



Minutes

Mecklenburg County Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners

March 13, 2007

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, March 13, 2007.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

- Acting Chair Scott McClure
- John Barry
- Bill Brawley
- James Brown
- William Chandler
- Owen Furuseth
- Larry Huelsman
- Laura McClettie
- Teresa Sharp
- Jeffrey Tarte
- Mary Wilson

Absent:

- Robert Patterson
- Brad Pearce

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Acting Chair Scott McClure, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, after which, the following matters were addressed:

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

(1) Introductions

- The Commissioners introduced themselves individually to the new Park and Recreation Commissioner for the North Park District, Jeffrey Tarte, and referenced their respective districts.
- Commissioner Tarte introduced himself and shared the following:
 - 15 year resident of Cornelius, NC
 - He and his family are active in the community, school and church
 - 6 years as an Athletic Director
 - Chair of the Cornelius Park and Recreation Commission

(2) Proclamations and Awards

- Commissioner McClure introduced and recognized Stephanie Taylor, former PRC North Park District Representative, for her years of service to the Board. Ms. Taylor was presented a plaque in appreciation for her dedicated service.
- **Public Appearance**
None

(3) Appointments – Advisory Councils – Applicants

- **Central Park District I:** Motion was made by Commissioner Chandler to defer appointments to the CPD I Advisory Council to the April PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.
- **East Park District:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to appoint Thomas S. Haack to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2008 which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.
- **North Park District:** Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to appoint Robert L. Bauer to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2007 which was seconded by Commissioner Sharp and approved unanimously.
- **Southwest Park District:** Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to appoint Betty H. McGill to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2007 which was seconded by Commissioner McClettie and approved unanimously.

(4) Public Hearings

None

(5) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(6) Director's Report

Jim Garges reported as follows:

- **Director's Report:** The Director's Report will be coming out each month and included with the Agenda packet for advance review.
- **Little Sugar Creek:** On March 20th the Department will be going before the BOCC to ask for additional funds for the Metropolitan Section. The cost of this section is considerably more than the budgeted amount of \$10.5 million, perhaps as much as \$26 million. Much of the escalation is due to construction cost in an urban setting.
- **Commissioner Brawley** asked if \$24 million would be the total cost of construction. Director Garges said he did not know. Meetings will be held with Real Estate Services and Finance to fine tune the cost and be prepared to offer a plan for financing to the BOCC, keeping in mind that this amount is to complete the Metropolitan Section and not the remaining 14 miles of Greenway. However as construction moves beyond the Mid-town area, construction cost will drop considerably.
- **Sewer Line:** The Department is also working with CMUD regarding a new sewer line that will be in the project. Efforts are ongoing to coordinate so that the sewer line will not disrupt any completed Greenway construction.
- **Oaklawn Recreation Center:** The Department is currently moving into that location. An official opening ceremony will be held at a later date.
- **CNA:** At a meeting before the CCBAC, changes to the CNA were introduced that the PRC may or may not have been aware of. Particularly moving land acquisition to the top of the priority list followed by Greenways. Also, in 2006, the 1989 Master Plan was updated resulting in a change to a smaller service radiuses for parks and facilities, increasing the number of facilities and parks needed, thus increasing the cost. This information presented to the CCBAC had not been clearly communicated to the PRC. In the future, Director Garges assured the Board members that these types of presentations would be brought before them for review. At the CCBAC presentation, several questions were brought up by Mike Murdock and others on the committee. These questions were answered in a memo to Mr. Murdock and each PRC member was given a copy.
- **Commissioner Chandler** asked what Director Garges felt the committee's reaction was to his presentation? Jim answered "sticker shock". As one of 15 project categories presented, there

was an overwhelming amount of information to grasp. It did however, alert the citizens to what our needs are.

- Commissioner Sharp asked what facilitated the definition change with regard to the standard that defines the radius for neighborhood parks. Director Garges answered that it was population growth/density. He said this was a problem in a rapidly growing county when you go off a 1989 plan. Future Master Plans will be updated at a minimum of every 5 years and the numbers and costs will be updated every year.

Commissioner McClure asked Commissioner Huelsman to bring the Commission up to date regarding The Strategic Planning and Long Range Finance committee's work on a 12-month CNA process. Commissioner Huelsman shared some of highlights contained in the proposed CNA process drafted by members of Staff and the SPLRF Committee. Commissioner Furuseth requested a copy. Copies will be provided to the PRC when staff has completed and it has been reviewed and approved by the Director. **(A copy of this draft process is included in the PRC meeting binder housed in the Director's office.)**

Note: Commissioner Chandler left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

(7a) Director Garges asked if there were any questions regarding the Greenway status report included in the agenda packet? Commissioner Sharp asked if there was an update on the Latta Plantation Sub-division Review. Michael Kirschman answered that comments from a meeting between Stewardship Division and Real Estate Service has been submitted to Huntersville Town Staff and should be going before the Town Board in the near future.

Commissioner McClure thanked Director Garges again for the Friday Letter. He encouraged the Board members to read this letter stating that it will go a long way in keeping the number of surprises down as well as keeping the Board informed for the benefit of the public.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to approve all consent items, (8, 9 and 9a) as submitted in the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner McClettie and in the absence of Commissioners Patterson, Pearce and Chandler, carried 10 – 0.

STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS

(10) James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services, reported on the account balances and the process to request junior golf grants for the Renaissance, Sunset Hills, Charles T. Myers and Tradition Golf Courses from the Partners for Parks Foundation. James provided the following information:

- Renaissance – the Concessionaire will dedicated .20 of each paid eighteen hole greens fee to a fund established and managed by the County through its Partners for Parks program to provide funding of golf and other recreation activities for lower income youth. These funds will be used to offset reasonable course costs, trophies, and equipment.
- Charles T. Myers – the Concessionaire will dedicate .25 of each paid eighteen hole greens fee.
- Tradition – the Lessee in support of golfing opportunities for the students of the CMS system will pay to Partners for Parks .25 for each paid 18 hole round green fee.
- Sunset Hills – in support of golfing opportunities for the student population of the CMS system will donate a .25 surcharge to Partners for Parks to support junior golf efforts at the Sunset Hills Public Golf facility.

James supplied PFP grant information and application process to the board. He also gave current PFP fund balances as of December 31, 2006 of \$126, 063.56.

(11) James Alsop requested the reinstatement of the Citizens Aquatic Advisory Council as an active advisory council to represent the aquatic interest of Mecklenburg County. *Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley to reinstate the Citizens Aquatic Advisory Council, which was seconded by Commissioner Sharp and in the absence*

of Commissioners Patterson, Pearce and Chandler carried 9 – 1 with Commissioners McClure, Tarte, McClettie, Barry, Furuseth, Sharp, Wilson, Huelsman and Brawley voting yes and Commissioner Brown voting no.

PARK COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS

(12) Commissioner Brawley shared with the group about his recent mission trip to New Orleans to help with rebuilding homes. He shared pictures and told the group about the devastation that still remains and the many people who are still without homes.

Commissioner Brown shared with the Board that the Stewardship Division premiered their new Biodiversity Trail pamphlet at the Partners for Parks Event on March 9. This pamphlet highlights trails and natural areas throughout 14 counties of the Carolinas. (Note: a copy of the pamphlet will be included with the PRC meeting binder housed in the Director's office.)

Commissioner Brown also shared that Charlotte was #1 in the recent Back Yard Bird Count. The state of North Carolina was #2. Approximately 95 species were identified throughout the county.

Commissioner McClure announced that on April 19, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Latta Plantation, the Equestrian Advisory Council will be hosting a kick-off for their covered arena project.

Commissioner Tarte requested a copy of the CNA for the current year and last year as well as a copy of the 1989 Master Plan and the 2006 Update.

Commissioner Sharp shared that Davidson would be having an event on Saturday to celebrate the opening of their Greenway. She also reminded everyone of the Corporate Challenge on April 28.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Brawley and unanimously carried that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

PRC Monthly Meeting
May 8, 2007
6:00 PM Conference Room B
Administrative Office Building

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