

**City of Fairfax  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)  
Joint Meeting with the Commission on the Arts**

**Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 2010, 7:00 p.m.  
Green Acres Center, Room 110**

**PRAB Members Present**

Jane Albro  
Mace Carpenter  
Joe Harmon  
Brian Knapp  
Don Lederer  
Esther Nasjleti  
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert  
Gary Sidor  
Mike Slawski  
Toby Sorensen  
Harry Wilbur (also member, Commission of the Arts)  
Mike McCarty, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

**Members Absent**

Paul Cunningham  
James Ogletree

**Commission of the Arts Members Present**

Geoffrey Seffens  
Howard Rhile  
Randy Lytton  
Molly Grimsley  
Eugene Osse  
Carol Caputo  
Joanne Ormesher, Representative, Parks and Recreation Department

**Guests**

Two students from George Mason University were present to observe the meeting.

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**3. Introduction of PRAB and Update on Programs**

PRAB Chair Joe Harmon noted that the City's Parks and Recreation Department was highlighted in the most recent issue of the Fairfax Connection. Joe summarized PRAB programs and initiatives including the Legacy for Fairfax program, Trail Days, the Park Steward Program, community gardens, "Get Fit Fairfax", the status of the Stacy Sherwood Community Center, the Adapt-a-Park program, park and trails naming policies, Ashby Pond improvements, and the Parks and Recreation budget and capital projects.

#### **4. Introduction of COA and Update on Arts in the Parks**

COA Chair, Jeff Sessions described how 16 grants were awarded this year totaling \$19,000, including grants for the City's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert, an arts tent at the Fall Festival, a redesigned COA website, the Friday night concert series, the children's concert series, exhibits at the Fairfax Museum. This year Jane Woods received the John Mason Award for the Arts. The COA's public art committee purchased a textile piece for the Library foyer, is planning to purchase a work for the Community Center, and would like to have a public art piece at Kamp Washington. They would like to develop a public arts policy for the City. The Commission on the Arts has 15 members representing George Mason University, Fairfax County, the Fairfax Art League, the City Band, and the business community.

#### **5. Parks and Recreation Department Report**

Parks and Recreation Director Mike McCarty told how the video for the Gold Medal competition was due the following day. The Fourth of July festivities probably drew record crowds. There were an estimated 60,000 people watching the parade and 20,000 to 25,000 at the evening fireworks show. Mike passed out palm cards advertising the Children's Concert Series and the outdoor screening of the World Cup final on July 11. He reported that the 90-foot baseball field at Providence Elementary was almost completed. The tennis courts at Providence Park would be done in a week or two after a delay involving asphalt. After a vote by the City Council, the new Community Center will have a metal roof to match the police station. He also explained how the building will included an induction loop system which will transmit sound for the hearing impaired. The Center has received an unencumbered donation of \$5000 from Sun Trust Bank.

#### **6. Community Center Vision and Goals Discussion**

PRAB and the COA worked on a draft of the Vision and Mission Statement for the Community Center. There was a lively discussion on the focus of the Vision and Mission statement. Mike McCarty will revise the statement based on the comments and suggestions.

#### **7. The Joint Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 pm. PRAB Only Meeting Began.**

#### **8. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as amended by Brian Knapp and Don Lederer.

## **9. Matters of the Officers**

Joe Harmon had nothing to add.

Esther Nasjleti will meet with the bike advocacy groups.

Toby Sorensen had nothing to add.

## **10. Business – Election of Officers**

Mace Carpenter moved and Don Lederer seconded that Joe Harmon be reelected as Chair and that Esther Nasjleti be reelected as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

## **11. Stakeholder Updates**

- Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – Brian Knapp reported that Su Webb, Chair of the Regional Park Authority was at the City's Independence Day parade this year.
- City School Board – The School Board held its post-election reorganization meeting on July 12 and Toby Sorensen was reappointed to represent the Board on PRAB.
- Senior Center – Jane Albo reported that there were a number of Senior Center members marching in the Independence Day parade. Maryann Schwab is the new chair of the marketing committee, replacing Marcia Clukey. The Men's Breakfast has been rescheduled for late September. The Senior Council approved the purchase of mirrors for the workout room. Staff and the public works department are planning to purchase TV sets to the workout rooms and library.

## **12. Matters of the Members**

Mike McCarty noted that the County Park Authority Directory was at our Independence Day Parade. The mayor would like a group from Fairfax to go to the Gold Medal Award presentation in Minneapolis. (Oct. 25-26). He passed out flyers for the golf tournament and noted that it needs sponsors.

Don Lederer noted that whenever politicians talk about parks, it is a good thing.

Brian Knapp commented that the Independence Day activities were great.

Mace Carpenter mentioned that two American League Little League teams are still in the All-Star competition.

## **13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

**The next PRAB meeting will take place Thurs., Sept. 9, 7:00 pm, Green Acres Center.**

*Minutes prepared by Toby Sorensen.*