

Town of Fairfax

Minutes of
Fairfax Parks and Recreation Commission
Monday, June 10, 2024
5:30 p.m.-9:00 pm
Women's Club
46 Park Road

PARC Commissioners in attendance: Lisa Hillstrom, Rachel Fischbein, Chris Arnold. Absent: Sisi Parry-Hansen, Lita Zigounakis; Staff in attendance: Loren Umbertis, Public Works Director; Maria Baird, Recreation & Community Services Manager; Others in attendance: Jon Elkin, Jody Timms

The special meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

The minutes of the May 13th meeting were approved.

New Business

- 1. Art in the Parkade foundation-** the group invited Loren Umbertis, Public Works Director, to the meeting so they could obtain information on the foundation of the Art in the Parkade exhibit site. Loren stated that water and electricity are available at the site. Sharon Virtue, one of the Artists-in-Residents, will be applying a ceramic mosaic design at the base of the installation. Public Works has approved her work, and Loren has provided Sharon with safety glasses and gloves. The work days will take place on June 14th & 15th. Maria met with Sharon earlier in the day, and she has secured 4-5 volunteers but would like an additional 10 or 11 people. In addition to this mosaic project, PARC would like a better signage board, so they can highlight the artist whose art is being exhibited. Currently the sign that is posted at the base just advertises the program and to get in touch with Maria if there is interest in showcasing art. Additionally, PARC would like lighting to illuminate the area at night. Jody mentioned that the dark sky policy should be taken into consideration. Loren added that he will help secure the signage and lighting once the choices are made.
- 2. Consideration of Film Night at the Women's Club-** Jody Timms attended the meeting on behalf of the Climate Action Committee to request permission to host a "Film Night" at the Women's Club on June 28th at 7 pm. The film will be "The Scale of Hope" a movie made by Molly Kawahata on climate, climbing, and the fight for systemic change. She has been given a budget of \$100 which will be used to buy popcorn and cookies for the audience. **ACTION ITEM: Chris made a motion to approve the film night, Rachel seconded, Lisa voted in favor.**
- 3. Nomination for Citizen of the Year Award -** Maria stated that Mayor Coler would like to honor nurse Sandy Adler, a Fairfax resident who was recently featured in the Marin Independent Journal. After some discussion, PARC members decided that they would like

to open the category up for consideration, and have candidates apply and then select a winner for Citizen of the Year.

4. **Consideration of dog park in Fairfax** – Jon Elkin gave an update on the dog park topic. He visited the Wall Property, which had been suggested as a potential site for the dog park, but determined the property does not have the right topography since it is not flat and will not be feasible as a dog park. He also stated that the site that PARC had looked at during the previous meeting was split between the town, the Ross Valley School District, and School Street Plaza, which makes it an undesirable location since there would be 3 property owners. The group proceeded to walk outside the Women’s Club on Peri Park, to a spot that was identified by Loren to Maria as a potential location for the dog park. The site is long and narrow, but could accommodate a fenced dog park. Loren also indicated he is looking at that location as a possible staging area for debris pulled from the creek, and that the ground may be lowered slightly to serve as a flood detention basin, but that would not prohibit a dog park from being able to be put in. There was some discussion of whether removal of the bocce ball courts could occur to enlarge the space, but Maria stated that the Ross Valley Seniors use the bocce ball court and that might dampen the enthusiasm of the dog park if an amenity is removed. The next step will be for Loren to research if there is any environmental concern with a dog park being located within that close proximity of the creek. He will let the group know. Also, he referenced that the City of Sausalito, where he previously worked, had put in a dog park, and shared information with the group on the process. Similar to Red Hill Dog Park, a group of volunteer citizens should be engaged to help create the dog park. Jon Elkin has a couple of people who are interested and will engage a few more. The other issue is funding. The Town does not have designated funding for a dog park, so a GoFundMe would need to be created to help secure donations for a dog park. Jon will initiate this, and PARC members will help with fundraising efforts.
5. **Next meeting**- The next meeting will take place on July 8th. That meeting will also start earlier at 5:30 so that the group can meet at the Parkade to do an on-site inspection of the area for the art installations signage and lighting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.