

**City of Fairfax  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)**

**Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2010, 7:00 PM  
Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center**

PRAB Members Present

Joe Harmon  
Jane Albro  
Brian Knapp  
Don Lederer  
Esther Nasjleti  
Gary Sidor  
Mike Slawski  
Toby Sorensen  
Harry Wilbur  
Mike McCarty, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

PRAB Members Absent

Mace Carpenter  
James Ogletree  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Paul Cunningham

Guests

Douglas Stewart (Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented. In the interest of time, Douglas Stewart presented his comments regarding the GMU to Vienna bike route early in the meeting (see par 5c).

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the January meeting were approved.

**4. Matters of the Officers**

None

**5. Business**

a. Park Steward Program

Jane and Esther provided brief comments on Kutner and Fairchester Woods parks. Both parks were covered in snow/ice on the date of the visit (2/6/11), so some aspects were not visible. The picnic pavilion roof beams are beginning to rot and separate at Kutner Park, and the tennis court has large cracks at the net, running parallel and perpendicular to the net. At Fairchester Woods park, the sidewalks and paths had been shoveled clear of snow. Some broken tree limbs had fallen in the park due to the storms. Everything else at both parks was in order.

b. Fairfax City Dog Park Working Group

Joe read Zinta's notes about the city's dog park working group, which raised concerns from Brian and other PRAB members about the need for consideration by PRAB before

moving the issue any further. The consensus was reached that Zinta's coordination with the city should be routed through PRAB, first.

c. Fairfax City Bicyclists Working Group (FCBWB)-Update

Douglas Stewart introduced himself as a representative of the FCBWB group. One of the group's goals includes improving commuting options for bicyclists.

- (i) One improvement already planned for implementation is the shared auto/bike lane along George Mason Blvd. The markings and signage cost \$8,000. Douglas expressed his hope that FCBWG could partner with PRAB and other interested parties to continue improving the Metro – GMU route.

d. Fairfax City Bicyclists Working Group (FCBWG) proposal to partner with GMU-discussion

- (i) Mike McCarty shared copies of a draft proposal that outlined a SOW created by the FCBWG that could be used as a research project for a GMU student. The FCBWG hope is that the project would help identify the best possible GMU to Vienna bike route(s), and include suggestions for improving the route(s). These suggestions might include dedicated bike lanes, additional signage, or crosswalks.
- (ii) Brian asked about the routes being considered in the SOW.
- (iii) Douglas said the intent was that one of four potential routes will be identified as a commuter route for bicyclists.
- (iv) Brian asked that this point be included in the SOW to better clarify the expectation of the GMU student who will undertake the study.
- (v) Brian asked for the POCs at GMU who have been working with the FCBWG.
- (vi) Douglas provided the POC names from GMU (not recorded).
- (vii) Brian asked if any metrics were available from the last bike to work day. (none were)
- (viii) Brian asked if the \$3,000 for the new GMU Blvd bike lane would include signage. (unknown).
- (ix) Brian asked if the FCBWG anticipated dedicated bike trails emerging from the GMU study (no- all existing trails would remain multi-use).
- (x) Toby asked if the GMU student conducting the research would be tasked with coming up with a cost for implementation (no).
- (xi) Toby asked if other community models would be examined by the GMU student (yes)
- (xii) Gary asked what consideration would be given to funding sources (Federal and state funding might be available).
- (xiii) Harry asked about governance of the new route (unknown)
- (xiv) Harry voiced concern about the impact to non-riders on shared trails
- (xv) Harry felt the issue should be incorporated into a master plan for the city
- (xvi) Don voiced concern over potential costs associated with any new trail creation.
- (xvii) Joe asked if city council had been consulted when developing the SOW (no).
- (xviii) Esther asked if GMU had commented on the SOW (yes)
- (xix) Mike M. recommended communicating the bike commuter trail concept to the city council early to avoid potential problems later on.
- (xx) Joe recommended that the term "City of Fairfax" be stricken from the SOW.
- (xxi) A group discussion was held on the merits of presenting the bike commuter route in a master plan.
- (xxii) Brian and Harry asked if any parties, including GMU, have indicated that funding will be available to implement any recommendations coming from the study (no).

(xxiii) Mike M. suggested that the FCBWG be included in the effort to develop a Parks and Rec master plan. He suggested that they be part of the trails subcommittee.

e. CIP Update

Mike M. announced that he recently learned that the city is only considering \$20K for the master plan, vice the \$70K originally requested. Playground maintenance funds have been scaled back. Esther raised the question of whether or not \$20K would be worth trying to apply toward a master plan. Joe recommended that the master plan be renamed the "Strategic Comprehensive Plan". Brian suggested that Joe go before City Council and outline the reasons why \$70K is necessary for the plan.

f. Trails Day Discussion

There is no sponsor for the 5K race. Joe solicited for alternative ideas for trails day.

- Gary suggested using the day to perform trail or stream cleanup.
- Brian suggested a more modest approach to the event.
- Esther suggested including a scout group in the event.

g. Legacy Fund Update

Another \$5K was committed by a donor. A different donor has committed \$21K for repairs at Van Dyke Park. The legacy fund is approaching \$500K.

h. Land and Water Conservation Fund Resolution Discussion

Discussion tabled until next month.

## 6. Stakeholder Updates

### NVRPA

Brian reported that the NVRPA visitor center opening was successful. The annual report was released as a calendar this year (copies provided to PRAB).

## 7. Parks and Recreation Department Report

Mike M. reported that Ashby Pond dredging plans are moving forward, as are other preliminary plans for developing the parking and recreation areas around the pond. This includes a trail to and around the pond and a gazebo. Funding sources for these improvements (trail and gazebo) hasn't been identified. No cost estimate has been provided.

The operations manager position was filled. The new employee, Brianne Baglini, will start work toward the end of February.

The operational budget submitted to the city manager is still intact. Highlights include:

- Inclusion of the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center for all of 2012
- Inclusion of four temporary, 10-month seasonal employees in parks
- School billing (increases were passed on to users)
- Elimination of any non-cost recovery program

The community gardens were included as a supplement in the national Parks and Recreation magazine.

## 8. Matters of the Members

Harry Wilbur announced that the Commission on the Arts held a successful event at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center. The COA has narrowed the selection of potential sculptures at the new community center, and city council will make the final decision.

Toby Sorensen announced that the school board would like a table at the upcoming mayor's ball.

Jane reported that the senior center is hosting a flea market on February 22 at Green Acres.

Don reported that the senior group visited the Marine Corps museum this past week.

**9. Changes to minutes**

Mike M. corrected his paraphrased comments in paragraph 9 (iv) in January's minutes. Gary will amend these comments.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM.

**The next PRAB meeting will be held on Thursday March 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Stacey C. Sherwood Community Center.**

*Minutes prepared by Mike Slawski*