

**City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2010
Green Acres**

PRAB Members Present

Joseph Harmon
Brian Knapp
James Ogletree
Mace Carpenter
Don Lederer
Toby Sorensen
Mike Slawski
Jane Albro
Gary Sidor
Esther Nasjleti

Guests

Rich Wyatt

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03PM

2. Approval of Minutes, Adoption of Agenda

Minutes from PRAB meeting Sept 9, 2010 were approved as modified. The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Parks and Recreation Report

- Gold Medal Award Oct 27 – One member of the Parks and Recreation Staff will be sent by the city, other staff is attending at their own cost. Fairfax video will be presented.
- Golf Tournament moved to Nov 1, 2010 due to weather. Still looking for more participants.
- Community Center is on schedule, projecting to be complete at the end of October. Date for opening ceremony TBD.

- Fall Festival – overall successful event.
 - Discussion on the impact of the new vendor lay out, centered around Old Town, overall there were few complaints about the new traffic pattern.
 - Local restaurants were full and busy all day.
 - CUE Bus doubles ridership from last year.
 - Rides at festival were a success, discussion on extending rides into the night next year.
 - Positive feedback from most participants.
- Usage Fee
 - Rich Wyatt briefed that Fairfax County was beginning to charge usage fees for organizations (ie: FPYC sports pictures), which is allowed in Fairfax County Regulation #8420, but up to this point has not been charged. This agreement to not charge the fee up until now was based on conversations and “handshakes”, no formal agreement.
 - Only 3 weeks notice was given prior to fees being charged.
 - This is in addition to fields fees which are currently being collected
 - Expectation is that this will continue and probably expand as a way to generate revenue.
 - FPYC is requesting to know the City’s position on this new Fee.

-Toby Sorensen agreed to raise this at the next School Board meeting and report that PRAB is not in favor of the charge and feels that the charge draws into question the overall agreement with school use. PRAB members also voiced concern that the fee was imposed with little notice or ramp up time to prepare the various groups that will be affected.

-Bike Task Force Update

-Oct 6, 2011 Task Force Meeting

-Proposed to mark George Mason BLVD as a shared road.

-Discussion of Master Plan for bike trails.

-Receiving cooperation with GMU to support effort to promote biking.

-Recommend inviting task force members to a PRAB meeting.

-Next task force meeting is Nov 16

4. CIP Review

-Mike McCarty presented his CIP recommendations.

-Review of results of Comprehensive Parks Study (10K Cost for study)

- 160 Recommendations ranked by priority.

- Mix of repairs that can be done by staff or external companies.

- Most items on reports were safety focused.

- \$50K cost to address immediate repairs.

- Discussion of liability due to report and safety items highlighted.

- Recommend 50K “plug” number for CIP.

-Add CIP category for: Ball Fields

-Emergency Items: Van Dyck Pedestrian Bridge \$60K and Providence Elementary Field Fencing \$75K

-Add Ranger Road Basketball Court Repair: \$40K

-Add Daniels Run Re-Orientation:\$20-\$40K

-Brian Knapp highlighted disagreement with CIP Items: Green Acres Needs Assessment and Ashby Pond Improvements:

-Requests clarification on cost breakout.

-Recommends increasing amount to reflect true cost.

-Discussion of what is included in Green Acres Needs Assessment.

-Discussion about combining with Master Plan.

-Discussion of amending Master Plan to include facilities and identify “open space” for future purchase.

-Discussion to increase Ashby Pond estimate and/or move to out year, this included discussion about Virginia Tech Grant that included matching funds, and the possibility of losing these funds if work does not start on Ashby Pond in 2011. Decision to move to 2013.

-Move Rodeo drainage to 13/14

-Move Sprayground to 13/14

-Move Lanier Turf Project to 15/16

-Move Air Structure to 14/15

-Remove Community Garden line.

-Discussion of replacing turf field at Fairfax High School.

-Parks and Recreation staff recommend replacing in 2013, which is in line with the expected life span of the field.

-Questions about doing repairs instead of replacing. Parks staff indicated that repairs will not be cost effective.

-Toby Sorensen agreed to raise this issue at next School Board Meeting.

5. Organizations Updates:

Community Appearance Committee

- Donated Dogwood at the Fall Festival
- The committee feels that they should be involved in the discussions regarding the new pocket parks along University Dr.

Little League:

- Possible donation of scoreboard by Coca Cola.

Senior Center:

- New TV's installed, very positive response.

Member time:

Brian Knapp reported that Council discussed the NVRPA proposal for Beaverdam in closed session on Oct 13. The Park Authority offered the City close to one million dollars to lease the Beaverdam property for forty years, with appropriate clauses in case the City needed/wanted to exit the agreement early. Council rejected the proposal with two members opposing. Brian expressed deep disappointment that Council rejected this idea of turning Beaverdam into a regional park and rejecting significant money for the City's budget.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 940PM.

The next PRAB meeting will take place Wed. November 10, 2010

Minutes prepared by James Ogletree