

City of Fairfax
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2011

PRAB members Present: Jane Albro, Joe Harmon, Don Lederer, Esther Nasjleti, Zinta Rodgers-Rickert, Mike Slawski, Toby Sorensen, Harry Wilbur, Brian Knapp, Mike McCarty (Dir. Parks and Rec. Dept.)

PRAB members Absent: Gary Sidor, Mace Carpenter & Paul Cunningham

Guests: Jeff Herman, Steve Kattula, Jeanette Stewart, William Niedringhaus, Karen Jones

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01

2. Adoption of Agenda as amended

- added Ashby Pond update
- deleted Park Steward Reports

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the March meeting, with amendments, were approved.

4. Matters of the Officers: Chair Joseph Harmon informed all that the regularly scheduled PRAB meeting for May 12 will be moved to Monday, May 16 and this will be a joint meeting with the School Board to be held at the Sherwood Center at 6pm.

5. Business

a. Trails Subcommittee will consist of Mace Carpenter, Brian Knapp, Toby Sorensen, Esther Nasjleti, Jeff Herman & Steve Kattula. Motion creating sub-committee and its directive to be forwarded to all member.

Motion to approve Jeff Herman & Steve Kattula non-PRAB committee members was approved unanimously.

b. Fairfax Cross County Trail Presentation by William Niedringhaus & Karen Jones

- Total length of trail approx. 40 miles
- Current trail does not run through the City of Fairfax
- Formulating suggestions on how to incorporate the City of Fairfax as the "Heart" of the trail and recommended a way to run trail through the City along the yet to be constructed Snyder trail.
- Newly formed trails subcommittee to review

c. Daniels Run Park Memorial Garden presentation by Jeanette Stewart w/Lands & Water Assoc.

- to commemorate Ilona Lang a long time supporter of natural habitats

- Ms. Lang's daughter helped write the initial grant for the funds to establish the successful Daniel Run ES wetland & garden pilot program
- Lands & Waters Assoc. to cover all costs to create and maintain area.
- designated area to be approx. 40 sqft, with plants native to the area and established near the bridge where the Trails Day Race has started

Motion was made to acknowledge and support the creation of such a memorial garden and direction was given to Mike McCarty to move this forward - unanimously approved.

d. Commuter Biking Study Funding -- PRAB consensus was that this topic to be further review by PRAB's sub-committee on Trails and that possibly this type of study be part of a future comprehensive Parks Master Plan Study it was also noted that Fairfax County is currently undertaking such a study and that the City of Fairfax aspect could be addressed in this study too.

Motion: was made to have the PRAB Chair notify Council and Mayor that the parks master plan should be funded in full before funding a separate commuter bike study - unanimously approved.

e. Trails Day Planning & Awards Nomination

- there will be a bike Tour de Fairfax and clean-up in conjunction with the day
- The Distinguished Service Recognition Awards will go to the local Boy Scout troop ____ and the American Legion ____
- PRAB requested staff to help create a list of possible future recipients of the award

Motion was made that Joe Kirby - long time Parks & Recreation Dept. employee also receive the award at one of the City Council meetings - unanimously approved.

f. CIP & Budget Update

- Comprehensive Master Plan for City Parks was deleted from budget
- Laura Lister position frozen - not to be filled
- 83K cut in total from the Park & Rec. budget
- Brian K. recommended that PRAB as a committee write a letter to address
 - Re-establish the cut position
 - That the remaining Sherwood funds NOT be used for operational purposes but rather for capital improvements only.

g. Dog Park Sub-committee

- Will meet in May

h. Ashby Pond updates

- the community outreach meeting had very good turnout (40+)
- all in all very positive about improvements and similar to our priorities
- primary concern for limited parking
- Brian Knapp put forward a summary of possible PRAB views on Ashby Pnd to be considered at May meeting.

Parks & Recreation Department Report submitted via written report highlights:

- Mayor's Ball a huge success!
- Community Garden set to open & selling plots
- Tennis courts are nearly done
- Free open use times being developed for Sherwood Center per a councilmember request
- Blenheim use development to be discussed at upcoming work session

Stakeholder Updates - Secretary had to leave and Toby Sorensen kindly took these notes

Matters of the Members NONE

Adjournment