

# Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

City of Fairfax

Meeting Minutes for June 11, 2009

Location: Blenheim Interpretive Center

## Members in Attendance:

Brian Knapp (Chair), Joe Harmon (Vice-Chair), Paul Cunningham, Donald Johns, Donald Lederer, Arthur Little, Elisa Lueck, Esther Nasjleti, James Ogletree, Harry Wilbur, and Zinta Rodgers-Rickert.

## Absent:

David Bauer

Gary Sidor

## Staff in Attendance:

Michael McCarty

1. PRAB members toured the Interpretive Center before the meeting began.
2. The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm.
3. On behalf of the PRAB membership, Chairman Brian Knapp presented Art Little a framed picture of Blenheim and thanked Mr. Little for his 27 plus years of service to the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Little will be departing PRAB after the July meeting.
4. Minutes for the May 14 meeting were approved.
5. Old Business:
  - a.) Recap Recent Meeting with the School Board  
Knapp asked if PRAB members had any observations about the recent Joint Meeting held in May between PRAB and the School Board. Everyone agreed it was a good meeting, and there were useful discussions on several agenda items, including after school programs and next year's CIP. Mr. Wilbur asked if there were any agenda items that required follow-up, and there were none. PRAB members thanked the School Board for hosting the meeting and serving dinner.
  - b.) Recap Trails Day  
Joe Harmon provided a summary report of the Trails Day, including the successful foot races. He highlighted the significant number of participants, including the Mayor.

Thanks to the generous help of Pacers, the sponsoring group – Functional Fitness for Kids – raised over \$1200.

Knapp also mentioned the clean up of Daniels Run creek and park that took place after the foot races. Zinta Rodgers-Rickert and her family went to Ashby Pond for the clean up effort. Knapp recommended that PRAB pick a date in mid-November and conduct another clean up effort of Daniels Run Park. In the fall, it will be easier to collect trash along the stream bed.

Knapp thanked Harmon and others (Nasjleti, Ogletree) for the hard work exerted to organize a successful Trails Day.

c.) Park Project Update

Mike McCarty announced a break through in negotiations with Fairfax County regarding the new baseball field at Providence Elementary. The County has provided the last of its approvals. McCarty can now collect bids for the final phase of the baseball field (and the tennis courts at Providence Park) and be ready to present to Council for approval in September. The baseball field might be done by late November 2009.

d.) Parks and Trails Strategic Plan

Knapp recommended that a small ad hoc committee be established to review the results of our park visits. This committee could meet over the summer and present its recommendations in the fall. The committee will attempt to define project priorities within each park and for the entire park system as a whole. McCarty, Wilbur, Harmon and Knapp agreed to serve on the committee.

e.) Comp Plan

Knapp circulated an updated version of the PRAB recommendations for the Comp plan. PRAB members made some minor adjustments. Art Little asked if the list should be ranked in order of priority. PRAB members discussed this recommendation and decided to leave as is since the list of recommendations are meant to guide the rewriting of the Comp plan, in all its elements (arts, recreation, trails, parks). Paul Cunningham will suggest to his colleagues on the Planning Commission that it might be a good idea for the two bodies to meet in the fall.

Note: Mike announced that the tunnel under Pickett Road (part of the trail system) was now closed due to problems caused by high water. Planning is ongoing to find an alternate route.

f.) Community Center

Harry Wilbur asked Mike McCarty to host a meeting so interested parties could review the interior design of the Center one last time before a contractor is approved by Council. McCarty agreed to host such a meeting and will advise on a meeting date.

6. Update from Parks and Recreation Department:

a.) Cost Recovery Report

Mike McCarty reported that the cost recovery report and the associated new fees were recently adopted by Council during the budget deliberations. However, several groups, including the Girl Scouts, have complained to Council that they cannot afford the new fees, and it is inconvenient to travel to those locations in the City where the free use of rooms is available. Council directed McCarty at the early June Council meeting to define a new fee structure that allows groups like the Girl Scouts and other youth groups and homeowner associations to use Green Acres without having to pay the new fees.

McCarty presented PRAB his recommendations for modifying the free structure (per Council's direction), and PRAB members discussed his proposal.

There were no objections by PRAB to the revised fee structure. McCarty invited PRAB members to contact him if they had any follow-up issues or questions.

#### b.) Department Update

Mike McCarty ran through a list of updates:

- He presented a new policy for lightning disturbances.
- He said that planning for the upcoming youth summer camps is progressing well, and training of counselors begins soon. Enrollment numbers are higher than last summer.
- Mike provided a flier on the Movies under the Moon program.

#### 7. Members Time

- Joe Harmon announced his candidacy for Chairman of PRAB for the 2009-1010 period.
- Joe asked if every parade entry for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade had to file an application fee, and he expressed his belief that such fees should be required of all.
- Zinta Rodger-Rickert was praised for her efforts to raise funds to replace carpeting at the Seniors Center.
- Art Little asked for an update on the work of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Foundation. The Ad Hoc Committee is planning to meet soon to work on by-laws for the Foundation and think about candidates for the Foundation Board.
- James Ogletree said the Car Show went very well.
- Don Johns said the Seniors Center was adjusting the policy for trips so that everyone has an equal opportunity to sign up. He also said that attendance was up for most events.

#### 8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Brian Knapp.