

**Park and Recreation Advisory Board
Monthly Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2009**

Present: Lola Skolnik, Betty Sonneveldt, Chris Husker, Marc Siegel, Kelly Ivy, John Winfrey,
Paul Sabol and Jay Shah
Staff: Hank Irving, Director of Recreation, Leslie Riddle, Supervisor of Parks
Excused: Rachel McMullin, Melissa Hines-Rodriquez, Rick Ransom
Council: Konrad Herling, Council Member, was absent due to illness

- January minutes approved 8-0
- Betty Sonneveldt nominated by Lola Skolnik to be Recording Secretary. Marc Siegel seconded. Sonneveldt was elected with no dissenting votes.
- Trails “Maintenance Request and Report” was addressed by Leslie Riddle
 - ✓ Follow-up to concerns submitted by PRAB members
 - ✓ Lola’s and Betty’s concerns not included in forwarded packet, but will be submitted to Leslie – Lola and Betty both related their concerns about specific locations noted in their reports
 - ✓ Leslie said that citizens of Greenbelt do call in with requests and concerns and she encourages emails from people. She said she responded immediately to emails.
 - ✓ Leslie related that most of focus is on Buddy Attic Lake park and Schrom Hills Park and that there are limited resources – there is one person assigned to tree work
 - ✓ Leslie stated that the PRAB report is a good thing because it will help identify areas in need of maintenance and that she will read the report and address as many concerns as possible. She stated that she couldn’t promise long-term projects because of budget constraints.
 - ✓ Paul mentioned the serious drainage problem along the tennis courts at Braden Field. Leslie agreed that this area needs serious consideration and drainage repairs.
 - ✓ All agreed that walking is a recreational activity and that paths need to be maintained
 - ✓ Marc suggested organizing a volunteer day as a solution to some problems
 - ✓ John suggested an “Adopt a Trail” project to involve community groups and organizations in the maintenance of the paths.
 - ✓ Lola inquired if Program Open Space funds were available for things like paths – Hank said that yes, paths were originally funded. There have been some questions about funding for indoor facilities.
 - ✓ Hank reminded PRAB members that the Trail Maintenance Report would be to Public Works and not to City Council
- Greenbelt Lake – Leslie said that she would like to do a lake clean-up, but that draining the lake is too costly, and that it is a passé solution that takes too much of an environmental toll. She stated that Public Works is taking significant steps in taking care of the lake
 - ✓ Public Works is getting weed rakes to get rid of invasive aquatics
 - ✓ Public Works wants to get a boat to get trash out of the lake
 - ✓ Sides of the lake are being cleaned up
 - ✓ The four bays will be dredged at some point

- ✓ The water quality in the lake is good
 - ✓ Lots of sediment and detritus is natural
 - ✓ Removing exotic weeds and duckweed will raise oxygen levels
 - ✓ Bubblers do work, but Greenbelt Lake is too large and it would be too expensive for bubblers
 - ✓ Dredged material is now considered hazardous waste and must have specific , costly disposal
- Baseball field preparation
 - ✓ Kelly asked if the baseball fields at Braden were ready for practice to begin in April
 - ✓ Leslie stated that they were way ahead of last year and that they had drilled cores and were on top of the field preparation this year
- Restrooms at Greenbelt Lake!!!!!!!!!!
 - ✓ Leslie stated that restrooms should be completed by July at the latest, but then said that completion may be delayed until August. She stated that the Lake Park master plan was responsible for improved landscaping around the facilities.
 - ✓ Lola will do the ceremonial using of the facilities (I was told to include this in the minutes by several people)
- Request for City recognition by Chesapeake Education Arts Research Society (CHEARS)
 - ✓ Margaret and Bob Cahalan presented the organization and listed its mission and activities
 - ✓ Margaret and Bob passed out brochures to PRAB.
 - ✓ Wants recognition to get use of city facilities, most specifically for the Green Man Festival
 - ✓ Hank and PRAB members expressed concern about a community demonstration and landscaping garden near the Community Center, and Leslie expressed concern that care of the garden might fall back on Public Works.
 - ✓ PRAB members asked if CHEARS has met with the Garden Club and they said they had
 - ✓ Paul clarified that the group's primary purpose is to educate the public on environmental issues
 - ✓ Group is a 501 3C – recognition could bring more partnerships to the group, which is already partnered with many groups
 - ✓ Kelly proposed recommendation for recognition by Council. Paul seconded. The vote was 8-0 for recommendation
- Group Budget Status FY 2010
 - ✓ There are 7 contribution groups – only one, Senior Softball, has submitted so far. Requests are due Friday, February 20, 2009.
 - ✓ PRAB reviews budgets of contribution groups as a courtesy to the organizations before the organizations appear before City Council.
 - ✓ Discussion followed that included the necessity to meet with the groups at all, how many groups need to be seen, which groups may have problems, the process for determining which groups to see, and the scheduling
 - ✓ It was decided to keep both scheduled PRAB meeting dates in March and to have all 7 contribution groups come in to meet with PRAB. 5 groups will meet with PRAB on March 18. Two, The Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club and the Greenbelt Youth Double Dutch League, will meet with PRAB on March 25.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm