

**City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes**

October 9, 2008

Chair Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm at City Hall.

Members in attendance: David Bauer, Joseph Harmon (Vice Chair), Donald Johns, Brian Knapp (Chair), Elisa Lueck, Donald Lederer, Arthur Little, Esther Nasjleti, James Ogletree, Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Gary Sidor, Harry Wilbur.

Members absent: Paul Cunningham.

Staff in attendance: Michael McCarty.

Guest in attendance: John Toner, Community Appearance Committee.

Chair Knapp appointed Secretary of future meetings as follows: James Ogletree, November 2008; Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, December 2008.

Meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

Minutes of September 2008 meeting were approved unanimously.

A discussion followed regarding upcoming meetings, Chair Knapp proposed meeting with the Seniors at the upcoming March 2009 meeting. He requested that Donald Johns coordinate the proposed schedule date with the Seniors. Mr. Bauer requested a presentation on how the Department works with the schools. Ms. Rodgers-Rickert requested that a future meeting have a dog park as a business topic.

A discussion on the proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) ensued. Relative to this discussion, the following topics were addressed: (a) safety issues of the Ranger Road Park bridge; (b) tennis courts at Kutner Park; (c) the annual payment to NVRPA; (d) a portion of the Van Dyck Concept Plan budget has been allocated to the Hughes Group for the development of the Sherwood Community Center; (e) Green Acres assessment funding deferred to FY 11/12; (f) hydraulic bleacher trailer equipment status; (g) overall park system tennis court maintenance; (h) spray ground funding deferred to FY 10/11.

Mr. McCarty provided a parks project update to the Board. Chair Knapp recognized all of the terrific effort on the part of staff regarding all of the on-going projects. As part of the presentation, Mr. McCarty informed the Board that Providence Elementary baseball field is still in site plan review and awaiting

approval from Gainborough Court for a storm water easement. The Providence Park tennis courts are also in final site plan review and will be bid out at the same time as the Providence Elementary field project.

Chair Knapp then provided an overview on the development of the Sherwood Community Center, and coordinated efforts with Commission on the Arts. The concern in development now is the layout of the building and the size of the performance hall. Discussions with the City Council are on-going.

Chair Knapp brought to the Board's attention that the First Night special event will occur on December 31, 2008, due to City Council action.

A discussion regarding the current status of the City's budget involved recent parks and recreation budget reductions. The Department will eliminate temporary positions, and combine "Fairfax Fun Days" and "Young at Heart" publications and reduce the printings to 3 times per year, instead of quarterly. All CIP items have been deferred. Ultimately, impact on special events such as the Independence Day Parade will be minimal and not visible to the public.

The Parks Visit Project was addressed. PRAB will meet as a group at Van Dyck Park at 8 am on Saturday, October 25, 2008, to tour the park. We will then proceed to the City's Property Yard and then as teams to other major parks.

Mr. McCarty then provided the Board with a Department update. The following issues were addressed: (a) Fall Festival; (b) VA Recreation and Parks Association award; (c) Draper Drive Park playground grant possibility; (d) dog park advocacy; (e) after school programming at Daniels Run ES and Providence ES.

During Members time, Vice Chair Harmon inquired about the state grant for Trails that the Department is pursuing. An inquiry to staff regarding a Lanier MS after school program. Status request of staff regarding attendance at the Teen Center.

Chair Knapp adjourned the meeting at 9:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Harmon
Secretary