

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

December 12, 2024
City of Fairfax
3740 Blenheim Boulevard

PRAB Members Present:

Matt Rice
Rusty Russell
Sarah Ross, Chair
Douglas Stewart
Chuck Paceley
Kelsey Sandoval
Rachel McQuillen
Kelly O'Brien, Vice Chair
Yolanda Ortiz
Diana Gibson

Absent:

Charish Bishop
Frank Francis
Matt Hoffert

Staff:

Stacey Sommerfield
Kay Kaelin
Megan DuBois
Christine Vincent

COA Members Present:

Padma Prasad
Kelsey Sandoval
Yolanda Ortiz
Pat Gallagher
Melissa Grow
Brian Howell
Ruth Bandler
Ginny Cate
Sharon Clark Chang
Hermes Marticio

Student Representative:

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(position not filled)

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Sarah Ross at 7:02 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Agenda for December 12th, 2024 meeting.

Douglas Stewart motioned to adopt the amended agenda.

Rachel McQuillen seconded the motion.

Approved.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Approved.

4. Presentations and Introductions

A. Welcome and Introductions of Commission on the Arts Members

B. Discussion of the New Willard Sherwood Community Center & Possible Performing Arts Renovation

- i. Now that both groups have had the presentation from Grimm and Parker about the new center, a discussion was had about the proposed performing arts renovation to the existing Sherwood Community Center. The discussion included how the changes would affect the day to day use of the center, agreement about the fact that there are many unknown factors regarding the proposed addition, and overall agreement that the proposed renovation is a benefit for the building and community. There was unanimous agreement that the changes to the front desk area in the plans are a benefit and much needed, and that there is a need for a dedicated visual and performing arts space in the City of Fairfax.
- ii. The possible delay in the start of construction at Old Town Hall was brought up, and how that would cause issues with the COA being able to continue to offer their free programs like ArtScreen and concerts. There was a brief discussion about the planned Old Town Hall renovations, as the COA has not seen those plans yet.

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5. Old Business

A. Parks Foundation – Update

- i. The Parks Foundation was approved! The next time we return to Council, we will ask for \$50,000 as supplemental funding. Janet Jaworski has approached us about being a part of the Parks Foundation. We only need three members of the Parks Foundation to obtain a 501(c)3 number.

B. Thaiss Park - Update

- i. Fencing will go up in the next few days around Thaiss Park. We are working on getting the word out to the community about the construction starting. We are letting the neighborhoods know that while the cross county trail will still be open, they will not be able to access it from Thaiss Park while construction is going on. The Engage Fairfax website has been updated with all the relevant information.

6. New Business

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

- i. The Kids Bill of Rights in Sports was voted through. Now all current and new groups looking to operate kids sports programs in the City of Fairfax will have to meet these standards.

B. Student Representative Application Review

- i. We have received an application for the Student Representative position from a current 9th grader at Flint Hill Upper School. Douglas Stewart motioned to approve the application, Matt Rice seconded, approved. Madeline Clary will be the new Student Representative for PRAB.

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.
- ii. Pat Rodio Park
 - 1. We are getting playground designs together.
- iii. Van Dyck Redevelopment
 - 1. Funded, we are waiting for Thaiss Park to get underway before starting a new project.

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- iv. Old Town Hall renovation
 - 1. Will start in mid to late March now.
- v. KJM Turf
 - 1. Proposal for 30% design to get a better handle on the price is being reviewed by the City's engineer.
- B. Upcoming events and Programs
 - i. The second weekend of the Holiday Market is this weekend!
- 8. Stakeholder Updates
 - A. Commission on the Arts – Yolanda Ortiz
 - i. The concert scheduled for December 13th is postponed until June. The OTHPS will move to Sherwood starting in January.
 - B. Environmental Sustainability Committee – Rusty Russell
 - i. There will be new ESC members joining, as some members have moved away or been elected to City Council. Both the Chair and Vice Chair will be vacant. The ESC is making progress on both the Green Building Policy and the Urban Forestry Master Plan. The free tree giveaway has ended for fall but will start up again in the spring. The City of Fairfax has received a grant that will help put in 20 new EV charging stations at City Hall and Sherwood.
 - C. NOVA Parks – Douglas Stewart
 - i. This Sunday, there will be a talk about the history of the W&OD trail at the Fairfax City library. NOVA Parks has started a grant program for Title I schools for field trips to NOVA Parks.
 - D. Planning Commission – Matt Rice
 - i. The Planning Commission has been working on the CIP in their most recent meetings. The big items are the school renovations and the Fire Station 3 improvements. The recommendations and review should be finished in January.
 - E. School Board – Rachel McQuillen
 - i. The FHS baseball annual Christmas tree sales are underway at the FHS stadium. Working with the City's Procurement team to determine the best path forward regarding the stadium scoreboard. The cabling is done at DRES for security cameras and should be done shortly at Providence. The installation will take 8-10 weeks. The manufacturer of the security alert badges has recalled their badges. We are working with the Procurement team on the best path forward. The outdoor classroom at KJMS will be completed early 2025.

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F. Senior Center – Chuck Paceley

- i. 49 new first time seniors signed up in November with 1694 visits scanned. The Holiday Party will be on Friday, December 13th. Kathy Carter retired on November 30th, and her replacement, Daniel Novoa De Jesus, will start on December 16th.

G. Student Representative – Position not filled.

- i. Position not filled.

9. Matters of the Members

10. Meeting Adjournment

Time: 9:30 p.m.