

Minutes – September 13, 2007
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
City Hall

Present: David Bauer, Joseph Harmon, Brian Knapp, Arthur Little, Esther Nasijleti, James Ogletree, Zinta Rodgers, Gary Sidor, Harry Wilbur

Absent: Amy Craig, Dr. Habib Kahn

Guests: Kirk Holley and Donald Lederer from the Community Appearance Committee

Staff: Michael McCarty, Leslie Herman, Christina Hurdle

- 1) Meeting called to Order at 7:05 pm.
- 2) Mr. McCarty provided a tour of new office space for the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 3) Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Brian Knapp, seconded and approved with no changes.
- 4) Old Business
 - a. Trails Day – Joe Harmon, James Olgetree and Esther Nasijleti recapped the June trails day event. June 7, 2008 is the next Trails Day (to be called Trails Festival). Esther Nasijleti commented that the event needed to be publicized more. Director McCarty mentioned that he will resubmit the Trails Festival in the 2008-2009 Budget as a special event.
 - b. Update on Stafford West, Providence Park and Draper Drive:
 1. Director McCarty discussed the three properties. He reviewed the Council meeting on July 24. Providence Elementary fields will stay the same, Stafford plan stayed the same after the hearing, no action will be taken at Green Acres and Westmore, two synthetic fields will be built at Draper Drive, and two tennis courts will be built in the open field at Providence Park.
 2. Director McCarty shared that a SUP will need to be submitted for increased use of the fields at Draper Drive. Public hearing is set for November 11, 2007.
 3. Director McCarty shared that an erosion control plan is being developed at Ratcliffe Park. The project will be completed May 2009.

4. Director McCarty shared that he hopes to bid all three turf fields at the same time to save money to put towards a bathroom and playground back at Draper Drive.
5. Director McCarty shared the timeline schedule for the various field projects.
6. Director McCarty shared that George Stepp held a meeting with the school board regarding Lanier. Director McCarty discussed issues with the fields at Lanier, lack of water, baseball sized stones in soil, etc. Director McCarty mentioned that FPYC is aware of the issues at Lanier.
7. Brian Knapp discussed what to name to provide the future Stafford West Park. He questioned whether Stafford West will be renamed? This issue will eventually need to be talked about. Brian Knapp opened the floor to PRAB for thoughts. James Olgetree suggested a contest to name the park. Don Lederer asked if there is a policy on naming parks (a policy exists but it is not always adhered to). Gary Sidor asked if there was a possibility of naming a portion of a park after someone. Brian Knapp responded that the naming of parks and portions of parks is a sensitive issue to the Mayor and Council and encouraged Director McCarty to talk to Bob Sisson about this. Brian Knapp would like to see this issue on the October agenda as follow up.

c. Community Center Update

1. Brian Knapp gave a presentation to Council on July 24, 2007 describing options for establishing a permanent community center.
2. Since July, Director McCarty reported that there has been significant movement in regards to the community center. He mentioned that announcements will be made in the next few weeks on the community center but at this time he cannot share much information.
3. Brian Knapp said that PRAB should work hard to be involved in future planning and programming for a community center.
4. Joe Harmon asked about the status of the request for proposal for Van Dyck Park. Director McCarty reported that the RFQ for Van Dyck Park is in his office and has been held back because of this issue on the community center.

d. Park Foundation

1. Director McCarty reported that a speaker on park foundations has been scheduled for October 30th at City Hall.

2. Art Little mentioned that NVRPA created a foundation two years ago and suggested having someone from this organization come and speak to PRAB.

5) New Business

a. PRAB Charter and Park Rules

1. Brian Knapp distributed a new version of the draft charter. He mentioned that a set of by-laws will need to be written for PRAB at a future date.
2. Brian Knapp opened discussed of the charter to PRAB. Board members discussed whether to meet in July or not and whether to include new language on the selection of future Directors of the Parks and Recreation Department.
3. Director McCarty briefly reviewed the Park Rules. He circulated a document to PRAB for review. Director McCarty will present these rules at the next council meeting.

b. CIP initial discussion

1. Director McCarty shared a document listing CIP projects adopted by Council last year and projected for future years.

c. Recreation Programs

1. Brian Knapp proposed that staff think how PRAB can get involved with details of recreation programs offered – when, what and where.

d. PRAB Agenda items for FY09 – Brian Knapp circulated a list of possible future agenda items and sought comment.

e. Survey results – NVRPA conducted study – Director McCarty shared the results of the study.

6. Update from Parks and Recreation Department

a. Leslie Herman reported that Skate Fest was held in June with preliminary rounds being held on a Thursday and Friday and a procession from Fairfax High School to Van Dyck Park was held on Saturday along with competitions and bands.

b. Leslie Herman reported that the July 4 parade went well. The Governor attended. Cops and Kids was held again at Van Dyck Park. The Fireman's Competition was held again. Set up for the evening show was temporarily slowed with a tornado sighting, which resulted in the grounds surrounding the high school being evacuated. The evening show did start on time. Announcements were made by the emcee of where to evacuate if need be. Ms. Herman reported that 16 of the 26 minutes of the fireworks show were seen due to an explosion of the fireworks. The fire marshal

determined the fireworks were defective, not an error on Schaeffer Pyrotechnic. The City was discounted for the amount of fireworks not shot.

c. Leslie Herman reported that the Fall Festival has been improved with a children's performance, \$5 all you can ride inflatables, free admission, a classic car show and a business expo. To date, \$35,500 in sponsorships for the Fall Festival has been raised. Ms. Herman reported that the Legwarmers will be performing from 12:30 – 3:30 pm, and Festival Superstar will be held at Old Town Hall from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm with the finale at the Main Stage from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

d. Leslie Herman reported that through Volunteer Fairfax, Ernst and Young Cares Day will bring 75 volunteers to work on Van Dyck and Providence Park on October 5th.

7. Members Time:

- Gary Sidor talked about a fun run at Van Dyck on October 7.
- Art Little talked about fall activities at Temple Hall.

8. Adjournment at 9:53 pm.