

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

October 10, 2024
City of Fairfax
10455 Armstrong Street

PRAB Members Present:

Matt Rice
Diana Gibson
Rusty Russell
Matt Hoffert
Sarah Ross, Chair
Douglas Stewart
Yolanda Ortiz
Chuck Paceley

Absent:

Charish Bishop
Frank Francis
Kelly O'Brien, Vice Chair
Kelsey Sandoval
Rachel McQuillen

Staff:

Stacey Sommerfield
Kay Kaelin

Student Representative:
(position not filled)

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Sarah Ross at 7:01 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for October 10th, 2024 meeting.

Matt Rice motioned to adopt the amended agenda.

Douglas Stewart seconded the motion.

Approved.

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3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Approved.

4. Presentations and Introductions

A. Fairfax City Green Building Policy – Sonia Succar Ferre, Climate and Energy Manager in the Environmental Sustainability department in the City of Fairfax and Victoria Kiechel of Cadmus

- i. A green building is one that is designed and constructed to reduce the overall impact of the built environment on human health and the natural environment.
- ii. A green building policy will help the City of Fairfax in many aspects, primarily in preserving and enhancing the city's natural resources and environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increase clean energy, increasing economic, social, and health benefits for the community, and meet the city's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from 2005 levels by 2050.
- iii. The benefits of green buildings have environmental, economic, and social and health impacts. Green building policies encourage investments in energy efficiency and other clean energy technologies.
- iv. In many City of Fairfax workplans, it is recommended that the City incorporates green building rating systems as requirements for the built environment.
- v. The key takeaways from stakeholder meetings are that the green building policy should be flexible enough to avoid disincentivizing development, but firm enough to meet GHG and sustainability goals, the policy's standard operating procedures must be clear to ensure smooth and efficient operations, and that due to the Dillon Rule, the city's green building policy must rely on incentives to incorporate private-sector participation.
- vi. Several policy incentives have been considered, including a reduction of property taxes, and allowing an extra story on the building or other bonus density items.
- vii. The proposed green building policy would apply to existing public buildings 1,000 square feet or greater, all new public construction 5,000 square feet or greater, and major renovations (when the building's floor area is 5,000 square feet or greater and project work includes at least one of the following actions: renovations to 50% or

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- more of a development's gross floor area, or replacement of at least 50% of the building envelope including walls, roof, and/or floors).
- viii. For existing public-sector buildings greater than 1,000 square feet, the city implements energy benchmarking and conducts energy assessments to determine historic energy use, identifies a plan for upgrading the building to achieve LEED Building Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Silver certification, and tracks and plans to publicly disclose public-sector building energy use on an annual basis, beginning in 2025.
 - ix. Some existing buildings' green building practice examples include to install energy meters or submeters that measure the building's energy consumption, shield exterior fixtures such that light is not emitted vertically, and establish a green cleaning policy for green cleaning procedures, materials, and services.
 - x. The green building policy shall apply to new private developments that are 5,000 square feet or greater of floor area as defined in zoning ordinance 1.5.9; and/or major renovations as defined as when the building's floor area is 5,000 square feet or greater and project work includes renovations to 50% or more of a development's gross floor area, or replacement of at least 50% of the building envelope.
 - xi. Private-sector developments that elect to pursue additional measures beyond Silver-level certification under the most recent version of LEED are eligible for a reduced tax rate through two possible pathways. The first pathway is to achieve gold-or-higher-level equivalency in a green building rating system certification and demonstrate a 30% reduction in modeled energy use to receive a 50% tax abatement for one year. The other is to achieve gold-or-higher-level equivalency in a green building rating system certification and demonstrate a 30% reduction in actual annual energy performance over a median building of the same use type within the first ten years after receipt of their Master Certificate of Occupancy to receive a 50% tax abatement for up to two additional years.
 - xii. Qualification requirements for the Green Building Tax Abatement Program include the gross floor area of the building must be 1,000 square feet or greater and the building must be a new construction development or a major renovation of an existing building. The tax abatement program is proposed to conclude after 7-10 years of implementation.

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- xiii. For ongoing management of the green building policy, it is anticipated that approximately 25 hours per week could be spent on tasks and responsibilities related to the management of the policy including training and professional development.
 - xiv. The next steps are to give presentations to select boards and commissions to solicit input and feedback in October. There is a community meeting scheduled at 7 p.m. at the Sherwood Center on November 7, incorporate feedback and finalize the green building policy report over the winter, and present the policy to City Council for consideration for adoption in early 2025.
- B. Urban Forest Master Plan – Sophia Chapin, Stewardship Coordinator under the Urban Forester in the City of Fairfax**
- i. The Urban Forest Master Plan (UFMP) enables strategic planning and resource allocation, identifies long-term vision, goals, and priorities, and addresses the City’s unique challenges and opportunities.
 - ii. The goals of the UFMP include creating a cohesive management plan that is supported by the City and its residents, improving sustainability, resiliency, and equity, and to ensure future generations enjoy the benefits of the urban forest.
 - iii. The UFMP has two phases, with the first phase primarily being data collection, analysis, and review. There is also an invasive species assessment and a policy/document review.
 - iv. There is an engagement plan for the UFMP that guides the engagement of the Steering Committee, stakeholders, and community. Some of the engagement strategies include Steering Committee meetings, stakeholder interviews, public surveys, public meetings, and the Engage Fairfax website.
 - v. The status of the plan is that two Steering Committee meetings have been completed, the first public meeting was completed in July, with preparations for the second public meeting ongoing now. The public survey has gone live, and there are ongoing stakeholder interviews and discussions.
 - vi. The second public meeting will be in person on October 17, with a virtual meeting October 23. There is also the Engage Fairfax website that will be continually updated.

5. Old Business

A. 2025 July 4th Evening Show Update

- i. It was decided at the most recent City Council meeting that we will be moving the 2025 July 4th Evening Show back to the stadium,

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with the fireworks launch location being the turf fields. We will self-insure the turf fields.

B. Parks Foundation – Update

- i. The bylaws were presented to City Council, and they asked us to revisit certain aspects. One of the aspects is the fact we did not include a residency requirement. They have asked us to consider adding a residency requirement for a percentage of the board, so we don't end up with a board of directors that is made up of entirely non-City residents. PRAB decided on a 60% residency requirement. Another aspect to look at is the appointment of directors. In the initial bylaws, it was stated that PRAB would appoint the first board of directors, however there is a City code that would make that impossible. We are considering having PRAB nominate people, and City Council would vote to approve or deny them. Gifts with contingencies would also need to be looked at.

C. Thaiss Park - Update

- i. We are fully funded! The funding passed unanimously, except for Councilmember Greenfield, who was absent. We can start construction as early as the first week in November. The Throne that is currently at Thaiss Park will be unable to stay in that location. PRAB agreed that the Throne should be moved to another park, rather than return it to the company.

D. Student Representative Recruitment

- i. We are putting together a web form that will go on the website and make it easier for new applicants to apply to the Student Representative position.

6. New Business

A. Summary of Recent Council Meetings Actions Pertaining to Parks and Recreation

- i. At the most recent meeting, several things regarding Parks and Recreation were discussed, including the July 4th Evening Show, the Parks Foundation, Thaiss Park, and security. We are looking at having a trial period of private security at Stafford Park and Draper Drive Park, as well as Old Town Square. We are also working with a security consultant on getting security cameras in the parks and at different facilities, as well as safety lighting and blue light boxes. The cost is estimated to be around \$100,000 per park, but that number will be refined.

B. FY26 Budget

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- i. We updated our rates and levies, but are still working on the FY26 budget.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Report

A. Project Updates

- i. Master Plan
 - 1. Berry and Dunn will be at Fall Festival, holding a raffle and collecting public feedback.
- ii. Pat Rodio Park
 - 1. We are looking for a new location for the playground.
- iii. Van Dyck Redevelopment
 - 1. No update.
- iv. Old Town Hall renovation
 - 1. We are still planning to close in February 2025. We might have to close the entire parking lot, but we can keep the Throne in that location.
- v. KJM Turf
 - 1. We are working with Timmons to get preliminary plans with a more detailed budget for both synthetic and natural turf.
- vi. Dale Lestina Park
 - 1. A large tree came down recently and landed on the playground. It is recommended to replace the entire playground.
- vii. Tennis Court Update
 - 1. We have found that Vienna has a contract with another company that resurfaces playgrounds, and are working to see if we can use them to resurface the Providence Park and Kutner Park tennis courts.

B. Upcoming events and Programs

- i. Fall Festival is October 12th! The weather looks great, and we are anticipating 40,000 to 45,000 people in attendance. The final Rock the Block is on October 25th.

8. Stakeholder Updates

A. Commission on the Arts – Yolanda Ortiz and Kelsey Sandoval

- i. There was a reception at Old Town Hall on September 11th for the winners of the election sticker contest. The COA is currently working on the grant process, as it is that time of year.

B. Environmental Sustainability Committee – Rusty Russell

- i. The ESC is currently also working on the Urban Forestry Master Plan. Arbor Day will be October 26th at Kutner Park. The ESC will have a table at Fall Festival on October 12th, come say hi.

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C. NOVA Parks – Douglas Stewart

- i. Beaverdam Reservoir Park in Loudon will officially open with ribbon cutting on October 21st.
- ii. We are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the W & OD Trail with several events this fall.

D. Planning Commission – Matt Rice

- i. The Planning Commission made the final adjustments to the Comp Plan recently. City Council approved the Comp Plan at the most recent Council meeting. There was a work session on the Housing and Homelessness Strategic Plan recently. The Planning Commission will go over the Urban Forestry Master Plan during their Monday, October 14th meeting.

E. School Board – Rachel McQuillen

- i. Absent.

F. Senior Center – Chuck Paceley

- i. The new Senior Council was elected in September, with the officers being elected in October. The Northern Virginia Senior Olympics bocce event at Green Acres was a huge success. The Senior Center will have a table at Fall Festival on October 12th, come say hi.

G. Student Representative – Position not filled.

- i. Position not filled.

9. Matters of the Members

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 10:15 p.m.