



MINUTES
Mecklenburg County Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners

August 8, 2006

North Carolina
Mecklenburg County

The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met in the Administrative Office Building Conference Room B at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 8, 2006.

ATTENDENCE

Present: Chairman Robert Patterson and Commissioners:
John Barry
Bill Brawley
James Brown
William Chandler
Mary Wilson
Larry Huelsman
Laura McClettie
Scott McClure, Vice Chairman
Teresa Sharp
Stephanie Taylor
Dot Law, Interim Director

Absent: Owen Furuseth
Brad Pearce, Executive Secretary

Visitors: Carrie Levine, Charlotte Observer

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patterson, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, after which, the following matters were addressed:

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

(1) Introductions

a. The Commissioners introduced themselves individually to the audience and referenced the main neighborhoods and parks in their Divisions.

(2) Proclamations and Awards

a. Chair Patterson recognized Jeff Robinson, Division Director of Specialized Maintenance and Park Services. Mr. Robinson then recognized and announced the retirement of Joe N. Coleman after 30 years with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, praising Mr. Coleman on many levels as an exceptional employee who will be greatly missed.

(3) Public Appearance

(4) Appointments – Advisory Councils

a. SWPD Commissioner Barry made a motion to nominate Douglas Burnett to an expired term on the SWPD Advisory Council (expiring 6/2009) and Gary Rhinhart to an unexpired term (expiring 6/2007), which was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and approved unanimously.

b. Tennis Commissioner McClettie made a motion to re-appoint Jacquelin Peters and Chester Thomas to two (2) expired terms on the SWPD Tennis Advisory Council (expiring 6/2009), which was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.

c. Renaissance Golf Deferred by Commissioner Brawley.

d. NEPD Deferred by Chair Patterson in the absence of Commissioner Furuseth.

e. Equestrian Deferred by Commissioner McClure.

f. Stewardship Commissioner Brown made a motion to nominate Carla Vitez, Doug Shoemaker and Kenneth Kneidel to three (3) expired terms on the Stewardship Advisor Council (expiring 6/2009), which was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and approved unanimously.

g. Therapeutic Recreation Deferred by Chair Patterson until the Chair position on this council is filled.

(5) Public Hearings

None

(6) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(7) Director's Report

CONSENT ITEMS

(8) Minutes for PRC Meeting of July 11, 2006

Commissioner Brawley asked for a correction in the minutes of July, 2006 under Park Commissioner's Reports and Request, last paragraph. The minutes read that the motion was made by Chair Patterson. The minutes should read that the motion was made by Commissioner Brawley. Motion was then made by Commissioner Brawley to approve the minutes as amended, which was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley to approve all other Consent Items (7a through 7g) which was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.

(9) Minutes and Reports: *Advisory Councils/Committees/Subcommittees/Towns*

Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley to approve the Minutes and Reports, which was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and approved unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS

(10) Chair Patterson recognized James Alsop, Division Director Enterprise Services and Greg Jackson, Division Director Recreation and Operation Services, to give a power point presentation supporting the recommendation to the BOCC to allocate the \$8.0 million in 2004 bonds for sportsplex partnerships per the Sportsplex Review and Selection Committee recommendation *as follows:*

- \$5.0 Million to: Matthews Sportsplex
- \$2.0 Million to: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church
- \$1.0 Million to: Town of Huntersville

Motion was made by Commissioner Huelsman to accept the recommendation as presented and proposed by the Sportsplex Selection Committee, which was seconded by Commissioner McClettie and approved unanimously *10 – 0 with (2) Commissioners absent; Commissioner Furueth and Commissioner Pearce; and Commissioner Wilson excused due her relationship with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.*

Note: Of the 10 proposals submitted for consideration, the Sportsplex Review and Selection Committee selected (4) proposals for formal presentations for consideration of the \$8.0 million allocation. Those proposals came from: Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, Queens University of Charlotte, Town of Huntersville and Town of Matthews. Questions and concerns raised by the Commissioners can be found on video tape in the Director's Office.

A copy of the power point presentation and the Sportsplex Selection Committee Executive Summary is on file in the Director's Office.

(11) Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to approve the NEPD Advisory Council's recommendation to name the athletic fields on Mallard Creek Church Road to "Kirk Farm Fields", which was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.

Note: These soccer fields currently have no official Park and Recreation name and have been unofficially known as the "CITGO" fields. The Kirk family has farmed the soccer fields land for over four generations and at had made a land grant to UNCC before eventually becoming the property of Mecklenburg County. Direct and indirect members of the Kirk family still live in the University area.

A copy of the Naming/Renaming application and petition in support of naming these fields are on file in the Director's office.

(12) Motion was made by Commissioner Chandler to approve the endorsement of the Resolution for Restructuring the Cooperative Extension Service Advisory Council (CESAC) of Mecklenburg County, which was seconded by Commissioner Taylor.

Note: Endorsement of this resolution will complete the incorporation of Cooperative Extension Services into Park and Recreation. The primary function of the CESAC will be to advise the PRC and BOCC. The council will continue to advise the State Extension Advisory Board and NC State University. The structure of the council will mirror the PRC structure with a Chair, Vice Chair and Executive Secretary and will have the same geographic diversity requirements.

A copy of the resolution is on file in the Director's office.

PARK COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS

(13) Chair Patterson reported on the Citizen-Board Member (CBM) State Forum held in Greensboro August 3-5, 2006 and attended by several of the PRC members. He announced and congratulated Commissioner Huelsman on being elected to the position of Chair Elect for the CBM, North Carolina 2007/2008.

(14) Chair Patterson distributed an updated Park and Recreation Commissioner Assignment roster for 2006 – 2007. The roster was reviewed for corrections and additions and Staff will complete with the insertion of the Staff Liaison for each council. It was noted that the Aquatics and Soccer Advisory Councils were currently without Chairs. Commissioner Taylor volunteered to Chair the Aquatics Council and Commissioner Wilson volunteered to Chair the Soccer Council.

(15) Commissioner Brawley raised a concern regarding the custom that serving on a Golf

Advisory Council allows those members some fashion of free golf play. He said he was under the impression that opportunity was only on the day of the council meeting and was considered a site inspection for the purpose of reporting course conditions to the operator. However, this policy is interpreted differently and is not consistent from one course to the other. Commissioner Brawley suggested that the Board as a group decide on a policy.

Chair Patterson suggested the policy be for free golf on the day of the advisory council meeting only.

Motion was made by Commissioner McClettie that PRC and advisory council members play free golf once a month, which was seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Interim Director, Dot Law asked that James Alsop clarify the bylaws before the Board went any further. Alsop stated that the bylaws prohibit the acceptance of gifts or compensation for serving on a council. He advised the PRC to carefully following the bylaws with consideration to the intent of their philosophy.

An amended motion was made by Commissioner McClettie to allow free play for the golf advisory council members on the day of the advisory council meeting.

Commissioner Brawley reiterated that adherence to the bylaws would mean no free play, but if the operators allowed free golf for the advisory council members for the purpose of input on the condition of the course, that would be a decision of the operator and not an official action from the Board.

Substitute motion was made by Commissioner Brown that the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Board of Commissioners do not encourage payment for any advisory council member no matter which advisory council they serve on and if a golf course operator decides to give free golf that would be the sole responsibility of the operator and the Board would not have anything to do with that decision, which was accepted as a substitute motion and seconded by Commissioner McClettie and approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson for the purpose of consistency among the golf courses that staff arrange a meeting with the operators to discuss resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.

Commissioners' Comments

(16) Commission McClure reminded Board members and Staff of the BBQ at the Equestrian Center at Latta Plantation Nature Preserve on Monday, August 28, 2006 at 6:00 pm. This event is being hosted by the Equestrian Center Citizens Advisory Council.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the PRC Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Equestrian Advisory Council BBQ
Monday, August 28, 2006
6:00 PM
Latta Plantation Nature Preserve
- PRC Meeting
Tuesday, September 12, 2006
6:00 PM
AOB Conference Room B

Video archives of all meetings are on file in the Director's office.

