

**AMENDED 10/13/06**

**AMENDED 11/15/06**



## **MINUTES**

### **Mecklenburg County Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners**

**September 12, 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, September 12, 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  
Owen Furuseth  
Brad Pearce  
Dot Law, Interim Director

**Absent:** Stephanie Taylor

**Visitors:** Carrie Levine, Charlotte Observer  
LtCol Darryl G. Barnes, USMC  
Major Ed Moen, USMC  
Michael Smith, Charlotte Center City Partners  
Meg McElwain, Magnolia Marketing  
Harry L. Jones, Sr., County Manager  
Bobbie Shields, General Manager

**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 districts as well as an update of the current events, programs and points of interest.

### **(2) Proclamations and Awards**

a. Chair Patterson recognized James Alsop, Division Director Enterprise Services. Mr. Alsop then recognized Rodney Sellers, Pool Supervisor at the Mecklenburg Aquatic Center. Mr. Alsop congratulated Mr. Sellers on being awarded the NaCo Program Achievement Award for Growing Minority Aquatics - Queen City Dolphins Swim Team. Mr. Alsop noted that Mr. Sellers volunteered to start this swim team after observing that there was a great need for teaching minority children the skill of swimming.

*Note: The goal of starting a minority swim team was to teach discipline, improve fitness and teach children the great sport of swimming. The Queen City Dolphins hosted a national minority swim meet, drawing 480 minority swimmers to the Aquatic Center here in Charlotte. The meeting included a two-day autograph session by an Olympian.*

b. Chair Patterson recognized Lola Massad, Division Director Wellness and Recreation Center Services. Ms. Massad then recognized James Worsley, Select Populations Coordinator with the Therapeutic Recreation Division, working with homeless and homeless youth. Ms. Massad congratulated Mr. Worsley on being awarded for the second year in a row the NaCo Program Achievement Award for The Young Achievers, a program for homeless youth created in conjunction with CMS, Walter G. Byers Elementary School and A Child's Place.

*Note: This after school program improved self-esteem and provided recreational and educational resources for homeless youth that otherwise would not have been available to them. Its innovative design has been used as a model for other counties.*

c. Chair Patterson recognized Mario Chang, Senior Fiscal Administrator. Mr. Chang then recognized Sandy Goodwin, IT Business Analyst and David Suddreth, Senior Engineering Technician (not present) for the NaCo Program Achievement Award "Catch a Wave" Wi-Fi. Mr. Chang congratulated these two employees for installing the Wi-Fi network at Freedom Park, making it possible for visitors to have wireless internet access anywhere in the park, the conference center and the nature center.

*Note: This service, part of the overall eGovernment initiative to offer improved services to the residents of Mecklenburg County, is available at no charge to park visitors.*

d. Chair Patterson recognized Major Ed Moen and Lt. Col. Darryl Barnes. Lt. Col. Barnes presented a letter of appreciation to Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation for their support during the United States Marine Corps' Battle Colors Detachment performance during the 2006 Nightbeat Drum and Bugle Corps Competition. Lt. Col. Barnes said that the event would not have been possible without Park and Recreation support in terms of arrangements at Grady Cole, advertising, and the actual performance.

**(3) Public Appearance**

None

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**(4)** Chair Patterson recognized Harry L. Jones, Sr., County Manager. Mr. Jones advised that his purpose for the evening was to update the board on where the county was relative to the search for the new Park and Recreation Director. He stated that Waters-Oldani Executive Recruitment out of Dallas Texas has been hired to take the lead on the search and a job profile was expected to be completed by the end of the week, which, after reviewing and approving would go public for applications. Mr. Jones continued by advising the board and audience of the following points surrounding this search.

- The deadline for submission of all applications will be October 16, 2006.
- The dynamics of the role and involvement of the board members and other employees in this interview process are still being worked through.
- It is the hope of county management to have the position filled by the end of January, 2007. However, given how critically important this position is to the citizens of Mecklenburg County and the fact that the department has good interim leadership, the process will not be rushed.
- Andrea Sims, Principal, of Waters-Oldani will be attending the NRPA Conference in Seattle where she will be conducting select interviews. In the interest of confidentiality, Ms. Sims advised against attendance at this conference by any of the PRC Board members as was originally considered.
- This position is getting considerable public attention in North Carolina and across the country from interested individuals wanting to come to Mecklenburg County for this particular position.
- The completed profile will be forwarded to the PRC members for review and comments.

*Note: Questions and comments from the Board members followed. Commissioner Pearce expressed concern regarding the short notice received for the interview session with Waters-Oldani. Commissioner McClure asked if there were plans for structural changes within the department, to which Mr. Jones responded that if Dot Law wanted to make any structural changes, that would be up to her and assured the Board that he has not made any plans for structural changes while in the course of pursuing a new Director. Commissioner Chandler, having missed the Waters-Oldani interview, said that he understood he would get a phone interview with Ms. Sims but had not yet heard from her. Commissioner Chandler was advised to e-mail her to arrange the phone interview. Mr. Jones concluded his report by thanking the*

*Board and Staff for the jobs they do for Mecklenburg County.*

(5) Chair Patterson recognized Michael Smith, President, Charlotte Center City Partners. Mr. Smith gave an update and status report on the “Parks, a Ballpark & a Village” concept presented to the PRC the first of the year, noting that this was not a new plan but a report on the ongoing efforts to achieve the existing one. At the conclusion of Mr. Smith’s presentation, there was extensive discussion and concerns expressed by the following members of the Board:

- Commissioner Patterson inquired as to the size of **The Green**. Mr. Smith responded **the total would be 4 acres**.
- Commissioner McClettie asked for clarification on the comments made by Mr. Smith with regard to a High School in 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward. Mr. Smith responded this was an ongoing idea being discussed with CMS and would be similar to High Schools in other large cities. It would be a magnet type school located in an office complex.
- Commissioner Patterson asked if consideration was being given to changing one-way streets to two-way streets. Mr. Smith replied there was opportunity in 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward and possibly 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Commissioner Brawley noted that Civitas was hired by the City of Charlotte looking for development opportunities to help Trade and Tryon and had not been part of the Park and Recreation park planning process. Mr. Smith noted they had been hired by the Planning Commission and Real Estate Services. Commissioner Brawley responded Park and Recreation Commission had not been involved in the process.
- Commissioner Brawley expressed additional concerns as follows:
  - If TIFs from county property taxes were used to reimburse CMS would there be adequate funding available for services for the residents of that area.
  - If the two acre park in 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward shown in Mr. Smith’s presentation was included in the Park and Recreation CNA (*Note: Commissioner Patterson said that he thought it was consistent with the original 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward Master Plan and Interim Director Dot Law said that it was in the 30 Year CNA Plan*)
  - Why would we want Spirit Square as part of the exchanges between the City and the County?
  - If money for any of the work being done on the Knights stadium was coming from the 2004 park bonds, since that referendum contained language that said none of the monies from the park bonds could be used to support a professional sports franchise. (*Note: Mr. Shields said that some money had been used but would be replenished from the revenue being earned from that site, ultimately resulting in zero bond dollars being used on that site.*)
  - Expressed concern that even though he liked Mr. Smith’s plan, he did not want to break a campaign promise that said that land would be a park.
- Commissioner Huelsman expressed the following concerns:

- Regarding Mr. Smith's comment that everyone would be given their full value in interest. He noted that the presentation showed \$28 million was for 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward Park and wanted to know who was going to pay the interest to retain that debt. (*Note: Mr. Smith said the properties would be swapped at the exact value so that the county would still own the same amount of value of land.*)
- Concern regarding Mr. Smith's statement that the process of paying Mass Mutual back included money from Park and Recreation. Where was that money coming from? Was it from future park bonds? (*Note: Mr. Smith responded that if, through the process, it is determined a park will go there, it would be paid for with bond money or they would pay the bill and be reimbursed.*) Commissioner Huelsman continued by expressing concern for the new Commissioners and the fact that this will be an issue to be dealt with as they look at park bonds in 2009.
- Express the need for more dialogue between Center City Partners and Park and Recreation Strategic Planning and Long Range Financing Committee so that as a 30 Year CNA draws closer documents will show that this plan has been thought out.
- Commissioner McClure expressed concern that CCP should over communicate to the public that the project will use zero tax dollars and that it is Mecklenburg County land being used.
- Commissioner Pearce expressed his concern, noting how rapidly things change, that we should not be locked in to 30 year CNA plans; we should be flexible as well as honor our obligations and commitments to the community.
- Commissioner Chandler said that he felt this project would come to pass. He expressed confidence in the integrity of the PRC, BOCC and CCP with respect to the voters and confidence that Park and Recreation Staff, the BOCC, CCP and the PRC will ensure that we will be in a position to pass a bond when that time comes.
- Commissioner Brown asked if the Ed Center was not already county owned land. Mr. Smith answered that no, CMS owns its own land.

*Note: All discussion can be viewed on the video recording of this meeting on file in the Director's office. A hard copy of Michael Smith's Powerpoint Presentation will be included in the September 12, 2006 PRC Meeting binder housed in the Director's office.*

**(6)** Chair Patterson recognized Meg McElwain, LSC GW Consultant. Ms. McElwain introduced herself as the community liaison for the LSC GW, contracted through Partners for Parks. She stated that one of her main roles was to communicate with the constituents, neighborhoods, stakeholders and leadership associated with the LSC GW project to make sure there is cohesive communication. Ms. McElwain continued that she also educates on Greenways, specifically Little Sugar Creek Greenway, builds support in the community, helps establish partnerships and manages media relations related to the LSC GW project. She then continued with a slide show presentation of the following:

- LSC GW Westfield Portion
- Liz Hair Nature Walk
- Freedom Park Area
- Volunteer day by Foundation for the Carolina's
- Liz Hair Dedication
- CPCC Portion and Changes

Ms. McElwain concluded with information regarding upcoming plans and events as follows:

- October 24 – 26, 2006 Cultivating Creative Communities Conference put on by Partners for Livable Communities which will include a LSC GW Mobile Workshop.
- Midtown Ground Breaking
- Green Communities Conference
- Partners for Parks Fund Raiser
- On going Brick sales

#### **(4) Appointments – Advisory Councils**

- a. Aquatic: In the absence of Commissioner Taylor, the Aquatic nominations were deferred to the October 10, 2006 PRC Meeting.
- b. CT Myers Golf: Motion was made by Commissioner McClettie to appoint Donald D. Smith to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2007, which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.
- c. East: Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to appoint Karen Redfern and Roger Raymer to unexpired terms, expiring 6/2007 and to reappoint Mitchell Smith to an expired term, expiring 6/2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- d. Greenway: Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to reappoint Priscilla Laula to an expired term, expiring 6/2009 and to defer the remaining nominations to the October 10, 2006 PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- e. North: In the absence of Commissioner Taylor the NPD nominations were deferred to the October 10, 2006 PRC meeting.
- f. Northeast: Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to reappoint Joseph McFadyen to an expired term, expiring 6/2009 and to appoint Richmond Baker to an expired term, expiring 6/2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- g. Northwest: Nominations for the NRPD were deferred to the October 10, 2006 PRC meeting by Commissioner Pearce.
- h. Renaissance Golf: Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to reappoint Marvin Jordan to an expired term, expiring 6/2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.

i. Soccer: Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to reappoint Jeff Haney to an expired term, expiring 6/2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and approved unanimously.

j. South: Motion was made by Commissioner Huelsman to appoint Mark Francis to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.

k. Tennis: Motion was made by Commissioner McClettie to reappoint William Brown to an expired term, expiring 6/2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and approved unanimously.

l. Tradition Golf: Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseh to reappoint Eugene Neal to an expired term and appoint Victor Brown to an expired term both expiring 6/2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and approved unanimously.

**(5) Public Hearings**

None

**(6) Advisory Council – Committee Reports**

None

**(7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**a. Update on Sportsplex Recommendations. General Manger, Bobbie Shields**

Mr. Shields announced that he was here tonight to discuss his concerns and observations regarding the Sportsplex proposals as well as to share information regarding the proposed sell of a portion of the 485 property to Keith Corporation as was outlined in the Matthews Sportsplex proposal. Mr. Shields stated his understanding of the Matthews proposal and points that may not have been considered:

- Mecklenburg County would own the Sportsplex property, but a portion of the land would be sold with the revenue from the sale going back into the Sportsplex. Mr. Shields advised that this would require an upset bid process.
- The County would operate the Sportsplex
- It is doubtful the vision for this Sportsplex can be achieved with the funding proposed
- Talk of using tax incremental financing towards the Sportsplex.

*Note: Mr. Shields did not feel the Matthews Sportsplex project could be achieved as outlined in the proposal. He asked that the Board reconsider this proposal by clearly identifying the needs, putting together a good plan (all the way to the schematic stage) in conjunction with the Town of Matthews, and preparing a cost estimate that would totally fund the vision Park and*

*Recreation has for this Sportsplex.*

After much discussion regarding Mr. Shield's comments and suggestions, the Board concluded that the Sportsplex Proposal was properly compiled according to the criteria set by the Sportsplex selection committee. Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley to go forward with the recommendations as already approved by the Board, which was seconded by Commissioner Huelsman and approved unanimously 10 – 0. Commissioner Wilson recused herself from discussion or vote due to her relationship with Friendship Baptist Church. Commissioner Pearce was absent at the time of the vote as well as Commissioner Taylor.

**b.** Staff Update: Dot Law, Interim Director

Ms. Law thanked the Commission for their support since Mr. Weston's retirement. She reminded the Board that Staff is available to answer any questions they may have, but also reminded them that any assignments or work they might have for Staff should come through her first.

### **CONSENT ITEMS**

**(8) Minutes for PRC Meeting of August 8, 2006**

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

Commissioner Huelsman asked for a correction in # 10 of the minutes of August, 2006 under Staff Reports and Request to include the allocation amounts for each proposal of \$5 million for the Matthews Sportsplex, \$2 million for Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and \$1 million for the Town of Huntersville and to amend the minutes to reflect that the vote was approved unanimously 10 – 0 with two (2) Commissioners absent and Commissioner Wilson recused due to her relationship with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Mr. Huelsman also asked for a typo correction in # 14 under Park Commissioners Reports and Requests from 2006 – 1007 to 2006 – 2007.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley to approve the consent items as amended, which was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and approved unanimously.

### **STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

### **PARK COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the PRC Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.



**Upcoming Meetings and Events**

PRC Meeting  
Tuesday, October 10, 2006  
6:00 PM  
AOB Conference Room B

NRPA Conference  
October 10 – 13, 2006  
Seattle, Washington

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