

**DRAFT**



**Minutes**

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

**April 10, 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, April 10, 2007.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Chair Robert Patterson  
John Barry  
Bill Brawley  
James Brown  
William Chandler  
Owen Furuseth  
Larry Huelsman  
Laura McClettie  
Scott McClure  
Brad Pearce  
Jeffrey Tarte  
Mary Wilson

**Absent:** Teresa Sharp

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

(1) **Introductions**  
None

(2) **Proclamations and Awards**  
None

(3) **Public Appearance**  
None

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

- **Central Park District I:** Commissioner Chandler deferred appointments to the CPD I Advisory Council to the May PRC meeting.
- **East Park District:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to appoint David Stephens to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2009 which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.*
- **Greenway:** *Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to appoint Gerald Hopkins to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2008 which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.*
- **SWPD:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to appoint Dorothea Dawkins to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2008 which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.*

- **Soccer:** Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to appoint Steve Knox to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2009.

(5) **Public Hearings**  
None

(6) **Advisory Council – Committee Reports**  
None

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

(7) **Director's Report:** Director Jim Garges reported on the following:

- **Easter Egg Events:** Recognized and thanked staff for the excellent job done on the many Easter Egg hunts throughout the county.
- **LSC GW Update:** A request to approve the removal of the Baxter Street Bridge and approval of bridge contracts for uncapping the Metropolitan Section and the bridge removal will go before the BOCC on April 17. Current contract bids were well within the engineer's estimate at \$457,000 for both projects. If all is approved the contractor will hopefully be in place and working by the end of the month. Plans are to have an uncapping celebration at the Metro Section. The date and time will be provided to the PRC as soon as details are set.
- Commissioner Huelsman asked for a LSC GW presentation to the PRC of the cost and timeline of the project. Director Garges agreed to have this presentation at the May PRC meeting.
- Commissioner Furuseth suggested that in light of the cost of the LSC GW, it would be advisable to discontinue calling it a greenway and refer to it as an Urban Park.
- **Recreation Centers:** Tom Sykes naming celebration for the Dilworth Recreation Center will take place on April 12 at 6 p.m. Oaklawn Recreation Center is up and running.
- **Master Plan Process:** The BOCC has a defined process for selecting a consultant for a Master Plan that does not currently allow for the involvement of Park and Recreation Commissioners. However, after conversations with Mark Hahn, it is possible that this may change.

Chair Patterson reminded the Board that while they may not be involved in the selection process for the consultant they would have a number of committees and people involved in the master planning development process.

Director Garges felt there was a very good chance that a PRC member would be on the selection committee and recommended that Commissioner Larry Huelsman be appointed to the position should it become available. In the event two PRC members were allowed on the committee, it was suggested that Commissioner Owen Furuseth also be appointed.

- **Meetings & Tours:** Thanked Commissioner Chandler for inviting him to attend the CPD I neighborhood breakfast meeting at the West Charlotte Recreation Center and Commissioner Furuseth for a recent tour of UNCC.
- **River Center:** It has been determined that the proposed River Center project is not in step with what the property was purchased for in terms of public recreation. Changing its proposed use to a for-profit development represents a major shift in the justification received for acquiring the land. A letter was sent notifying Edna Chirico of the Department's decision to deny use of the property as proposed but left the door open to consider the proposed indoor basketball facility should we identify a need for

such a facility. Ms Chirico has not responded to date.

The River Center project proposal consideration has helped identified an opportunity in the development of the new Master Plan to define the core principals of why we buy land, what land we buy and what we do with that land. Therefore, when the BOCC accepts the Master Plan, they would accept those principals as policy.

Commissioner Barry noted his concern of asking the public for more money to buy park land and at the same time using part of that land for private development thereby reducing the amount of available park land.

- **US National Whitewater Center:** Commissioner McClure raised the issue of Park and Recreation recognition with regard to signs, advertising and website.

Director Garges informed the board that Jeff Wise was planning to go before the BOCC to ask them to lift the ceiling on the construction cost from \$32 million to \$38 million. In a recent meeting with Mr. Wise it was reinforced that the he would need to fulfill his contractual obligation to the Department with respect to name recognition before going before the BOCC. Another meeting is planned to discuss this and the financing of his project prior to being placed on the BOCC agenda.

Commissioner Pearce asked why Mr. Wise needed an addition \$6 million. Director Garges will ask for the Proforma. Commissioner Pearce asked to be kept informed. Commissioner McClettie requested that the Board receive a monthly Whitewater update.

#### **CONSENT ITEMS**

- (8-11) *Motion was made by Commissioner Chandler to approve all consent items, (8, 9, 10 and 11) as submitted in the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and in the absence of Commissioner Sharp, carried 12 – 0.*

#### **STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS**

- (12) **RFAI** – Michael Kirschman, Division Director, Stewardship Services. Request Board approval for the dedication of the 100-acre Haymarket Property and the 44-acre parcel of Flat Branch Property to be classified as Nature Preserves.

Following the PowerPoint presentation on the 100-acre Haymarket Property, *a motion was made by Commissioner Brawley to endorse the approval for the dedication of the 100-acre Haymarket Property to be classified as a Nature Preserve which was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.*

Following the PowerPoint presentation on the 44-acre parcel of Flat Branch Property, *a motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to endorse the approval for the dedication of the 44-acre parcel of Flat Branch Property to be classified as a Nature Preserve which was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and approved unanimously.*

**Note: At 7:30 p.m. Commissioner McClettie left the meeting.**

- (13) **RFAI** – James Alsop, Division Director, Enterprise Services. Receive information on the proposed modifications to the FY 2007 Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Fee Schedule. Following the presentation by James Alsop *a motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to accept the proposed modifications to the FY 2007 Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department Fee Schedule which was seconded by Commissioner Huelsman, and in the absence of Commissioner Sharp and Commissioner McClettie, carried 11 – 0.*

Discussion followed concerning the Revenue and Pricing Policy for County and Non-County rates and the development of guiding principals.

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

- (14) Commissioner Huelsman reported on a recent meeting of the Charlotte Regional Visitor's Authority and the work being done with Believable Brands to establish guiding principals for branding in the Charlotte region.
- (15) Commissioner McClure reminded the Board of the upcoming *Kickoff Celebration* on April 19 at the Latta Equestrian Center to discuss and make plans for a gala to raise funds for a covered arena. The Commissioners were asked to extend an invitation to anyone they felt would have an interest in this venture. An indoor arena would enhance Summer Camps, make therapeutic riding a possibility and draw events previously lost to covered arenas.
- (16) Commissioner Pearce reminded the Board of the Loch Norman Highland Games April 20 – 22 at Rural Hill Farm in Huntersville, NC.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

*Motion was made by Commissioner McClure seconded by Commissioner Brawley and unanimously carried that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 p.m.*

#### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

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

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