

**City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2012
Sherwood Community Center**

PRAB Members Present:

Joseph Harmon,
Esther Nasjleti
Jane Albro
Brian Knapp
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Mike Slawski
Toby Sorensen
Evie Infantides
Douglas Stewart
Harry Wilbur

Members Absent:

Donald Lederer
Gary Sidor
Jennifer Passey

Guests:

Ryan Taylor and parents, Eagle Scout Project
Tom Kennedy, Environmental Commission

Staff:

Michael McCarty, Director of Parks & Recreation
Gregg Tonge, Parks Manager

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Joseph Harmon

2. Approval of Minutes, Adoption of Agenda

Minutes from PRAB meeting July 12, 2012 were approved as presented. The agenda was approved as modified.

3. Presentation by Ryan Taylor for Eagle Scout Badge

Thaiss Memorial Park information kiosk – all in favor

4. Park Steward Reports

Harry Wilbur reviewed Van Dyck Park and Westmore Park
Ester Nasjleti reviewed Pat Rodio Park and Ratcliffe Park

5. Trails Sub-committee Update

Committee is continuing to work with Parks Staff identifying and prioritizing trails projects.

6. Dog Park Sub-committee Update

With no progress in identifying a site for the park, the committee recommended shelving the plan for now. Committee recommends that Dog Park should be incorporated into Master Plan.

7. 2012-13 Priority Agenda

- a. Focus on Diversity-Michael McCarty suggested that with the ever-changing demographics, a study should be done to determine the population percentages that are using our programs and facilities. That would create a benchmark for a targeted outreach to those who are not using our facilities.
- b. Special Revenue Fund-Go to Council for a special fund for park maintenance.
- c. Beaver Dam meeting – it was recommended that a PRAB meeting should be held at Beaver Dam. The November meeting will be held at Beaver Dam on Saturday, November 3.
- d. Holding a joint meeting with the Senior Council.
- e. Finalizing the trails priority chart.
- f. Holding a joint meeting with the school board.

8. Strategic Master Plan (SMP)

Council has approved use of \$25,000 from proffer funds to start the SMP. Brian Knapp suggested going to Council with park project recommendations and floating a bond to fund the projects. Joseph Harmon recommended forming a (4) member sub-committee to help advise Parks & Recreation to select a vendor and set up a RFP. Brian Knapp made a motion to name members and define an outline of the committee. All agreed. Joe Harmon, Harry Wilbur, Brian Knapp, and Zinta Rodgers-Rickert were named members. Esther Nasjleti was also added to this committee

Michael McCarty suggested the \$25,000 would be enough for Stage 1 of a 2 or 3 phase process, and added that data needs to be collected with public input with a fall 2013 timeline.

9. CIP FY2013 Review

CIP items were reviewed line-by-line and the following were moved from their current FY as follows.

- Strategic Master Plan - \$55,000 moved up to FY13-14
- Dog Park - \$50,000 added to FY15-16
- Synthetic Turf at Lanier Middle School – moved out to FY17-18
- Pavilion, Van Dyck Lower – moved out to FY15-16
- Paving Kutner Park Parking Lot – moved out to FY15-16
- Playgrounds, Kutner Park & Ranger Road Park moved out to FY15-16
- Tennis Courts, Westmore Park – moved out to FY14-15

10. Parks & Recreation Report

\$125,000 was allocated from the Jaguar proffer. Council selected \$60,000 for the walking trail around Ashby Pond, \$10,000 for a new community garden at Kutner Park, \$25,000 for a strategic master plan, and \$30,000 for the tennis court refurbishment at Kutner Park.

Report as submitted by Director

11. Stakeholder Updates

- **Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur**
 1. We are nearing completion of the new COA Strategic Plan.
 2. COA is pushing for City approval of its previously submitted Public Art Policy and for approval to use the proffered funds for a sculpture to be installed at Fairfax Pointe at Kamp Washington.
 3. COA is working toward acquiring a piece of public art for the green in front of Sherwood Center.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Don Lederer**
No report – absent

- **Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling - Douglas Stewart**
FABB is organizing a bike rodeo in conjunction with the Downtown Business Association on September 24, as part of the Discover Fairfax event in Old Town
- **Fairfax Police Youth Club – Gary Sidor**
No report - absent
- **Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – Brian Knapp**
 1. NVRPA enjoyed a very successful summer in its parks. Attendance at the golf courses, water parks and camp grounds was up.
 2. The corn maze at Temple Hall Regional Park will open in late September. The maize honors the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts.
 3. The Park Authority is sponsoring the annual light show at Bull Run. This show will open in late November. And we are featuring a new light show at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

- **Planning Commission – Jennifer Passey**
No report - absent

- **School Board – Tobey Sorenson**
Stated that there may be boundary changes due to a county study on changing populations.
- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**
The Senior Center Health Fair was held on the 12th of September. It was a great success with good attendance, interesting and helpful vendors and a healthy fresh salad lunch. Even the Mayor stopped by to see how things were going. We are planning on having another one next year.

12. Matters of the Members

Brian Knapp urged stakeholders to write letters advocating for Green Acres renovation needs for Phase II of the Strategic Master Plan.

13. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

The next PRAB meeting will take place: Thursday, October 11, 2012

Minutes prepared by: Gregg Tonge, Parks Manager