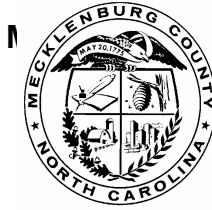


Amended 8/15/07



Minutes
Mecklenburg County Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners

June 12, 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, June 12, 2007](#).

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Robert Patterson
John Barry
Bill Brawley
James Brown
Owen Furueth
Larry Huelsman
Scott McClure
Brad Pearce
Jeffrey Tarte
Mary Wilson

Absent: Laura McClettie
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**

- a. William Chandler, having reached the end of his terms, was presented a plaque in appreciation of his service on the Park and Recreation Commission. Mr. Chandler served as Chair for two years during his service and represented Central Park District I.
- b. Chair Patterson recognized Deputy Director, Dot Law, to present a plaque to Terry Weatherford in recognition of his recent retirement. Terry, a Facility Manager, retired with 21 years of service.

(3) **Public Appearance**

None

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

- **Aquatic:** Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to defer reappointments to the August PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Central Park District I:** Commissioner Chandler advised the board that after talking with Willie Bratcher, Mr. Bratcher had withdrawn his application for consideration.
- **Central Park District II:** Motion was made by Commissioner Patterson to defer appointments and reappointments to the August PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Central Park District III:** Motion was made by Commissioner Patterson to appoint Beth Poovey to an expired term, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously. Note: Discussion prior to the motion was held regarding Beth Poovey's employment with Land Design. Ms. Poovey had agreed to excuse herself from any recommendations involving Land Design.
- **Charles T. Meyers Golf:** Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to defer appointments and reappointments to the August PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **East Park District:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to reappoint Karen Redfern and Roger Raymer, each expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Greenway:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to defer appointments and reappointments to the August PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.
- **Off Leash Dog Areas:** Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to reappoint Christina Barberot, Scott Draper and Adam Tyson, each expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.
- **Revolution Golf:** Motion was made by Commissioner Chandler to reappoint Dennis Dixon, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Southwest Park District:** Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to reappoint Cheryl Brown and Betty McGill, each expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Soccer:** Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to defer Soccer appointments and reappointments to the August PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.
- **South Park District:** Motion was made by Commissioner Huelsman to reappoint Timothy S. Morgan, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.
- **Stewardship:** Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to appoint Chris Matthews,

Earnest McLaney and Jean Woods each to an expired vacancy, each expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.

- **Sunset Hills Golf:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to reappoint Reginald J. Godette, David L. Hunter, John A. Pettice and Phillip Lawson, each expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Furueth and approved unanimously.*
- **Tradition Golf:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Furueth to reappoint Bennie Darden, Larry Sloan and Cornelius Todd Smith, each expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.*

(5) Public Hearings

None

(6) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

Commissioner McClure announced that Dr. Tony Zeiss, President of CPCC, would be sending out requests from the May 20th Society seeking support from the board members in a fund raising effort for the “Spirit of Mecklenburg”, a statue of Captain Jack, to be placed on the Little Sugar Creek Greenway.

Commissioner Patterson reminded the board of the Little Sugar Creek Uncapping Ceremony, taking place on June 13 at 11 a.m.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

(7) Director’s Report:

- a. Dot Law, Deputy Director, reported highlights to the FY08 budget as follows:
 - 18% increase over FY07 – 6.3 million
 - \$460,000 for Equipment Replacement
 - 2.9 million in ONA
 - .5 million additional PayGo
 - \$120,000 additional for mowing contracts
 - \$110,000 additional for off-duty police
 - 22 new full-time positions and 10 temporary

Director Garges said the base line budget was still low for the operation that we have. While we did well to receive an increase, lean areas still exist such as nature preserves and operational budgets to run recreation centers. We need to continue to do a better job of explaining what we do and how we operate to get the budget we need.

The County Manager will be making Capital recommendations to the BOCC. Park and Recreation’s major needs are 18.2 million for Little Sugar Creek and land acquisition.

- b. Master Plan Update: Director Garges informed the board that the applicants had been short listed to 4 firms instead of 3. This was to allow the Selection Committee an

opportunity to hear the presentation from a firm using a different approach to master planning. The presentations of the finalist will be heard by the Selection Committee on June 29 from 12 noon to 5 p.m. at the Real Estate Services office. All board members were invited to attend as observers. Commissioner Huelsman and Commissioner Furuseth, PRC members on the Selection Committee, offered to take questions from the board for the finalist to the meeting.

c. BCBSNC Sponsorship: Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services asked for the board's approval of the sponsorship proposal with BCBSNC for Park and Recreation's youth athletic programs. *Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to accept the proposal as presented and to request approval from the BOCC at their next meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.*

d. KROC Center: Director Garges advised the board that the Salvation Army, recipient of the McDonald's KROC Center Grant, is looking at a different location for this center. Lee Jones, Division Director of Capital Planning gave an update. He said the Salvation Army had been looking at a site in the Belmont area for the KROC Center, but very recently switched their interest to property adjacent to Eastway Specialty Park. This would allow Park and Recreation the opportunity to plan some joint use amenities such as indoor recreation and swimming.

e. Swimming: Director Garges shared that a group of swimming enthusiasts, led by Jerry Clark, have formed a Steering Committee to look at growing the sport of swimming in Charlotte. They would like to make Charlotte a Center of Excellence, a city where Olympic hopefuls come to train. It was suggested that Commissioner Tarte be added to this committee.

f. Oaklawn Opening: Thursday, June 21

g. Beverly Lawston, currently serving on the CPDI Advisory Council, was appointed by the BOCC to the PRC – CPDI and will join us at the August PRC meeting.

h. Chair Patterson asked for an update regarding Whitewater. Director Garges reported the following:

- The Department has transitioned from monitoring the construction phase to monitoring the operational phase
- Mario Change, Sr. Fiscal Administrator is meeting with Jeff Shelton, Chief Financial Officer for Whitewater, on a regular basis to review their monthly revenue and expense reports.
- Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services, will be working with them more directly to see what Park and Recreation can do to help get people to the facility.
- Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation is included in the facility brochures, website and improvement continues for recognition in news releases and stories.

- The Whitewater facility, by contract, manages the entire park and has the right to close the park to the public for a private function. The Department will be encouraging them to keep closings to a bare minimum as this practice is not good for either party.
- i. Commissioner McClure asked for an update on past bond referendums and expenditures. Director Garges said he would send that information out electronically prior to the August meeting.
- j. Chair Patterson recapped the communication breakdowns over the past 2 months relative to the CNA process, CCBAC presentations and called meetings. There was a lesson learned by all that we will do it better and put our position forward in a unified effort from now on. Commissioner McClure stated that Jim's attendance at the Strategic Planning and Long Range Finance Committee meetings has improved communication and asked that Director Garges keep the Board informed on the entire budget process.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to approve all consent items, (8 through 12) as submitted in the agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS

(13) Greg Jackson, Division Director, Park Operations & Athletic Services asked the PRC to approve amending sections III and X of all park district and special interest advisory council by laws to allow reappointment of park district advisory councils to match the Park and Recreation Commissions – two full three year terms beyond any unexpired term. *Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to approve the amendment as recommended which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.*

(14) Greg Jackson, Division Director, Park Operations & Athletic Services, presented two agreements to the PRC for support. In January, 2007 the Department put an ad in the paper asking for proposals for either maintenance or capital improvements to McAlpine Park, Flat Branch Park or any other Park in the system. With a February 28 deadline for proposals, only two were received; Charlotte United Futbol Club (CUFC) and South Charlotte Soccer Association (SCSA).

- a. Mr. Jackson asked the Board to support the concept of the department moving forward with a Maintenance agreement with CUFC to maintain fields one and two at McAlpine Park for a first right of reservation. Discussion of concerns regarding first right of reservation pointed out the following:
 - The fields at McAlpine are not lighted and underutilized
 - CUFC would be taking first right of reservation on 2 of 5 fields, leaving 3 fields available for other public use
 - No groups currently using the fields on a regular basis can be displaced

Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to support the concept of the CUFC maintenance

agreement on fields one and two at McAlpine Park, which was seconded by Commissioner Brawley and approved unanimously.

- b. Mr. Jackson, asked the Board to support the concept of the department moving forward with a Capital and maintenance agreement with SCSA to develop and maintain soccer fields at Flat Branch Park for a first right of reservation. In summary, this agreement gives the SCSA first right of reservation on all fields in return for irrigation, sprigging, lighting and maintaining all 4 soccer fields. Discussion topics of concern surrounding this agreement were as follows:
- Commissioner Brown was concerned about the lighting impact on the surrounding neighborhoods and if they had been made aware that these fields would in time be lighted fields. Director Garges suggested that a community meeting might be in order to bring the surrounding residence up to date on the pending plans for these fields.
 - Commissioner Brawley also noted concern regarding future lighting of these fields. Since this park was developed through a CMS Master Plan, the participants of the original workshops were probably more concerned about educational issues. Current residents in the surround area will be concerned with the lighting of these fields.
 - Commission Furuseth expressed concern over building a park and making agreements that would give first right of reservation on all fields to one group.
 - Commissioner Patterson noted that this agreement has the potential to look exclusive and draw media attention.
 - Commissioner Wilson expressed concern regarding such exclusivity at a new park and inquired about the financial ramifications should an agreement not be made with SCSA. Director Garges said the Department did not currently have the money to complete these fields in the manner described in the agreement with SCSA and would take several years.
 - Commissioner Barry noted that complaints would be inevitable, but felt the public had been given adequate opportunity for input and participation.
 - Commissioner Tarte felt agreements should have a more specified duration as opposed to being open ended.
 - Commissioner Furuseth expressed concern over planning and building parks without adequate budget to bring them to completion.
 - Greg Jackson reminded the Board that SCSA had been using several fields at Davie Park; this agreement would open up those fields to increased public use.
 - Commissioner Huelsman recapped the events leading to the joint use development of Flat Branch Park with CMS, concluding that with input from the SPD Citizen Advisory Council, the Soccer Citizen Advisory Council, Stewardship Citizen Advisory Council and opportunities for proposals from the public, the county owned Flat Branch property has been jointly developed to the satisfaction of all involved. Commissioner Patterson asked if these groups

had addressed the issues of exclusivity and lighting to their satisfaction.

Commissioner Huesman said they had.

- Commissioner Brown asked if the July 15 deadline for irrigation and sprigging was feasible. Lee Jones answered that it could be stretched to August 14 but was not ideal.

Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley to accept the proposal as presented, which was seconded by Commissioner Wilson.

Discussion followed:

- Commissioner McClure suggested a public workshop if it would fit within the time frame.
- Commissioner Tarte asked staff to address the issue of undetermined expiration date of these agreements and what would be the personal recommendation of Greg Jackson and Lee Jones.
- Greg Jackson said the contracts ended when their capital investment was consumed. Each year the value of the waived fees for use of the fields is calculated against the capital investment for that year and the difference paid.
- Chair Patterson pointed out that if the fee value was greater than the capital investment, it would mean the fields had been more available to other public groups.
- Lee Jones and Greg Jackson said they were in complete support of these agreements.

Substitute motion was made by Commissioner Brown to delay the recommendation by the Board regarding the proposed agreement with SCSA until after a community workshop, which was seconded by Commissioner McClure and fell 6 – 5 with Commissioners Barry, Huelsman, Pearce, Patterson, Tarte and Brawley voting against the substitute motion and Commissioners Brown, Wilson, Chandler, McClure and Furuseth voting in favor of the substitute motion.

A vote on the original motion to accept the proposal as presented carried 8-3 with Commissioners Barry, Wilson, Huelsman, McClure, Pearce, Patterson, Tarte and Brawley voting in favor of the motion and Commissioners Brown, Chandler and Furuseth voting against the motion.

(15) Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services provided supporting information regarding the Departments decision to phase out pooch passes and fees for the use of Dog Parks by June, 2008.

Commissioner Tarte commended Staff for the excellent presentation to the Off-Lease Dog Advisory Council regarding this decision. *Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to accept the information provided and decision made by the Department which was seconded by Commissioner McClure and carried 9-2 with Commissioners Barry, Wilson, Chandler, Huelsman, McClure, Pearce, Furuseth, Patterson and Tarte voting in favor of the motion and Commissioners Brown and Brawley voting against the motion.*

(16) James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services gave the Board information on the

proposed time line for Request for Proposals (RFP) for operation of the Charles T. Myers, Renaissance and Revolution Park Public Golf Courses. **(Note: The proposed RFP time line is included in the PRC minutes binder housed in the Director's office.)**

PARK COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS

(17) Commissioner Patterson thanked all members of the Board and Staff for their support during his two years as Chair and making it a very enjoyable experience.

The nominating committee consisting of Chair Patterson, Commissioner Chandler and Commissioner McClettie recommended a slate to put into nomination of:

Scott McClure as Chairman
Brad Pearce as Vice-Chairman
Mary Wilson as Executive Secretary

Having no nominations from the floor, a *motion was made by Commissioner Barry to close the nominations which was seconded by Commissioner Chandler and approved unanimously.*

Discussion: Commissioner Brown asked Commissioner Wilson, in light of some absences and late arrivals over the past year, if she felt she would be available for the additional time and meetings required by the executive team. Commissioner Wilson said she would not have a problem.

The vote to accept the slate carried 9-2 with Commissioners Barry, Brown, Wilson, Chandler, McClure, Pearce, Furuseth, Patterson and Tarte voting to accept the slate and Commissioners Brawley and Huelsman voting no.

Congratulations went out to the new executive team.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Brawley seconded by Commissioner Pearce and

unanimously carried that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 0915 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

PRC Monthly Meeting
September 11, 2007
6:00 PM Conference Room B
Administrative Office Building

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