

City of Fairfax
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)
Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2017
City Hall Council Chambers

PRAB Members Present

Zinta Rodgers-Rickert
Jane Albro
Mike Anderson
Emily Deivert
Jeff Ferrell
Pat Gallegher
Kirk Holley
Evie Ifantides
Janet Jaworski
Brian Knapp
Sarah Ross
Jon Buttram for Robert Reinsel

PRAB Members Absent

Kirk Holley
Eric Mitnacht
Mike Slawski

Staff: Cathy Salgado
Jo Ormesher

Guests

Joe Harmon
Kelly O'Brien

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Rodgers-Rickert

Time: 7 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for February 9, 2017 meeting

Motion: Janet Jaworski

Second: Evie Ifantides

Approved unanimously

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3. Adoption of Minutes

Minutes from January 12, 2017

Motion: Evie Ifantides

Second: Sarah Ross

Approved unanimously

4. Presentations

None

5. New Business

Comprehensive Plan – Community Services Chapter DRAFT

Guests: Joe Harmon and Kelly O'Brien

Kelly O'Brien, Senior Planner, presented the draft Community Services chapter of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan for parks and recreation. Ms. O'Brien explained the Comprehensive Plan structure – Vision, Guiding Principles, Goals, Outcomes, Actions and Metrics. In addition, the supporting information and data collected to date included the Draft fact Book, discussions with City Council, Planning Commission, Boards and Committees, Community input through the survey and draft vision statement, recommendations from the existing Comprehensive Plan, Vision Fairfax, Mason Charrette, Fairfax 2020 Commission report and other City plans and finally national and state best practices. Ms. O'Brien explained the differences between a comprehensive plan and a strategic master plan.

“Strategic planning offers a process for moving from the general long-range (10-to-20-year) goals and objectives of a comprehensive plan to more specific short-term initiatives and actions. Strategic planning focuses on a few priority issues and deals with the community's social and economic issues, as well as its physical development (something typically emphasized in comprehensive plans). Also, strategic planning includes an action plan with clearly defined timetables and responsibilities, while the comprehensive plan tends to provide general guidance for decision making.”

Ms. O'Brien reviewed the Parks and Recreation goals for input. The following comments were received and addressed:

Ms. Jaworski brought up the word “programmed” in the guiding principle and asked how staff and the board members felt about it. Ms. Salgado responded that she does not like “programmed” in the guiding principle as it relates to active park use only and doesn't address passive park use, prefers just “well-maintained parks”. Chair Rodgers-Rickert inquired about the public outreach that staff was

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employing to ensure input is received from other organizations and to ensure diversity. Ms. O'Brien explained they are using multiple methods to gather input. Ms. Rodgers-Rickert asked if the survey was available in any other languages. Ms. O'Brien stated that it is not but that if anyone needed a translation they could certainly try to accommodate. Chair Rodgers-Rickert suggested contacting George Mason as they may have students or teachers to help with translations. Mr. Knapp also didn't like "program", feels that is properly addressed in Outcomes 2.1 and 2.3 and doesn't need to be in guiding principle. Mr. Knapp was pleased with the proactive approach at ensuring accessibility was covered. Feels there is a shortfall in the language about including ethnic groups and special events. Ms. Rodgers-Rickert agreed that our events should grow and the goal should be that the events make the City a destination for people to come visit to attend. Make Fairfax the place you seek out. Mr. Knapp asked about language for facilities in the Cultural Arts sections. Curious if the performing arts facility that COA has been asking for was properly addressed. Ms. O'Brien explained that she met with them last month and have included their comments on that and expect it to be addressed in actions. Ms. Jaworski commented that we aren't at the bottom layers yet, and are looking at each part in a vacuum right now, hard to see the big picture sometimes, all of this will change and evolve as the process goes on. Ms. Deivert suggested the survey could be announced over the PA at Fairfax High and that we come to the cafeteria during lunch with tablets to have the students take the survey. Chair Rodgers-Rickert suggested reaching out to the churches for the ESOL class members and daycares in the City with the thought of getting the parents to participate. Mr. Harmon addressed PRAB and commented that he recommends not reinventing the wheel since we already have the strategic master plan. It does not have to be verbatim but there are things in the SMP that are not addressed specifically right now in these goals and they need to be included.

Introduction of new Commission on the Arts representative Pat Gallegher. Ms. Gallegher provided brief bio, currently resides in Great Oaks, retired federal attorney. Ms. Gallegher has an interest in the arts dating to her time working with the Smithsonian on the National Postal Museum. She is currently learning how to play the baby grand piano and looks forward to working with everyone.

6. Old Business

a) Van Dyck Master Plan Update

Ms. Salgado reported that survey and mapping work continues and they hope to have it wrapped up by early March. A project calendar was provided in PRAB

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packets that details the major tasks and schedule. Part of the process involves an advisory group that serves as a sounding board and emissary for public outreach. Mr. Anderson, Mr. Holley and Mr. Knapp have volunteered from PRAB. Additional community members are being identified. Ms. Salgado asked members to share any suggestions via email. The group will meet at least four times and will also be asked to attend the public workshops. Ms. Salgado shared the stakeholders list and asked that PRAB sign-up to be contacts for groups that they have a connection to. Ms. Salgado will send out an email with the stakeholders for members to volunteer to contact with a deadline of Wednesday, February 15th. The on-line survey is being drafted and will be open beginning March 1st thru April 15th. The survey link will be on a website page dedicated to the Van Dyck Master Plan project – www.fairfaxva.gov/vandyck50. Ms. Ross suggested a banner or signage at Van Dyck and/or Sherwood to advertise the project. Staff will be attending city events and can also attend HOA meetings as requested. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked members and staff to start reaching out to groups now. Ms. Salgado will provide talking points to share via email.

b) Community Center Planning Site Evaluation Process Update

Ms. Salgado reported that Volkert is proceeding with the site evaluation for three city owned properties: City hall, Providence Park and Van Dyck. The information should be complete by mid-March. Mr. Buttram asked if full-plans were being prepared. Ms. Salgado replied that the report is higher level with building massing and some elevations to show what it would like on the site. Mr. Knapp asked if Van Dyck site was being prepared with one or several location options. Ms. Salgado reported that each site had multiple locations being analyzed but that the final report will show one location for each site except for Providence Park which will show one site for just the park and another site if the City obtained the county property yard. Ms. Salgado also noted that the City is continuing to meet with additional property owners about other sites in the City that may be suitable for a community center.

c) Strategic Master Plan Update

Ms. Salgado provided an update on Strategic Master Plan progress explaining the Detailed Action Plan Update. Ms. Salgado inquired as to the first strategy 1.1.1. as to whether or not PRAB had developed guidelines regarding having a current master plan or approved conceptual plan in place before any significant capital improvements are added. Chair Rodgers-Rickert and Mr. Knapp do not recall a specific policy. Ms. Salgado responded that she would look into it further. Mr. Knapp was pleased with the detailed update and that it was helpful

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for members to know where we stand and the progress we have made so that we continue moving forward. Mr. Knapp asked about Strategy 1.4.9 – the establishment of a “Park Zone” as part of the Zoning Rewrite. Ms. Salgado responded that unfortunately she arrived as the Zoning Rewrite was being finalized and approved. Ms. Jaworski asked if it was an oversight. Ms. Salgado responded that she would ask Mr. Hardin, Community Development and Planning (CDP) Director. Ms. Gallegher asked why a Park Zone was useful. Ms. Salgado explained that it provided extra protection in case future councils wish to use parks for something other than a park. It also establishes standards and processes for park development. Several members asked if it would be hard to add a Park Zone now. Ms. Salgado said that it is a lengthy process but not impossible. In addition it may be wise to think about a Park and Conservation Zone as well which provides protection for park land that you may want to leave in its natural state. Ms. Salgado suggested that she speak with CDP about the possibility of a future Park Zone.

d) Budget Update

Ms. Salgado pointed out the budget calendar in the monthly report. The proposed budget is being finalized and should be available within the next few weeks. The City Manager presents the budget on February 28th and departments present on March 7th.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Reports

A) Upcoming Events

Joint meeting with the Commission on the Arts – march 21st at 7:30 p.m. It was decided that PRAB would still have the regularly scheduled March 9th meeting. The joint meeting with the School Board will be on May 15th at Fairfax high School. Ms. Salgado will secure a room so that PRAB can have the May meeting after the joint meeting. Ms. Ormesher briefed PRAB on Spotlight on the Arts and provided information on City Clips reaching 25,000 subscribers. Ms. Salgado noted that Chocolate Lover’s Festival was a huge success along with the new addition of Liquid Chocolate and the Chocolate Scavenger Hunt. Both events will be back next year.

8. Stakeholder Updates

• **School Board – Robert Reinsel**

Mr. Buttram reported that the 3rd quarter of school has started. Winter sports are winding down with girls basketball doing well. They were featured in the

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Washington Post. The school strategic plan was completed. The School Board is working on the comprehensive plan with many goals cross pollinating with other sections of the plan. Wrestling tournament coming up this weekend. Path to Country Club Hills first stage was completed. Second stage will be completed in April. Chair Rodgers-Rickert asked of possibility school will end earlier this year due to lack of snow. Mr. Buttram replied that school is still ending “on time”.

- **Planning Commission – Janet Jaworski**

Ms. Jaworski reported that the Planning Commission is working on the comp plan and that there will be a public hearing on February 27th. It is a good opportunity for public to put comments into the record.

- **Senior Center – Jane Albro**

All is well at the Senior Center. Getting ready for Valentine’s Day party.

- **Community Appearance Committee – Kirk Holley**

No report

- **Commission on the Arts – Pat Gallegher**

Ms. Gallegher reported that the Commission on the Arts is looking forward to the joint March 21st meeting.

- **NOVA Parks – Brian Knapp**

Mr. Knapp provided two brochures to members – Pohick Bay and Balls Bluff. Mr. Knapp also asked that we mark our calendars with two dates. The first is the Pickett Road Underpass Trail dedication scheduled for April 22nd (Earth Day). The second is March 16th 2 6:30 p.m. at Blenheim. There will be a reception honoring Art Little to mark his 30 years of service to NOVA Parks. Please plan to attend to honor this remarkable man.

9. Matters of the Members

Ms. Ross commented that she and her daughter enjoyed Liquid Chocolate – it was her daughter’s first taste of hot chocolate, and she approved!

Ms. Deivert reported that she and her friends loved the LOVE sign at Old Town Square. In addition, she will be attending Penn State this fall. Congratulations to Emily!

Mr. Buttram announced that the Environmental Sustainability Committee will be celebrating Earth Day at Van Dyck Park – more details to follow.

Chair Rodgers-Rickert announced that their new ReMAX office will be opening on Febraury 22nd. There will be an open house from 4-7 p.m. She hopes we can attend. In addition, Chair Rodgers-Rickert will be meeting with residents on Saturday near Kutner Park to discuss a possible dog park. Any news will be reported.

10. Meeting Adjournment

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*Next regular PRAB meeting is **March 9, 2017 at 7 p.m.***

Time: 9 p.m.

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