

Minutes - June 14, 2007

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Present: Zinta Rodgers, Joe Harmon, Brian Knapp, Esther Nasjleti, Arthur Little, Gary Sidor, Amy Craig

Absent: Harry Wilbur, David Bauer, James Ogletree

Guest: Elizabeth Gee

Staff: Mike McCarty

- 1) Meeting called to Order at 7:07
- 2) Approval of Minutes : Motion made by Joe Harmon, seconded and approved with no changes.
- 3) Guest Speaker (Elizabeth Gee): She came to draw attention to parks and needed improvements to those parks, specifically Draper & Ranger. Her hope would be to see cooperation between Scouting organizations and groups like the Friends of Accotink. The fitness stations are worn out, and there has been graffiti. The playground equipment is in need of replacement. At the end of Ranger Road, the berm needs improvement, and she would like to see native to the area plants used. Also, she expressed a wish to see a tree replacement program initiated. Ms. Gee also submitted two items, one letter from Christian Jones and a statement from Stanwyn G. Shetler. Both itmes related to the Stafford West property
- 4) New Business
 - a. Advisory board elections: nominations, discussion & vote. Congrats to Brian Knapp (Chair) and Joe Harmon (Vice-Chair) Motion moved by Arthur Little and seconded by Gary Sidor.
 - b. Parks Foundation: Staff has been reviewing options for setting up a foundation and persons who can assist with this. It was proposed that a separate meeting be held in the fall to discuss this matter, and a consultant be hired to present relevant background and options. Art recommended that we receive some info before the meeting. One foundation example for review would be the Wheeling Park Foundation. Art would like to see a review of additional established foundations too.
 - c. SWOT Review: Director McCarty reviewed the progress made since the last SWOT analysis conducted by PRAB in the Fall 2006. Website & e-newsletter are on track for Fall 2007. Mulching, plant grooming and playground improvements for safety and appearance are ongoing. Working on organizing school partnerships with sports groups. Staff response time improvements on calls and reviewing policy/procedure stuff, staff uniforms & smile improvements. Recommend a keep our

parks beautiful campaign. Art mentioned the Gateway Park parking concerns and the over grown canopy. Ester inquired about the continued growth and improvement of the summer and after school programs. City wide signage issues came up again and the need to improve it, update it and the need to explore creative ways of getting this done sooner rather than later. Many parks are poorly identified and the signage stressed what not to do rather than what is available.

5) Old Business:

- a. Community Center: there will be a work session by City Council on July 24 with a presentation by the Parks & Recreation Department. This will include a look to the past, what has been good and bad, the 2004 report highlights and needs, the challenges of staying in Green Acres and then concluding with the question of whether to stay or where to go – requesting the City Council to provide direction.
- b. Trails Day recap: Thank you to Joe, James, and Esther! All very pleased! It was recommended that the “See Mommy Run” start and end at Van Dyck. Also suggested the renaming of the event: Trails Fest or Trails Festival. The whole City Council was in attendance, and the City’s touch a truck was a big hit.
- c. Stafford West: an upcoming City Council work session will address final plans for Stafford West and Draper Drive Parks.
- d. Providence: still working on designs and hoping for a work session in July.
- e. July 4th Festivities: Gov. Kaine is expected for the parade, music will accompany the fireworks this year and a BIG KUDOS to Leslie Herman!
- f. Park Rules & Charter Book: PRAB members were asked to review the material for the September meeting. Also, the Community Appearance Committee has requested a membership position/rep on PRAB.
- g. Trails Maps are now available! Terrific job-well done! Will consider a city wide mailing and placing them in home owner packets welcoming new neighbors.
- h. Fairfax Blvd Project: The May 11 presentation went well, and it was evident that a lot of thought went into incorporating trails, green space and general open space into the overall plan.

Member Time:

Brian – he passed out maps of parks in the Northern Virginia area.

Esther – Earth Conservation core has some organized events coming up she’ll forward an email.

Joe – discussed including a community garden at Stafford West. Also asked a question about the deed for the trail easement issue.

Amy – said the work we did with the school board was well done.

Brian - congratulated Mike McCarty on his first year – THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

6) Adjournment at 8:52 pm.