

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2017

PRAB Present: Lola Skolnik, Brandon “Ric” Gordon, Michael Lee, Jake Chesnutt, Betty Sonneveldt

Staff Present: Nicole Ard, City Manager and Greg Varda; Assistant Director of Recreation

Excused Absence: Mayor Jordan and Julie McHale; Recreation Director

Unexcused Absence: Marc Siegel, Kelly Ivy, Lester Whitmer, Stephane Eding

Guest: Kristen Weaver - Greenbelt Station Resident

1. Meeting called to order at 7:35pm by PRAB Chair Lola Skolnik
2. October meeting minutes approved unanimously
3. Department Updates – Greg Varda
 - a. Rebekah Sutfin promoted to TR Supervisor
 - b. Prepping for the Festival of Lights events
 - c. Recreation and Parks Master Plan Survey is ongoing
 - i. Ric Gordan will help increase responses
 - ii. Kristen Weaver will email to Greenbelt Station residents
4. Buddy Attick Lake Park Master Plan (BALPMP)
 - a. Bring City Manager Ard up to date.
 - b. Skolnik gave an overview and history of the BALPMP
 - c. Development of an updated BALPMP
 - i. Obstacles
 1. Professional to write and help develop the BALPMP
 2. Turnover on PRAB and within Public Works Department
 3. Long process in adopting a Sustainable Land Care Policy (SLCP)
 - a. Schedule a 2nd work session
 - b. Need adopted SLCP to update the BALPMP
 - d. Betty Sonneveldt stated
 - i. Original vision of the BALPMP is not being followed
 - ii. Communication needs to be improved
 - e. Michael Lee
 - i. General frustration from PRAB on lack of follow up from the City of Greenbelt

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2017

5. BALP Parking Lot redo
 - a. Funded through a grant (\$187,700) from the Chesapeake Bay Trust's Prince George's County Stormwater Stewardship Grant Program
 - b. No connection to the park – Piecemealed project
6. Signage at BALP
 - a. Needs funding
 - b. What should it look like
 - c. What verbiage should be included
7. Picnic Areas
 - a. Large groups congregating monopolizing certain areas
 - b. Moving picnic tables
 - c. Group picnic area not inviting
 - i. Needs cover due to the loss of trees
8. Park Rangers
 - a. Ambassadors to the City. Not enforcers.
 - b. Skolnik – GPD should consider increase bike patrol at the BALP
9. Wildlife Management
 - a. Beavers are back and destroying tree vegetation
10. Question to City Manager Ard – How do we move the project forward?
 - a. Using Report Card
 - i. Looking at operational issues
 1. Signage and permit process
 - ii. Develop a capital improvement plans
 1. Needs
 2. Costs estimates
 3. Prioritizing projects
 - b. No more piecemeal projects
 - c. Greenbelt will be partnering with the University of Maryland Smart Growth Initiatives – Professors, grad students, under grads to assist advisory boards with projects. This project is being led by Andy Fellows, former Mayor of College Park.
 - d. Sustainable Land Care Policy is a high City Council priority
 - i. Work session to be scheduled soon
 - ii. PRAB expressed concern that the SLCP only includes input from GreenAces and does not consider input from other recognized City Boards/Committee
 - iii. Document does not say DRAFT
 - iv. Official documents should not 'quote' Wikipedia; according to PRAB
 - e. BALP Dam Repair
 - i. Referendum question for loan passed
 - ii. Low interest loan from the state

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2017

- iii. To be completed by 2019
 - iv. Free up capital project funds for other projects
11. Concerns
 - a. Skolnik – Students from University of MD should get background information before embarking on any project.
 - b. Sonneveldt – specific project already developed (outline and guidelines) before students begin work
 - c. Chesnutt – how can we improve Council Liaison attendance
 12. Ard's takeaway from the meeting
 - a. Better Communication between all parties
 - b. Codification of the Sustainable Land Care Policy
 - c. PRAB priority is BALPMP
 13. Next meeting Wednesday, December 13, 2017
 - a. Sonneveldt will be Acting Chair in Skolnik's absence
 14. Meeting Adjourned at 9:50pm

Respectfully Submitted By Greg Varda

Amended by Julie McHale 1/11/2017

Approved 5-0 by PRAB as amended on 12/13/17