

**City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2012
Sherwood Community Center**

PRAB Members Present

Jane Albro, Joseph Harmon, Evangelia Ifantides, Donald Lederer, Esther Nasjleti, Jennifer Passey, Mike Slawski, Toby Sorensen, Douglas Stewart (left at 7:20pm), Harry Wilbur

Members Absent

Brian Knapp, Gary Sidor, Zinta Rodgers-Rickert

Staff Present

Leslie Herman, Events/Facility Superintendent

Guests

None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by the board chair Mr. Joseph Harmon.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Joseph Harmon made a motion to approve the adoption of the agenda, it was approved as presented.

3. Mason-Metro Bicycle Task Group Update

Douglas reported that PRAB can be a stakeholder. Fairfax County is interested in financing signage. Douglas felt the study needs more thought and help from the City for more cost estimates. David Myer has talked to the Mayor and Mayor-Elect for a future study. He would like the PRAB chair to attend the work session. There is no money for 2013. Funds would have to come from the state or feds. This needs to be brought forth to council.

Douglas would like endorsement from PRAB of the concept and recognition that the work of the task group is aligned with the work of the T rails Subcommittee. Esther commented that the Trails Subcommittee will be reviewing how to improve trails and while there is no impact on the trail program the City currently has, the Trails Subcommittee will take into consideration recommendations made by the Mason-Metro Bicycle Task Group when looking at the priority of the City trails that need to be improved. Harry requested PRAB endorse the program. Joseph advised PRAB to go through the process with the Trails Subcommittee, determine what the task force is recommending and determine what PRAB will endorse. Once this is complete, PRAB shall provide city council with a good recommendation via a work session. Douglas commented that he will discuss this with the Trails Subcommittee and will bring forth recommendations to PRAB at the July meeting. Esther commented that she would like a list of the potential projects for trails.

4. Parks Steward Reports

Joseph Harmon provided Brain Knapp's (absent) report (handout) on Ashby Pond Conservatory and Ted Grefe Park. Harry commented on Ashby and Grefe saying that seeding and benches would be nice. Toby commented on Ashby stating PRAB should reach out to the schools to use Ashby as a field trip location due to the floating water treatment. Joseph shared Brian's recommendation that a trail be located around the park.

Jane Albro provided a report on Stafford Drive Park and Country Club Hills. She commented that Stafford Drive Park is a beautiful park with very nice real bathrooms and an accessible playground. She commented that Country Club Hills is very natural, has a pavilion and is a beautiful area. She noted that to get from one path to the other, one needs to cross over running water. A small bridge would be nice. There was a short discussion by Toby and Jenny that the neighborhood does not want a bridge. Joseph commented this is not a city maintained trail.

5. Trails Subcommittee Update

Esther reported that at the last meeting upcoming objectives were discussed. The subcommittee will create a list of trails and gather data, to include looking at the CIP, to assist in decision making to help with determining how to invest money in the trails. Esther recommends PRAB develop a strategic plan on trails. Douglas will chair the July meeting and discuss trails (Esther will not be able to attend). Don suggested creating a 10 year plan that goes along with the CIP.

Esther report that Trails Day had beautiful weather, great staff support, involvement with Chris Unger and a nice display of photos. A few PRAB members were present to clean up Daniels Run. 15 people showed up for the bike ride. The time of 9am to 12noon seems a good time to continue to hold the event. She recommends the photo contest and the bike ride continue to be held in the future. Toby recommended all participants meet at the pavilion at Van Dyck Park and then go to Daniels Run Park. Need more signage about the event at Van Dyck. Maybe more handouts to the small kids.

6. Dog Park Subcommittee – nothing to share as Zinta was not in attendance.

7. Kitty Pozer Garden Update

Joseph distributed and reviewed the Kitty Pozer Garden memo for the work session. He reported that there has been no forward action since the last work session was held. The consultant is working on the comments that were given by council. Joseph shared comments by council. Joseph reported that Mr. Snyder shared that the Old Town Merchants are pushing for more parking in the proposed redevelopment of Kitty Pozer Garden and more on street parking. Joseph reported that he was very clear PRAB is not changing their position on on-street parking.

Joseph's opinion is that we are telling our story all wrong. We are not promoting strip mall shopping with car parking in front of each business. It's a walking pedestrian friendly environment. Issue is not "there isn't enough parking". Issue is to relay there is plenty of parking and where to find it. Harry agreed with Joseph's opinion and would support sharing it with council.

In regards to Concept A2, Harry shared his opinion of removal of parking. He felt that PRAB's position

should be we support the 45 spaces but should reconsider where to put them. Harry wants a meeting with the group of 4 and council. Don felt council was not pleased with the plan. He shared his opinion to make the park look bigger. Harry would like to suggest that each of the members (not representing PRAB) share their own views that more green space and less parking is needed. Joseph agreed this was a great idea and stated that there doesn't seem to be any forward movement at this time but maybe will happen with new council after July 1.

Joseph discussed Randy and Geoff's (2 of the 4) memo and point they made that the memo is not the vision of the group of 4, it was their personal opinion. Joseph's concern about the drawing is the additional parking along University. This is not in keeping with the recommendations of the group of 4. Joseph's feeling is PRAB needs to eliminate the idea of additional parking. Mike Slawski suggested better parking signage and you are here maps in the parking garage. Toby suggested making the map larger to show additional parking locations. Jennifer recommended getting the businesses to work together on better signage for free parking. Joseph felt that the businesses need to market parking. Joseph will try to get the group of 4 together before the next work session.

8. Special Revenue Fund for Maintenance Discussion

Joseph discussed the handout that was provided. Discussion by members was held including concerns if the money wasn't spent in one year would council want it back, would this set a precedent with other departments to do something similar and a suggestion to cap the amount. Joseph commented that he is not bringing it forth tonight to make a decision. He reported that Mike McCarty is supportive of this idea. Harry requested to put this item on the agenda for the next meeting and to get examples from other jurisdictions that have used this type of fund and made it work. Joseph requested that he would like to get a consensus on this at the July meeting and move forward.

9. Parks and Recreation Department Report

Leslie Herman reported that the Sunshine Kidz Program combined the AM and PM program into an AM only program due to enrollment numbers being lower in the afternoon session than projected. For budgetary reasons and to ensure the highest quality of the program, staff felt this would be the best solution. In the past, children ages 4 1/2 to 5 years old attended the program in the afternoon, while only children ages 3 to 4 1/2 years attended in the morning. The new program will run from 8:45am to 11:45am and include all children ages 3-5 years old. Children will still be grouped by age and activities will be geared for each group to be age-appropriate. Staff informed parents that had children enrolled in the afternoon program of the change by contacting them by phone. They were all happy with the decision to move to the morning program. Staff determined that many working parents are looking for full day options for their preschoolers and the half day program does not fit their needs. Staff will explore options that will fill the needs of this age group.

Leslie reported that the department is in the midst of planning the 4th of July Parade and Evening Show. A concern that arose this year was the nationwide shortage of helium. The City's previous helium provider was not able to fill our order. Staff called multiple helium suppliers and was only able to receive two quotes on helium. The first quote being twice as high in cost as the City paid last year for helium. The second quote the cost was three times as high as paid last year.

10. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from PRAB meeting May 10, 2012. A motion was made by Harry to approve the minutes as modified. The motion was seconded and approved. Joseph will work with staff to make changes to

minutes.

11. Exemplary Service Award

Joseph commented that annually PRAB honors someone to receive the Exemplary Service Award. Joseph recommended recognizing Becky Heid McNaughton for the award. He would like to present the award at the July city council meeting. There was a discussion. Don suggested Mayor Lederer would be a good person to recognize. Joseph recommended PRAB consider him for next year. PRAB agreed to select Becky Heid McNaughton for the award.

12. Outstanding Organization Award

Joseph commented that PRAB has recognized most organizations (available to choose from) for the organization award. He recommended discontinuing the outstanding organization award. There was a discussion. Members requested not to discontinue the award; instead they recommended not giving an award this year.

13. Elections for Next Year

Joseph commented he would like to serve one more year as chair of PRAB. If anyone disagrees prior to the July meeting he would appreciate if members would talk to him prior to July. Esther commented that she would like to serve one more year as vice chair.

14. George Snyder Trail

Esther reported that she and Mike McCarty made a site visit with Bill Niedringhaus to the George Snyder Trail. She emphasized to Bill there are many other priorities for trails. Question arose “Where would the trail be located?” and a realization that there are many decisions in regards to the trail to be made. It was determined after conducting the site visit that PRAB would prioritize the trail projects. Esther encouraged Bill to consider helping in the trail projects that PRAB recommends.

15. Stakeholder Updates

- Commission on the Arts - *Harry Wilbur*
 - No report
- Community Appearance Committee – *Don Lederer*
 - No report
- Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling – *Douglas Stewart*
 - No report – absent
- Fairfax Police Youth Club – *Gary Sidor*
 - No report – absent
- Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – *Brian Knapp*
 - No report - absent
- Planning Commission – *Jennifer Passey*
 - No report
- School Board – *Toby Sorensen*

City Council voted on special use permit to have 10 modular classrooms for 2 years at FHS. In order to keep student teacher ratio they need the modular. 35 more parking spaces will be taken up at FHS. Signs need to be placed in neighborhood for restricted parking. Ann Monday recommended a boundary study be done. Graduation was today, 580.

- Senior Center – *Jane Albro*

Frank Kelly received two awards for his service to the community and county and AARP.

Father's Day will be held at the Senior Center tomorrow. Looking forward to the senior's 4th of July celebration on July 6.

16. Matters of the Members

Don Lederer gave a presentation on his trip to Ripley, West Virginia. He and his wife made a Dulcimer. He discussed Elder Hostiles and what they are. He distributed the Road Scholar magazine. For more details on the Road Scholar magazine visit www.roadscholar.org, 877-426-8056.

17. Adjournment

Joseph Harmon made a motion to adjourn at 9:10pm.

The next PRAB meeting will take place Thursday, July 12, 2012.

Minutes prepared by Leslie Herman, Events/Facility Supervisor