

Minutes
May 8, 2008, 7:00 pm
Joint Meeting
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board & School Board
Senior Center, Green Acres

PRAB

Present – David Bauer, Brian Knapp, Donald Lederer, Esther Nasjleti, Zinta Rodgers, Gary Sidor, Joe Harmon, Art Little

Absent –Habib Kahn, James Ogletree, Harry Wilbur, Donald Johns

School Board

Present - Janice Miller, Jon Buttram, Ann Monday, Toby Sorensen, Elisa Lueck, Amy Craig, Julie Knight

Absent - Allen Griffith

Staff – Bertha McClung-Mosely, Michael McCarty, Karen Bixler

Meeting Called to order at 7:10 pm

Approval of April 2008 minutes

The minutes were approved unanimously.

Administrative

Chairman Knapp introduced members of the Teen Council (representing the Teen Center) and explained that PRAB would meet with the Teen Council after the Joint meeting with the School Board.

CIP Items

- a) Chairman Knapp thanked the School board for its collaboration with PRAB in CIP planning.
- b) Parks and Recreation Director McCarty provided a spreadsheet listing CIP projects and funding. Knapp noted many proposed/planned projects for FY08/09 were cut or pushed out to future years. Knapp also noted School Board and PRAB members can also propose ideas for future projects.
- c) McCarty explained improvements at Providence Elementary School (asphalt pad at intersection of baseball fields) have been designed to avoid problems with water run-off.
- d) Sprayground is proposed for FY 09/10. PRAB currently supports the Sprayground being considered in plans for the redesign of Van Dyck Park (with addition of Community Center). PRAB also supports a sprayground concept at the redesigned Kitty Pozer Garden.

Park Projects

McCarty provided attendees a handout with updates on the Park projects (“Park Project Update”)

Community Center

1. McCarty led a small group of City employees to review bids from those Design and Engineering firms who wish to help the City with its Community Center. McCarty expects that he will present a staff recommendation to Council on May 27. Don Lederer also participated in some of the review sessions.

2. Chairman Knapp indicated that it will be important to understand Council and Mayor’s guidance on the next stages of the project (how much public outreach?). The design firm will need a clear understanding of the budget constraints and probably more solid information on the site for the center. PRAB will need guidance on expectations and plans for raising additional funds to augment the donation (if at all).

Lanier Fields

Update on status of Lanier fields was provided. Sprinklers will be installed in the coming weeks.

Fairfax High School Projects

School Superintendent Ann Monday provided attendees a handout with the proposed timeline for the remaining `08 and `09 Fairfax High School projects. Monday and McCarty said arrangements have been made to ensure the projects will not disrupt Fourth of July activities. David Bauer urged that arrangements to make the facilities (especially the tennis courts) available as much as possible to avoid disruption to other activities as well.

National Trails Day

Joe Harmon pointed out Trails Day is the same weekend each year (early June), and always conflicts with the School Board retreat. He suggested that the School Board may want to consider changing the retreat date to a different weekend.

School Board Representative

PRAB thanked Amy Craig for her work and contributions as School Board Representative to PRAB. PRAB looks forward to welcoming the new representative to be chosen this summer by the newly elected School Board.

Adjournment

Meeting with School Board was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

PRAB Meeting with Teen Council
Meeting convened at 8:30 pm.

Attendees:

Meghan, Sam, Eviana – three reps from the Teen Center Council.
Additional attendees included staff and parents.

Goal of session:

To capture the general observations and suggestions of the Teen Council and involved parents/adults.

The Teen Center is offered for teens in grades 6 - 9. It is currently open on Friday and Saturday nights, but will only be open on Friday beginning in September 2008. The 5-member Teen Council contributes to running the Teen Center.

Observations/Suggestions from Teen Council to PRAB

- The gymnasium at Green Acres is a big attraction of teen center.
- The most likely reason for low attendance at the Teen Center is probably kids are very busy, particularly with sports. The admission fee that is charged now is not a factor in attendance in the opinion of Teen Council.
- If the new Community Center is built at Van Dyck Park, it would work well as a location for a new Teen Center, since it is centrally located.
- It is too dark and not inviting outside of the Green Acres building.

Marketing Ideas to Draw More Attendance

- Have an open house for parents with rising sixth graders
- Have the sixth grade party at the Teen Center
- Weekly e-newsletter
- Themed nights to attract particular subgroups of students

PRAB Meeting with Teens adjourned at 9:05 pm.

PRAB-Only Meeting

Community Center

Knapp summarized the positions that PRAB members expressed on the priorities for the space in the new Community Center. Knapp told PRAB he would work with Commission on the Arts, FPYC, and the Seniors Council to represent PRAB and work on a unified vision to share with the City Council.

Trails Day Festival

PRAB members are urged to come out to the Trails Day Festival June 7, 8 AM to Noon, Van Dyck Park.

Final Adjournment: 9:30 pm

Next Meeting: June 12, 2008 at 7 pm