

AMENDED
1-30-07



MINUTES
Mecklenburg County Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners

November 14, 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, November 14, 2006.

ATTENDENCE

Present: Chairman Robert Patterson and Commissioners:
John Barry
Bill Brawley
James Brown
William Chandler
Larry Huelsman
Laura McClettie
Scott McClure, Vice Chairman
Brad Pearce, Executive Secretary
Teresa Sharp
Stephanie Taylor
Owen Furuseth

Absent: Mary Wilson

Visitors: Bobbie Shields

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order 6:00 PM 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.

(1A) Special Report – Bobbie Shields

General Manager Bobbie Shields stated that he was at the PRC meeting to share information regarding:

- (a) New County Logo
- (b) Sportsplex Update
- (c) Land Swap

New County Logo: Mr. Shields presented the new county logo being unveiled at the next BOCC meeting. The intent is to bring consistency to the county's branding with a common marketing logo to be used by every county department; a logo that will be synonymous with Mecklenburg County much like the "crown" is for the City of Charlotte. Mr. Shields continued with various use policies for the new logo on vehicles, business cards, letterheads, brochures, welcome signs and other applications. It was noted, however, that the new logo would not replace the County Seal used on all official correspondence.

Comments:

Commissioner Huelsman suggested that Mr. Shields share the new logo with the Charlotte Regional Visitor's Authority currently conducting regional branding workshops. Mr. Shields advised that he would speak with Tim Newman.

Commissioner McClure asked if the "Hiker" and "The Natural Place To Be" would be replaced by the new logo and if so would there be a transitional period. Mr. Shields said they would be replaced by the new logo over a period of time.

Commissioner Brown asked if Ray would be replaced. Interim Director Dot Law answered that Ray is classified as a mascot and would not be replaced per Danny Diehl of PS & I.

Sportsplex Update: Mr. Shields gave an update from the BOCC meeting regarding the PRC Sportsplex recommendations. One million was approved for Huntersville and the County Manager was directed to negotiate agreements with the Town of Matthews with five million earmarked for the Matthews Sportsplex and to negotiate agreements with Friendship Baptist Church with two million earmarked for Friendship's Sportsplex and to bring the "draft" agreements back to the Board for their approval.

Comments:

Chair Patterson asked if the Board of County Commissioners understood this was not a grant and that Park and Recreation will continue to control the Sportsplexes. Mr. Shields said they understood.

Land Swap Proposal – Update from the November 8, 2006 BOCC Meeting: Mr. Shields shared background information over the past year regarding the land swap concept, the County Manager's current land swap proposal and the issues and difficulties of concern being addressed in the

development of the concept. The following is a summary of the information provided by Mr. Shields:

Summary:

- In December of 2005, Michael Smith presented his concept for the Knights to bring baseball back to Center City, a different location for the urban park in 3rd Ward and jumpstart development in 2nd ward. This basic concept has not changed but the process for its achievement has become very complex with major issues to be worked out.
- The primary difference between the original proposal and the current proposal by the County Manager is that Mecklenburg County would retain ownership in the land that it currently owns in 3rd Ward purchased with park bond funds. At that time studies by Civitas recommended that a park located closer to Tryon Street could be activated much quicker and generate economic development. As a result a land swap was attempted between Mecklenburg County and Mass Mutual to get a different park site but Mass Mutual was not interested at the time. Work then began towards adding a park on a site owned by Mecklenburg County which is when Michael Smith then came up with his proposal.
- *The first difficulty with the land swap came when the City of Charlotte ran into problems finding enough City land to swap with the County so that they could own the land in 3rd Ward. Secondly, it became clear there were private use issues. Because tax free bonds were issued to pay for the property, the private sector cannot be allowed to use that land and create value for Mecklenburg County or the bonds issued for that land could become taxed. However, to protect the land and avoid private use issues, the land could be leased to the Knights at basically no value with a \$1.00 lease.*
- Future use of the land makes it very attractive for Mecklenburg County to stay involved and retain land ownership. Any agreement with the Charlotte Knights would state that if the site is no longer used for AAA Baseball ownership of the land would revert back to Mecklenburg County. In addition a strong probability exist for joint use between the Park at the new location and the baseball stadium such as hosting larger events, use of public facilities such as restrooms, concessions for certain events and possibly some security aspects. Much work still must be done including keeping the PRC Board informed and getting their feedback as this concept develops.
- Several exciting economic points of interest surround the park in the new location including: new condos adjacent to and facing the park, it will compliment what Wachovia is doing with the Arts and Cultural facilities, the new office and residential unit that Spectrum is planning would compliment and face the park, the development of 2nd Ward and a new Brooklyn Village concept with affordable housing.

Commissioner Taylor inquired of Mr. Shields as to what his expectations were from the PRC as a result of his presentation.

Commissioner McClure noted that much of the sensitivity expressed by some members of the PRC comes as a result of the board, as an advisory council to the BOCC, having not been asked for an opinion regarding the land swap and other related park issues. In addition, Commissioner McClure

stated that several members of the Board feel the PRC Board should be more involved with the new Director's search. Commissioner McClure said that the Board has become sensitive to what job Mecklenburg County needs them to be doing.

Commissioner Brawley stated that he felt that it was time for the Board, as an advisory board, to issue some advice.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley that the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission indorses the concept of a land swap to relocate the proposed 3rd Ward Park to create a site for a baseball stadium in the Center City which was seconded by Commissioner Huelsman.

Commissioner Taylor asked for an answer from Mr. Shields to her earlier question to him regarding what it is he expected from them tonight. Mr. Shields answered that he did not come for a vote but to provide information and answer questions regarding what the County Manager had presented at the BOCC meeting.

Commissioner Barry asked for an amendment to Commissioner Brawley's motion to begin the motion with "After hearing the report from Mr. Shields".

Note: Commissioner Barry felt this version of the motion would document that a vote was being taken by the PRC as a result of the information provided by Mr. Shields.

A substitute motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to end Commissioner Brawley's motion after "3rd Ward Park" which was seconded by Commissioner Huelsman.

Commissioner McClure asked for an amendment to the substitute motion to add "within 3rd Ward" after 'the proposed 3rd Ward Park'.

Amended motion was made by Commissioner Brawley, seconded by Commissioner Huelsman and carried 7-5 with Commissioners Sharpe, McClettie, Chandler, Patterson, Barry, Furuseth and Taylor voting yes and Commissioners Huelsman, Pearce, McClure, Brawley and Brown voting no that: the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission endorses the concept of a land swap to relocate the proposed 3rd Ward Park within 3rd Ward.

(2) Proclamations and Awards

None

(3) Public Appearance

None

(4) Appointments – Advisory Councils

- a. *Aeromodelers*: Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to appoint Lawrence E. Moore, James Galuska, and Stephen M. Hendry each to an expired term and all expiring June, 2009 which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.
- b. *Equestrian*: Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to reappoint Wayne Love, Constance C. Oliphant and Kristen Toler each to an expired term and all expiring June, 2009 which was seconded by Commissioner Barry and approved unanimously.
- c. *East*: Commissioner Brown deferred EPD nominations to the January 9, 2007 PRC meeting.
- d. *North*: Motion was made by Commissioner Taylor to reappoint Martha Jenkins, John M. Probst and Minnie Thompson each to an expired term and all expiring June, 2009 and to appoint Mark Ahlstrom to an unexpired term, expiring June, 2007 which was seconded by Commissioner McClure and approved unanimously.
- e. *Northeast*: Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to reappoint Mae Ruth Harrell to an expired term, expiring June, 2009 and to defer further appointments to the January 9, 2007 PRC meeting which was seconded by Commissioner McClure and approved unanimously.
- f. *Northwest*: Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to appoint William Hixon to an unexpired term expiring June, 2008 which was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved unanimously.
- g. *Soccer*: Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to appoint Thomas Finlay and Rob Finlay to two unexpired terms, both expiring June, 2008 and to appoint Nathan Krum to an unexpired term, expiring June, 2009 which was seconded by Commissioner Huelsman and approved unanimously.
- h. *Sunset Hills Golf*: Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to appoint Phillip Lawson to an unexpired term, expiring June, 2007 and to reappoint Ann Dunovant to an expired term, expiring June, 2009 which was seconded by Commissioner Taylor and approved unanimously.
- i. *Tradition Golf*: Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to appoint Larry Sloan to an expired term, expiring June, 2009.

(5) Public Hearings

None

(6) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

None

(7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a. Update on Director's Search: Interim Director, Dot Law informed the PRC that the search firm of Walters-Oldani had narrowed the search for a new Park and Recreation Director to thirty-five (35) semi-finalists. These thirty-five (35) were narrowed to ten (10) candidates who were then interviewed. The goal is have a final five (5) by the end of the week. The interview process has not been put in place but the PRC will be included. An update on the details regarding the interview process, time and location should be available the first of next week.

Ms. Law said the search firm wanted to conduct the interviews in November and make an offer some time in December and she assumed it would take another month before someone could step into the position.

b. Letter to Pam Syfert, City Manager: Dot Law gave each member of the PRC a copy of the letter to Pam Syfert from County Manager, Harry Jones regarding the land swap proposal.

CONSENT ITEMS

(8) Approval of PRC minutes of September 12, 2006: Chair Patterson noted that "the green" mentioned in item (5) under Special Reports referred to an existing public/private park owned by Wachovia and should be capitalized. Chair Patterson said the question had been asked in order to relate the size of The Green park to the proposed 2nd Ward Park.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley, seconded by Commissioner Chandler and unanimously carried to approve the amended PRC minutes of September 12, 2006.

(9) Approval of PRC minutes of October 10, 2006: Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley, seconded by Commissioner Chandler and unanimously carried to approve the PRC minutes of October 10, 2006.

(10) Approval of Advisory Councils/Committees/Subcommittees and Towns Minutes: Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and unanimously carried to approve the minutes submitted by advisory councils, committees, subcommittees and towns.

STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS

(11) Chair Patterson recognized Neil Carroll, Park and Recreation General Manager. Mr. Carroll asked for approval from the PRC on the recommendation from the Huntersville Park and Recreation Department to rename the Canipe Property the "Richard Barry Memorial Park",

Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley, seconded by Commissioner Taylor and carried unanimously to approve the recommendation from the Huntersville Park and Recreation Department to rename the Canipe Property the "Richard Barry Memorial Park".

(12) Chair Patterson recognized Mike Dickey, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Management Analyst, Strategic Initiatives to introduce Nakiya Cohen, Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Resource Development Specialist, Strategic Initiatives.

Mike Dickey introduced Nakiya Cohen and also reported that the Department had recently been given an 11th hour opportunity to apply for a grant made available by the National Football League and the National Recreation and Park Association. This grant was to create and fund five hub locations nationwide to hire an athletic coordinator to function as a regional coordinator for youth football programs. Nakiya had three days to put together an application and was ultimately awarded one of the grants. Dot Law said her application was noted as one of the best received by the NRPA at the conference in Seattle.

Note: This grant is for \$150,000 divided over 3 years. Following the introduction, Nakiya covered a PowerPoint presentation on FY06's fiscal resource distribution. Copies of her presentation were made available to PRC Board members.

(13) Chair Patterson recognized Lee Jones, Capital Planning Services and Don Morgan, Greenway Services.

Lee Jones and Don Morgan presented the PRC with a quarterly update on the 2004 Bond Referendum 5 Year Investment Plan

Mr. Morgan provided information and answered questions related to greenways. He advised that we were making good progress on all greenway projects. Points of interest were:

- It is anticipated that the two McDowell Creek sections will both go to construction in March.
- Stream restoration by LUESA on McDowell Creek has been delayed due to easement issues but the greenway will move forward.
- The Toby Creek section through Newell is in the land acquisition phase with R.E.S. and making headway
- On Briar Creek efforts continue with regard to easements.

Mr. Jones also provided information and answered questions related to the progress of various park projects, discussing in particular the Shuffletown Sportsplex, the Revolution Regional Sports and Learning Academy and Third Ward-West Park.

Note: Additional information can be obtained from the spreadsheet enclosed with the agenda packet and on file in the PRC Minutes binder housed in the Director's office.

(14) Update on the process and action taken by the BOCC on October 17. This subject was covered by Bobbie Shields under "Special Reports" above.

(15) Chair Patterson recognized John McClelland, Park and Recreation General Manager. Mr. McClelland asked for approval of the CPDIII Advisory Council's recommendation for wording for the *Cherry Park Plaque*, and approval of the CPDIII Advisory Council's recommendation for wording for the *Robert Haley Memorial Plaque* submitted by the Dilworth Tennis Group.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley, seconded by Commissioner Pearce and carried unanimously to approve the CPDIII Advisory Council recommendation for wording for the Cherry Park Plaque.

(16) John McClelland asked for approval of the CPDIII Advisory Council's recommendation for wording for the *Robert Haley Memorial Plaque* submitted by the Dilworth Tennis Group.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce, seconded by Commissioner Furueth and carried unanimously to approve the CPDIII Advisory Council's recommendation for wording for the Robert Haley Memorial Plaque submitted by the Dilworth Tennis Group.

(17) Chair Patterson recognized James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services. Mr. Alsop advised the Board that the operator for the Charles T. Meyers Golf Course has changed from American Golf to Radcliff Golf Services. Mr. Alsop also reminded the Board of the Golf Summit being held on December 4, 2006 at the AOB in Conference Room B. He said that they would be talking about and providing information on national and local trends as well as advisory council issues. Attendance at the summit will include NC Golf Course Owners Association representatives, Chairs of each golf course advisory council, golf course operators, Park and Recreation General Managers and regional company owners.

(18) The presentation of Video on the Therapeutic Recreation Division was deferred to a future PRC meeting.

PARK COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS

Commissioner Taylor announced her resignation from the Park and Recreation Commission. She advised the Board that she is moving out of the North Park District and will no longer be geographically eligible.

Chair Patterson announced that the December meeting of the PRC will be a Christmas social, hosted by the Partners for Parks Board and taking place at the White Water Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce, seconded by Commissioner Brawley and unanimously carried, that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 PM

Upcoming Meetings and Events

PRC Christmas Social
December 12, 2006
6:00 PM
White Water Center

PRC Meeting
January 9, 2007
6:00 PM
AOB

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