and Virtually. Joint Meeting with the Commission on the Arts will be at 6pm at the Sherwood Center.