

**City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2011
Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center**

PRAB Members Present

Jane Albro Stewart	Brian Knapp	Zinta Rodgers	Douglas
Joe Harmon	Don Lederer	Gary Sidor	Harry Wilbur
Evangelia Ifantides	Esther Nasjleti	Toby Sorensen	

Members Absent

Paul Cunningham
Mike Slawski

Guests

Mike McCarty, Director of Parks and Recreation
Leonard Kosta, Eagle Scout Troop 1113
Brienne Baglini, Parks and Recreation Department

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Joe Harmon

2. Approval of Minutes, Adoption of Agenda

Minutes from PRAB meeting on November 10, 2011 were modified by taking Paul Cunningham's name off of the guest list and adding it to the PRAB Members. Joe Harmon moved to approve the minutes and Jane Albro seconded it. The agenda was modified by adding George Mason Square and Kitty Pozer Garden after the Park Steward Reports. Douglas Stewart approved this and Jane Albro seconded it.

3. Eagle Scout Presentation

Leonard Kosta, an Eagle Scout with Troop 1113, presented to PRAB his PowerPoint on his proposed project. He is proposing to build four picnic benches and install them at Green Acres by the bocce courts. He would do this with the help of other scouts and troop leaders. The building of the picnic tables would take place at St. Leo's and then transported over to Green Acres. This was voted upon and approved.

4. Park Steward Reports

Esther was reporting on Providence Park and Green Acres Site. Providence's best feature would be the location and the ample parking. An improvement that Esther mentioned is signage needed upon entering from Canfield. There is currently a dog station and a bike trail sign but nothing that says "Providence Park". One great thing about Green Acres is that it is used for everything, but this also causes a conflict, which is limited number of parking spaces and handicap spots. Esther was wondering why there was no cooking

range in the kitchen and Mike McCarty explained that it is separate licensing for a cooking kitchen. Lighting for the lots and paved parking on the lower lot are still needed. Don reported that he would discuss his parks at the next meeting. Douglas visited Kutner Park on a day that it was raining so he is going to go back and re-visit and will report on it at the next meeting.

5. George Mason Square and Kitty Pozer Garden

A new plan has surfaced for George Mason Square and Kitty Pozer Park improvements. The major change is a gravel lot on University frontage to be paved. Harry is proposing to form a committee composed of the Commission on the Arts, Community Appearance Committee and Historic Fairfax to compile a list of joint recommendations for the property. It was voted upon and approved that they will reach out to other groups to form one committee. It was then voted upon and approved that Joe Harmon, Don Lederer, Brian Knapp and Harry Wilbur will represent PRAB on this new committee.

6. Trails Subcommittee Update

Douglas reported that they developing ideas for Trails Day and looking into having a Naturalist lead a tour. They are getting the details together for the spring Leisure Times. Zinta brought up the idea of having a Geocaching activity on Trails Day for the families.

7. Dog Park Subcommittee Update

Zinta – no report

8. Legacy Funds Update

Mike reported that a few more bricks were sold for Christmas gifts. There will be an outreach after the holidays to the friends of Stacy C. Sherwood. Balance is currently over \$350k (cash and commitments). Chairman Harmon also requested a section be added to the PRAB report to track Legacy Progress.

9. CIP Update

The presentation of the capital budget was well received by the planning commission. Joe commented on how Kutner Park and Draper Drive are examples of what can happen to the parks when we are unable to take care of them. The question was raised about the Skateboard Park and possible closure if money was not allocated to it.

10. Massey Building and Farmer's Markets

No new updates

11. Parks and Recreation Department Report

- Gold Medal pins were given out to each PRAB member. Mike explained the presentation of the award will be given to the Mayor and Council at the January 10 meeting.
- Kutner Park – The tennis courts have been closed and five water fountains have been ordered that will be placed at Van Dyck and Kutner.
- Daniels Run Elementary – The stream that runs behind the school has been causing an erosion problem for many years. The fence has slumped into the

stream after the September storm and it will be moved. The dugouts will be moved along with the backstop.

- Paul VI – Mike will be meeting with a home owner group about Pat Rodio Park to discuss Paul VI misuse of their permit.
- Thaiss Park – There is a new sign that is placed perpendicular to the road.
- Lanier Fields – Construction debris has been rising up to the surface
- Lights & Carols and Lunch with Santa – There were 40 more participants this year and they voiced their love of the new venue for the lunch. There were over 200 riders on the Polar Express during the 3 hour time period it was running. The Kitty Pozer Garden was packed all throughout the day.
- Park Benches – Benches will be going into Van Dyck Park from the Legacy Fund
- Children’s Christian School – They may be using the building located by World Gym and are interested in using Ratcliffe as their recess area.

12. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes with the following amendment:

Paul Cunningham’s name was moved from ‘guests present’ to ‘PRAB members’
Joe approved the meeting minutes and Jane seconded it.

13. Stakeholder Updates

- Commission on the Arts – Harry Wilbur – No Report
- Community Appearance Committee – Don Lederer – No Report
- Fairfax Advocate for Better Bicycling – Douglas Stewart – Tyler should be done with the report by the end of January and would like to be placed on the February or March agenda.
- Fairfax Police Youth Club – Gary Sidor – FPYC has concerns for Lanier Park and the construction debris that is surfacing. The Oak Mar Recreation Center is getting a turf field and FPYC’s lacrosse will not have as much access. There has been feedback saying it is because of the turf fields that already exist in the City of Fairfax.
- Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority – Brian Knapp – It was stated that the Regional Park Authority was happy to provide all of the lights at Kitty Pozer’s Garden for Lights & Carols. Also, this time of year is perfect for visiting Bull Run.
- Planning Commission – Paul Cunningham – Absent
- School Board – Toby Sorensen – It was presented to Council that we may owe up to \$600k for an unanticipated increase in the number of students at the schools.
- Senior Center – Jane Albro – They had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration and their numbers are remaining constant, if not, increasing.

14. Adjournment

Joe Harmon made the motion to adjourn and Harry Wilbur seconded it.

The next PRAB meeting will take place Thursday, January 12, 2012

Minutes prepared by Brianne Baglini

