

**PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – September 18, 2019**

- PRESENT:** Jacob Chesnutt, Marc Siegel, Betty Sonneveldt, Kristen Weaver, Michael Lee, Lola Skolnik, and Lance Beasley
- Staff:** Greg Varda, Acting Director of Recreation Programs
Judith Howerton, Planning and Community Development
Jason Martin, Horticultural Supervisor
Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Assistant
- Excused:** Les Whitmer, Mayor Jordan, Ric Gordon
- Guests:** Mary Ann Canter
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Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Chair, Jake Chesnutt.

Presentation by the NRP Group LLC regarding overview of the preliminary development plan for the proposed Greenbelt Metro subdivision. The proposed project will be comprised of 2 apartment buildings with a total of 354 units, a clubhouse, as well as a variety of amenities that include but are not limited to a dog park, tot lot and community garden. Additionally street frontage improvements consistent with the Green Streets initiative approved by City Council along the Ivy Lane corridor will be incorporated. An evaluation is currently underway regarding adequate transportation, fire, police, and schools as well as recreation resources for this project. A traffic study that will include both the proposed Greenbelt Metro and proposed Beltway Plaza projects will also be completed to address the impact to the Ivy Lane and Cherrywood Terrace area.

PRAB members had questions regarding use of amenities by City residents, affordable housing and the impact on traffic in the Ivy Lane and Cherrywood Lane area.

Forest Preserve Stewardship Guidelines-Jason Martin Public Works Staff liaison to the **Forest Preserve Advisory Board** spoke with PRAB regarding possible changes in City code and to the Forest Preserve Stewardship Guidelines. FPAB was tasked by City Council to revise the Management Maintenance Guidelines with input from the Forest Health Assessment. The changes were made to give more clarity regarding Invasive Pest Management, trail maintenance, tract boundaries and overall maintenance of the Forest Preserve by Public Works.

PRAB recommends consistency in use of language and terminology throughout the document. Create educational literature regarding the Forest Preserve for the public. Display signage to increase awareness of the Preserve as well as compliance by those using the Preserve. Perform a survey of the Preserve to establish tract boundaries, clearly delineating the excepted areas.

Council Referrals:

Greenbelt Tennis Assoc. (GTA) request for reduced rate of tennis lights: GTA spends approximately \$500 on lights each season. However GTA currently receives use of Braden Field Tennis courts 1-6 on Tuesday and Fridays May 21 –October 25 at no cost. GTA currently holds Basic Certification status under the City's Recognition Group Policy and it is the recommendation of PRAB that GTA should follow the Recognition Group process and apply for a Project Grant for FY 2021.

Firefly Sanctuary: Mary Ann Canter

Ms. Canter would like the City to provide a Firefly sanctuary space in a portion of the Stream Valley park area. She outlined that certain portions of this area should not be landscaped in order to provide an appropriate environment for the fireflies as well as other pollinators to flourish. In addition Ms. Canter has requested educational signage to be placed at each end of the sanctuary space for residents detailing the use of space, as well as the importance of fireflies as pollinators.

PRAB supports Ms. Canter moving forward investigating and conducting more research on establishing a sanctuary space.

New Business:

Buddy Attick Lake Park update: Work on the sand filter and new manhole has begun. The rate of drainage of the Lake is approximately 6" a day, and an additional 4' of drainage maybe be needed to repair the wall. Work to save the fish and turtles is underway as the water level is lowered. The Lake path may close in late November or early December, remaining closed until the project is complete. An early spring completion is estimated.

Repurposing Lakecrest Drive tennis courts to pickle ball courts: This is a great location. Limit the number of courts to 3, due to limited parking in the area. PRAB recommends the repurposing of these courts to pickle ball courts

Old Business: tabled for next meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Cathy Pracht, Administrative Assistant