

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

**December 10, 2009
Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**City Hall
City Manager's Conference Room**

Members Present

Jane Albro
Mace Carpenter
Joseph Harmon
Brian Knapp
Don Lederer
Esther Nasjleti
James Ogletree
Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Gary Sidor
Harry Wilbur
Michael McCarty, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Members Absent

Paul Cunningham
Toby Sorensen

Guest

Jon Buttram, filling in for School Board Representative Toby Sorensen

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order: 7:05 pm.

Joseph Harmon welcomed new member Mace Carpenter.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda adopted.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from November 12 meeting were adopted with minor fixes.

4. Matters of the Officers

Chair – Joseph Harmon

- a. There will be a holiday get together immediately following the meeting – Hard Times Café.

- b. There will be joint meeting with the School Board on May 13. Location – Green Acres.
- c. There might be a joint meeting with the Community Appearance Committee sometime in 2010 – stay tuned.
- d. The City Council and Economic Development Authority (EDA) met on Dec 8 and discussed the George Mason Square and the possible expansion of Kitty Pozer Garden. Harmon was able to provide Council the original PRAB recommendations on the Garden’s expansion and key features. Council seems to embrace the idea of an expanded Garden. It is hoped that the developer of the Square can help pay for the Garden’s expansion.
- e. Douglas Stewart from the Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling continues his advocacy of more bicycle stands in the downtown area, including George Mason Square.

Vice Chair – Esther Nasjleti
No report

Secretary – Brian Knapp
No report

5. Parks and Recreation Department Report

Mike McCarty circulated his written monthly report to PRAB members. Highlights from his report, as provided verbally by McCarty:

- The Parks and Recreation Department received a Community Appearance Committee Award at the Dec 8 City Council meeting for Stafford Park.
- The weather has caused delays with two construction projects – the baseball field at Providence Elementary School and the tennis courts at Providence Park.
- McCarty’s Department received 13 bids for construction of the Community Center and is recommending Sigal.
- Sigal’s lower than expected bid frees up almost \$1.4M in the Sherwood gift (\$5M), and discussions are continuing on how best to use these funds – furniture, building enhancements, endowment for future capital projects, etc. Some money will be used to beef up contracting services with Hughes.
- Harry Wilbur inquired about the construction schedule – 326 days.
- Wilbur also congratulated McCarty and his staff for the well run solicitation period.
- No date has been selected for the ground breaking – most likely early January.
- The next edition of Leisure Times is coming out next week.
- There will be a 4-mile race downtown on New Year’s Eve.
- The Holiday Craft Show in November was a huge hit – increased attendance and increased sales for vendors.

6. Business

A. Legacy Program

Harmon invited McCarty to present details of the Legacy Program and the way forward.

- Community Center fees have been approved (room rentals).
- There is no City funding to operate the Legacy Program.
- Council did agree to a dedicated reserve account for the Legacy Program.

- The City has approached Mrs. Sherwood for additional donations from the family.
- The City is talking to Sun Trust Bank about a possible contribution.
- A program sponsored by Spotlight on the Arts will likely be the first event in the new Community Center.
- Spotlight on the Arts has incorporated the Legacy Program in its fund raising efforts.
- McCarty offered several suggestions for how PRAB could assist with the Legacy Program. PRAB could identify possible donors. PRAB could help organize a Mayor's Ball to raise funds and recognize donors. PRAB could help sponsor a golf tournament.
- Knapp recommended that the City approach the owners of the Tank Farm for a major contribution.
- Wilbur suggested that Staff should develop a list of priority needs at the Community Center.

B. Trails Day Subcommittee

Harmon asked for volunteers to serve on a Trails Subcommittee. He explained his desire to establish a standing trails committee to work on future trails, a trails map, and the annual Trails Day event. Ogletree, Sidor, Carpenter, Nasjleti, and Harmon volunteered. The Trails Day for 2010 will occur on June 5.

Jon Buttram said that he would like to get scouts involved for service hours.

C. "Get Fit Fairfax" Programs

Harmon said the Councilman Jeff Greenfield is leading this effort and putting together a working group to develop programs. Nasjleti and Rodgers-Rickert are representing PRAB. McCarty is chasing a grant opportunity to help fund this program. Harmon has a meeting with Greenfield on December 14 to discuss this matter and Community Gardens in the City. Knapp urged Harmon to emphasize the need to maintain our current parks and recreation infrastructure before adding something like a Community Garden to the portfolio.

7. Matters of the Members

- Jane Albro visited several parks under the park stewardship program. She provided detailed comments about Draper Drive (parking lot is too small, more mulch is needed for the playground) and Dale Lestina (access from the street is difficult, need a fence at the stream, need benches around the first playground equipment).
- Wilbur and Harmon have also visited several parks under the park stewardship program and will report their observations at a future PRAB meeting.
- Mace Carpenter said that a new 60 foot baseball league was starting up.
- Jon encouraged PRAB members to visit the new school board website.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.