

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes – May 16, 2018,

PRAB Present: Lola Skolnik, Michael Lee, Betty Sonneveldt, Lester Whitmer, Jake Chesnutt, Stephane Eding, Kristen Weaver

Un-Excused: Brandon “Ric” Gordon, Marc Siegel

Staff Present: Julie McHale, Director of Recreation

Council Liaison: Mayor Jordan, excused

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by PRAB Chair Lola Skolnik

- 1) Accepted April Minutes as Presented – approved 7-0
- 2) New Member Kristen Weaver, Greenbelt Station resident, was officially introduced to the PRAB Board.
- 3) Recreation Director gave her report which highlighted the following:
 - a. Review work-session on Master Plan survey results –
 - The meeting was held to review the survey findings.
 - Lola, Jake, Ric, Betty and Kristen were all in attendance at this meeting that was held with City Council **Wednesday, May 2, 2018.**
 - Members discussed the results of the meeting with those who couldn't attend the meeting. There was some confusion on why the 'entire report/findings' were not presented at this meeting
 - Members look forward to receiving the final report of the Master Plan findings in its entirety.
 - b. The new logo (successfully launched on March 31 at the Egg Hunt) will be introduced to the Franklin Park community at the Celebration of Spring on May 19. A new banners will be displayed in there will once again be giveaways which have the logo incorporated.
 - c. Recreation Budget Meeting with City Council was held on May 7
 - Lola, Jake, and Kristen were in attendance
 - Lola talked about and made a request to members to work with their community and write letters to the school board, council members, Prince George's County elected officials with regards to residents/recreation department having better communication and access to the Greenbelt Schools for recreation activities.
 - Members asked staff to follow up on potential field usage at ERHS and the Middle Schools in Greenbelt
 - d. In order for PRAB to go from an 11 member board to 9 members the following needs to happen:
 - Ordinance from Council
 - Grandfathered once approval of ordinance
 - That point further, once members leave, IF there are actually eleven (11) members, when there becomes two (2) vacancies they will NOT be filled and the Board will hold at nine (9) members.

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- This item has been brought to Council over the past several years, partly due to the fact, that over the years, the Board is never filled with eleven members.
- 4) Dog park
- a. A lengthy discussion was held reviewing the potential sites for a new dog park. The following questions were raised:
 - What constitutes a dog park? Is it required to have fencing, lighting, safe parking, available water, grass, gravel?
 - Can you specify the necessary requirements compared to the ‘would be nice amenities’ ?
 - Safe parking was a concern especially for the Greenbelt West suggested site
 - What kind of work needs to be done (for each site) and how much will it cost?
 - Is it easily accessible to all residents?
 - Depending on the cost and requirements, PRAB believes there should be a dog park in each area of Greenbelt
 - The sites discussed were Northway, the ‘scrapyard’ over in Greenbelt West, Buddy Attick Lake (dam area) and the “Candy Cane City’ site to be added back into the mix.
 - It was concluded that members needed more information before making a recommendation to Council. The item was tabled for the June meeting.
 - Staff will try to find out answers to some of the questions in preparation of the June meeting.
- 5) Basic Certification application for Greenbelt Archive Project was reviewed
- a. Cathie Meetre, from the Greenbelt News Review, submitted an application as a new group applying for Basic Certification status
 - The News Review is looking to house a scanner and reserve a room (for a 2-year time period) for volunteers to work scanning and processing 25,000 newspaper pages that are in fragile condition. The resulting scanned/PDF files will be made available to the City and become part of the Greenbelt Museums resources.
 - According to the application submitted by Cathie, their primary need for support is free space to process the newspapers; hoping to obtain this space in the CC.
 - b. PRAB believes the Greenbelt Archive Project is certainly a worthwhile mission, but states that the Basic Certification status is not the correct course to take.
 - There are specific restrictions/criteria set in the Basic Certification application process, for a reason; due to limited space available in the CC, PRAB does not want to set a precedent of relaxing their guidelines.
 - PRAB reviewed the application but does NOT support the application ‘as submitted’.
 - A motion made by Stephane and seconded by Michael stated “PRAB does not support the Greenbelt Archive Project Basic Certification application as submitted.” A vote was taken and there were 6-in support of this motion and 1-opposed to this motion

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- Further discussion was held trying to come up with creative or alternative spaces to house this project
 - If the application was resubmitted, falling within the guidelines of the Basic Certification guidelines, PRAB would be interested in meeting w/Ms. Meetre to further discuss the Greenbelt Archives Project
- 6) PRAB is interested in doing ‘something’ in recognition of Kelly Ivy’s dedicated volunteerism throughout his life in Greenbelt. A possible ‘Recreation scholarship’ was one of the items favored by the group. A brief discussion was continued as to what to do, but the Board in its entirety felt it was something the family needs to agree to and now is not the time to contact the family on this matter. A card will be sent to the family from the Board and this topic will be revisited at a later date.
- 7) Meeting Adjourned at 10:00pm

APPROVED by 5-0 VOTE ON 6-20-18