

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

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

PRAB Members Present:

Sarah Ross, Chair
Brian Knapp, Vice Chair
Mike Anderson
Brian Cipriano
Frank Francis
Pat Gallagher
Diana Gibson

Staff: Cathy Salgado

Guests: Christina Alexander, Transportation Capital Manager

Absent:

Tatum Anderson
Jon Buttram
Amir Eftekhari
Kim Luckabaugh

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Ross

Time: 7:01 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for December 9, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Pat Gallagher

Second: Brian Cipriano

NOVA Parks Gateway Presentation added

Approved unanimously

3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from October 14th

Motion: Pat Gallagher

Second: Diana Gibson

Approved

Minutes from November 16th

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Motion: Pat Gallagher
Second: Brian Cipriano
Approved

4. Presentations

a) Pickett Road Connector Trail – Christina Alexander

Ms. Alexander presented the current Pickett Road Connector Trail plans for PRAB's review and endorsement. Highlights include two bridges, a connection with the crosswalk at Pickett Road and Old Pickett Road and connection to Thaiss Park, Wilcoxon Trail and the Cross County Trail. Vice Chair Knapp requested the cost estimate for the two bridges. Ms. Salgado will provide. This trail project is at 30% design and a VDOT required public hearing is scheduled for January 11, 2022. Ms. Salgado explained that the trail has already been approved by the Mayor and Council a couple of years ago and that this public hearing was required by VDOT as part of the funding award and that no action is required by the Mayor and Council.

Vote to Endorse and send email to the Mayor and Council:

Motion: Frank Francis
Second: Diana Gibson
Approved

b) ARPA and CIP – No presentation

5. New Business

a) Summary of recent council meetings and actions pertaining to Parks and Recreation

Chair Ross provided summary of joint work session with the council from December 7th. To recap: Sherwood/Willard was discussed. The council challenged PRAB to look at flexibility of space and what the future trends in recreation will be. ARPA and the CIP was discussed. Council appreciated PRAB's feedback on ARPA. Councilmember Stehle suggested that PRAB look into the impacts the pandemic has had on youth sports and the arts and how the city can support local organizations. Horizon planning and creating more open space was also discussed. With the ARPA funds and a fully funded CIP we should be able to clear the backlog of park CIP projects. The lack of teen spaces and programming was also discussed. The city should be visionary and flexible with how we use spaces and obtain more open space. Finally we need to do a better job securing public recreation space in new developments. The meeting is recorded and available for members to watch.

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b) FY23 CIP Budget DRAFT review

There is no update on the CIP. Vice Chair Knapp stated that he does not believe the CIP is fully funded. He would like to plug in open space in the CIP to create more pocket parks in underserved areas of the city. Mr. Anderson agreed that we should update the CIP request to include open space. Ms. Gibson also agreed and added that it should be a mix of active and passive. Mr. Francis noted that he is concerned with maintenance at parks and has been taking pictures of issues such as the crack in the tennis court at Providence Park. He also believes the city should have more dog parks. Mr. Cipriano agreed with updating the CIP request. Vice Chair Knapp recommended the following additions be made to the proposed CIP: funding for open space acquisition and funding for improving our pocket parks and recommended we visit pocket parks in Arlington as they have many great examples of what can be done. Chair Ross asked for a motion to update the PRAB CIP request to add open space and pocket parks. Mr. Cipriano asked if the city would be receiving transportation funding from the new infrastructure bill. Ms. Salgado reported that most likely yes but we have not received any details yet. Ms. Salgado will provide updated list when available.

Motion: Brian Knapp

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved

c) FY23 Operating Budget

Information not available yet. Should be ready for PRAB review in January.

6. Old Business

a) Review of Stafford Stream Restoration Project and recommendation to the Mayor and Council

Chair Ross reviewed the request for PRAB endorsement of either Option 1 or Option 2. Motion made for Option 1.

Motion: Brian Knapp

Second: Pat Gallagher

Approved 4-3

b) Review of Storm Water Utility Fund

Chair Ross reviewed the request for PRAB endorsement of the creation of a Storm Water Utility Fee

Motion: Diana Gibson

Second: Mike Anderson

Not approved 3-3, one abstention

c) Update on Pickleball

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Ms. Salgado reported that American Tennis has contracted with the city to install pickleball courts behind Green Acres and we are on the list for construction this spring. The cost was \$71,000. Vice Chair Knapp suggested a ribbon cutting once complete.

d) Update on Legacy Budget Status

Ms. Salgado provided a financial report on the Legacy accounts. The city has two Legacy accounts. One is specifically for Sherwood and has been used to replace flooring and redo the brick walk outside in recent years. Ms. Salgado does not believe we will be spending from this account to make improvements due to the new community center project timing. The other Legacy account is for general purposes and is used for benches, trees and the Sherwood Giving Tree programs. Vice Chair Knapp requested that we look at the account status once a year.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

a) Project Updates – Community Center

County project website is up. Grimm and Parker has started work. Public engagement begins in January. Open houses are scheduled for January 22 (9am-noon), 26 (6-9pm) and 29 (1-4pm).

b) Upcoming Meetings, Events and Programs

One more weekend of the Holiday Market and Lunch with Santa.

c) Trail Updates

Ms. Salgado provided an update via the excel spreadsheet.

8. Stakeholder Updates

a) School Board - Jon Buttram

Absent

b) Planning Commission – Amir Eftekhari

Absent

c) Senior Center – Chuck Paceley

Absent

d) Student Representative – Tatum Anderson

Absent

e) Commission on the Arts – Pat Gallagher

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Long standing member of COA Molly Grimsely is retiring. Friday night concert series at Old Town Hall is going well. An on-line reservation system is being used and it is selling out. Grants were awarded and the COA is planning for next year.

f) NOVA Parks - Brian Knapp

Presentation on Gateway Regional Park. The NOVA parks Board has agreed to update Gateway Park as one of it's five strategic planning initiatives for the coming 5/8 years. Vice Chair Knapp gave a short presentation and invited questions and comments. It is recommended that the park be restored to what it actually is – a wetlands park. The park would have an elevated boardwalk system throughout with educational signage. This presentation will be shared with the Mayor and Council next week by Mark Chandler and Paul Gilbert.

The W&OD Trail has over 3,000,000 visitors annually. The visitor center project was endorsed by the board. In all there were 20+ ideas on the 5-year strategic plan list. Five were selected, with Gateway at #5. NOVA Parks will look to fund with some grants. Vice Chair Ross noted the last project completed in the city was the Pickett Road Underpass. Ms. Salgado noted that she has recommended partnering with NOVA Parks, 50-50 and that she has requested funding in the amount of \$500,000 be added to the FY23-27 CIP. Ms. Gibson and Mr. Cipriano both were supportive and that it was a step in the right direction. Mr. Cipriano asked is any thought had been given to add a bridge across the Accotink and to creating a buffer between the park and the asphalt plant. Vice Chair Knapp stated that these were all good ideas.

Vice Chair Knapp reported that NOVA Parks had a favorable annual audit and that they have kicked off their 5-year strategic plan. Winter lights are happening at Meadowlark Gardens, Bull Run and Cameron Run.

9. Matters of the Members

Mr. Cipriano stated that Foxcroft Colony exterior buildings had been painted. Vice Chair Knapp asked that we put the PRAB Service Award on a future agenda.

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 9:29 p.m.

The next PRAB meeting will be held on Thursday, January 13, 2022 @ 7:00pm at City Hall and Virtually.

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