

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
Rusty Russell
Matt Hoffert
Sarah Ross, Chair
Douglas Stewart
Chuck Paceley
Kelsey Sandoval
Rachel McQuillen
Kelly O'Brien, Vice Chair

Absent:

Charish Bishop
Frank Francis
Diana Gibson
Yolanda Ortiz

Staff:

Stacey Sommerfield
Kay Kaelin

Student Representative:
(position not filled)

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Sarah Ross at 7:03 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for November 14th, 2024 meeting.

Douglas Stewart motioned to adopt the amended agenda.

Matt Rice seconded the motion.

Approved.

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3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Approved.

4. Presentations and Introductions

A. Willard Sherwood Health and Community Center – Brooke Hardin, James Pattison

- i. Brooke Hardin and James Pattison returned to PRAB after roughly a year to update us on the WSHCC project. Currently, the project is in between the zoning and permit steps. Construction is slated to begin in the first quarter of 2026 and estimated to wrap up in the fourth quarter of 2028.
- ii. In addition to PRAB, feedback has been collected from the Board of Architectural Review, the Commission on the Arts, a design and showcase webinar, and the Engage Fairfax portal. Feedback includes but is not limited to: using stained or colored glass on the bridge to the Sherwood Center, a suggestion of making sure there are plenty of shading devices/structures, and adding in additional EV chargers for electric cars.
- iii. The site plans were revisited and gone over floor by floor to refresh memories on what is planned and to go over any changes that have been made. This site plan does include the addition of the Performing Arts modifications to the existing Sherwood Center. This addition includes space for a sound booth, two dressing rooms, and a costume shop, as well as modifying the ceiling in the Performance Space.
- iv. A 3D model of the exterior and interior of the planned building was presented, and specific spaces were discussed more in depth. The last time we saw this model, PRAB suggested that an ADA compliant ramp be added on the Blenheim Boulevard side of the building. This suggestion was followed up on and a ramp added to the model. A discussion was held about the two playground areas and how they would be shaded. There was a suggestion made to add more vegetation and trees, but both playgrounds are situated directly on top of the parking garage which makes adding trees difficult. The team will look into ways to add more vegetation.
- v. The City and the County will split the cost of the building to 42% City and 58% County, based on space utilization. The Performing Arts addition to the existing Sherwood Center is not currently funded and would require an additional \$4 million in FY26 CIP.

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There is a fee structure being developed to help recoup the costs of staffing and running this new building. For staffing, we would need a minimum of 2 additional full time staff with 35-42 part time benefitted and non benefitted staff supporting.

- vi. Future steps include a Project Update Open House Community Meeting on November 16, 2024, a Commission on the Arts Meeting on November 19th, 2024, 50% Construction Documents and Cost Estimates in December 2024, Utility Coordination is in progress, and Coordination with Multi Modal transportation project is ongoing.

5. Old Business

A. Parks Foundation – Update

- i. Stacey met with the City Manager and City attorney and it was agreed that PRAB would nominate the initial board for the Parks Foundation with the City Council voting on and hopefully approving it. We go back to City Council on December 10th to get final approval.

B. Thaiss Park - Update

- i. Construction will begin at the start of December. We are printing signs now to advertise that the parking lot will be fully closed. The employees at the Property Yard who normally park at Thaiss Park will be able to park at the Property Yard, as we are moving the Showmobile and other trailers to another property.

C. Student Representative Recruitment

- i. The new student specific form is ready and will be posted on the website shortly.

6. New Business

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

- i. Thaiss Park was fully funded.

B. FY26 Budget

- i. We requested three enhancements. They include \$879,000 for staffing, as overtime for events is underfunded. This money includes twelve temporary staffing positions converted to part time (5 Customer Service Representative positions, 2 for Parks Crew, 2 for the preschool teachers, a Special Events position, and a Cultural Arts position). We also requested to fully fund the City Jobs program as it is currently underfunded, and we are requesting \$80,000 for the Heritage programs which include Black History

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Month, Women's History Month, Pride, the Asian Festival, Hispanic History Month, and more. For staffing, we are requesting the Cultural Arts assistant manager position be made full time, the assistant Senior Center manager to be made full time, a Grants and Sponsorships position, as well as a deputy director position further down the line.

7. Parks and Recreation Department Report

A. Project Updates

- i. Master Plan
 - 1. Berry and Dunn will be attending the Chocolate Lover's Festival and will stay the week to run a variety of community outreach events. They also attended Fall Festival and gathered feedback from over 400 people.
- ii. Pat Rodio Park
 - 1. We have identified a location to move the playground to. We will be planting additional trees near the new location, and will have to do public outreach to explain why we have to move the playground location.
- iii. Van Dyck Redevelopment
 - 1. On hold until Thaiss Park construction starts.
- iv. Old Town Hall renovation
 - 1. We are still planning to close in February 2025. On schedule to start in February 2025.
- v. KJM Turf
 - 1. On hold until Thaiss Park construction starts.
- vi. St. Leo's Fence
 - 1. A fence was placed between Van Dyck Park and St. Leo the Great Church and school. Putting a trail in would be difficult, as we would have to get an easement from the archdiocese, who have indicated they would not be interested at this time.

B. Upcoming events and Programs

- i. Holiday Craft Show is at Fairfax High School this weekend! The Holiday Market is returning the first two weekends of December, with the Festival of Lights and Carols happening December 7th.

8. Stakeholder Updates

A. Commission on the Arts – Kelsey Sandoval

- i. ArtScreen – *Tim's Vermeer* on November 15th at 7 p.m. at SCSCC. OTHPS – *Main Street Chamber Players* on November 22nd at 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall. ArtScreen – *Spirited Away* on December 6 at 7 p.m. at SCSCC. A variety of holiday events including: a holiday

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concert at SCSCC on December 7th at 8 p.m., CFTC “Hershel and the Hanukkah Goblins” on December 5th at 8 p.m. at the JCC, OTHPS *Dox Nix* on December 13th at 8 p.m. at SCSCC, Main Street Community Band “Home for the Holidays” on December 15th at 4 p.m. at KJMS, and City of Fairfax Band “Christmas in Fairfax” on December 21st at 7 p.m. at FHS.

B. Environmental Sustainability Committee – Rusty Russell

- i. We have improved inappropriate recycling from 11% to 7%, saving ~\$170 per truck. There is a community forest map on the website where residents can drop a pin and make a comment related to the urban forest.

C. NOVA Parks – Douglas Stewart

- i. Reservoir Park opened recently. The Bull Run Festival of Lights opens November 15th. Dominion Power has been doing tree trimming on the W&OD trail.

D. Planning Commission – Matt Rice

- i. The Planning Commission has been reviewing the Urban Forest Master Plan.

E. School Board – Rachel McQuillen

- i. A big THANK YOU to everyone who supported the school bond referendum, which successfully passed with (when last checked) at over 69% approval. This is an important step toward enhancing our schools and providing better facilities for our community. We recently held our fourth 2024 Superintendent Advisory Team (SAT) meeting, where we discussed the next steps in the bond program. During breakout sessions, we gathered valuable feedback from parents, students, and faculty on what they'd like to see in the renovated schools. This input is essential in shaping the improvements to meet the community's needs. UPCOMING EVENT - Virginia School Board Association Conference - Next week, the School Board will be attending the annual Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) conference in Williamsburg, where we'll engage in further professional development and networking with other school leaders across the state. RECENT EVENTS - Purple Star School Recognition - Tonight, Fairfax High School was recognized as a Purple Star School, completing the application process to align with our commitment to have all schools designated as supportive of military-connected students. Career Day - This week, KJMS held its Career Day, providing students with

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an opportunity to explore various career paths and engage with professionals in our community. We even had a helicopter land at the school! SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS - The installation of the KJMS security vestibule is scheduled for completion over winter break. Additionally, Fairfax City Schools may participate in a pilot program for Security Alert Badges, similar to those recently implemented in Apalachee, GA, to enhance safety across our schools.

F. Senior Center – Chuck Paceley

- i. The new Senior Council was elected in September. The new Council is Debra Sparkman (Chair), Pat Giffey (Vice Chair), Barbara Smith (Secretary), Betsy Passuth (Treasurer), Deb DiFalco, Michael Kallini, Same Crumpler, and Chuck Paceley. The Thanksgiving Banquet will be held on Friday, November 22nd. The Holiday Party will be held on Friday, December 13th.

G. Student Representative – Position not filled.

- i. Position not filled.

9. Matters of the Members

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 10:15 p.m.