

**City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2014
City Hall Work Session Room**

PRAB Members Present

Jane Albro
Evangelia Ifantides
Donald Lederer
Becky McNaughton
Esther Nasjleti
Jennifer Passey
Bob Reinsel
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Michael Slawski
Toby Sorensen
Douglas Stewart
Harry Wilbur

Members Absent

Brian Knapp

Staff Present

Brianne Baglini, Operations Manager
Michael McCarty, Director of Parks and Recreation
Rich Wyant, Athletic Supervisor

Guests

Chris McGough – Environmental Sustainability Committee

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Becky McNaughton

2. Adoption of Agenda

Douglas Stewart made a motion to approve the agenda and the motion was seconded by Jennifer Passey and approved.

3. Matters of the Officers

Chair: Becky McNaughton

- Yearly Calendar – Meeting sites will vary as the year goes on and the weather becomes warmer. Some meeting may even be held at a park or along the walking trails.
- Goal Development – Of all the PRAB 2014 proposed agenda items, five were picked to concentrate on:
 - 1) Strategic Plan Adoption
 - 2) Athletic Field Policy & Procedure Change in City Policy Manual
 - 3) George Snyder Jr. Trail Signage and Ceremony

- 4) FHS Turf Replacement
- 5) Park Naming Policy
- Individual Assignments – In order to prepare PRAB sufficiently when it comes to the Strategic Master Plan process, Becky has suggested that PRAB breaks down into smaller groups and focus on specific areas. Thus each group will be well-versed and able to speak fluently on these individual areas. The four areas that will be concentrated on will be:
 - 1) Green Acres
 - 2) Van Dyck
 - 3) Westmore School Site
 - 4) Trails.
 - Harry Wilbur, Evangelia Ifantides and Jane Albro will be dedicated to Green Acres;
 - Toby Sorenson, Zinta Rodgers-Rickert and Donald Lederer will be dedicated to Van Dyck;
 - Jennifer Passey, Becky McNaughton, Michael Slawski and Brian Knapp will be dedicated to Westmore School Site;
 - Esther Nasjleti, Bob Reinsel and Douglas Stewart will be dedicated to Trails.

Each one of these groups will become knowledgeable in their areas and then educate the rest of the group on their findings and pertinent information in October.

Vice Chair: Esther Nasjleti

- Park Steward Program – This program has lain dormant for a while and it was brought up as to whether the program should continue or not. Zinta commented that they should still have the assignments for the parks, but not review all the findings in the actual board meetings. Each board member will still submit a report on what they find but the information will be included in the packet of information that is handed out at each PRAB meeting. The rest of the board members agreed with this suggestion.

4. Old Business

- **Kitty Pozer/Old Town Square**
Mike McCarty informed the board that Jack Blevins, who has been driving this project, is currently on medical leave. Prior to meeting with Council, the contractors will be meeting with the stakeholder's group and they hope to break ground in November of 2013 and finish with a ribbon cutting ceremony in December of 2014.
- **Ashby Pond Trail**
Mike McCarty reported that the project went out to bid and only two came back which were both over budget. The RFP has gone back out and there is hope to have a recommendation by November of 2013. Keeping with this timeline, the potential completion date would be in late spring.
- **Thaiss/Gateway Trail Connection**
Mike McCarty informed the board that NVRPA applied for a grant to make the connection for alternate transportation. They were awarded a grant with a 20% match.

This project will begin sometime after the spring and finish by the end of the 2014 calendar year. The City will maintain this trail but it would be convenient if the trail was considered an extension of Gateway for maintenance purposes.

- **Strategic Master Plan for Parks and Trails**

Mike McCarty reported that as of September 11th, to date 236 surveys were returned and results are expected by September 20th. The consultants will take the results to review and compare to previous meetings and outreach events. October 16th will be the date of the Steering Committee meeting and October 17th will be the Public Workshop to test the results. After these two events, the consultants will refine the information and meet with PRAB in November to share their findings and their plan. Following this meeting, the consultants will meet with Council and present their plan for Phase 1.

5. New Business

- **Capital Budget Review**

Mike McCarty passed out an overview of the capital items that are being requested for FY2015. All items were reviewed and then the board was asked if anything needed to be added; nothing was added. Mike asked that everyone take these recommendations with them and think them over.

- **Trails Day Discussion**

There was no Trails Day this past year and the board was asked how they felt about this. Zinta commented that we table this for a later time. Esther asked the board to think about other ways to highlight Trails Day.

- **Lanier Field Joint Repair Agreement**

The City, FPYC and the School Board agreed to get this funded and completed. The City requested \$55k for this project and it was cut down to \$10k. Luckily, FPYC has agreed to provide \$55k for this project along with \$10k and irrigation from the School Board.

- **Athletic Field Policy Review/Recommendation**

Noted: This item was left until the end of the meeting because Becky McNaughton did not want anyone to feel there was a conflict of interest on the presentation of this topic since FPYC is involved with the use of the fields, so she left before this item was presented.

Rich Wyant introduced himself to the board and gave a PowerPoint presentation to inform PRAB of upcoming changes to the current athletic field policy and why we are reviewing the rules and regulations.

6. Parks and Recreation Department Report

Brianne Baglini reported that the Legacy for Fairfax Charity Golf Tournament was still a success in raising money for the Legacy fund, despite our low number of participants. Harry Wilbur asked if we thought the price point was too high for participation, but it was explained that we are in the same bracket for pricing when it comes to elite golf clubs. If we chose to change our location of the tournament, we could consider lowering the cost per golfer. Mike McCarty pulled up the new website on the screen and explained how each employee is in charge of their area of expertise; they must maintain their portions of the website, which certainly takes time to do. Mike then reviewed updates for

the upcoming Fall Festival with the newest change of North Street being open to traffic. The Fall Festival was able to retain its Elite Sponsor, Fair City Mall. Mike McCarty also reported that Van Dyck and Ratcliff basketball courts are closed because they are being re-surfaced.

7. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Bob Reinsel to approve the minutes from the June 22, 2013 PRAB meeting and this motion was seconded by Jane Albro and approved.

8. Stakeholder Updates

- Commission on the Arts – *Harry Wilbur*
 - Their next meeting date is for September 17th, other than that, no report.
- Community Appearance Committee – *Don Lederer*
 - No report
- NVRPA – *Brian Knapp*
 - No report - absent
- Planning Commission – *Jennifer Passey*
 - Their next meeting is for September 23rd and they'll be discussing the Britt property.
- School Board – *Toby Sorensen*
 - City Council has allowed sound on the softball field at Fairfax High School. School board is allowing redistricting this year.
- Senior Center – *Jane Albro*
 - Flu shots are coming up for the seniors

9. Matters of the Members

- Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling – *Douglas Stewart*
 - No report - absent
 - Fairfax Police Youth Club – *Becky McNaughton*
 - No report
- Esther Nasjleti reported that she attended the Diversity Initiative event that is being spearheaded by the Mayor. Esther noted that the speaker from Arlington was very good and had three memorable themes: 1) information, 2) invitation and 3) participation for the diversity initiative.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm by Esther Nasjleti.

The next PRAB meeting will take place Thursday, October _____, 2013.

Minutes prepared by Brianne Baglini, Operations Manager.