



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

August 14, 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, August 14, 2007.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chair Scott McClure
James Brown
Beverly Lawston
Owen Furuseth
Larry Huelsman
Laura McClettie
Brad Pearce
Jeffrey Tarte
Mary Wilson

Absent: John Barry

Vacancies: CPDIII, N. Towns, S. Towns

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by 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

Beverly Lawston – New Park and Recreation Commissioner for CPDI

(2) Proclamations and Awards

None

(3) Public Appearance

None

(4) Program Presentation – With These Hands Mix Academy

Terri Stowers, Facility Manager II, shared information with the Board about the DJ Camps offered at various recreation centers this summer. With These Hands Mix Academy was founded by international DJ Claude “COG” Whitfield owner of Saltwater Music, LLC. Their mission is to teach the art of “DJ”ing to students across the Carolinas by offering introductory DJ courses.

(5) Appointments – Advisory Councils – Applicants

- **Aquatic:** Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to reappoint Janet Goretti, Rachel Friedman, Richard Garcia and Jerry Clark, each expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce, and approved unanimously.
- **CPD I:** Raymond Kluth withdrew his application.
- **CPD II:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClettie to appoint John F. Brien, Michael Aaron Gellar and Lucille Taylor each to an expired term, expiring 6/ 2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **CPDIII:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to appoint Thomas Marshall and Kanika Ross each to an expired term, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Charles T. Myers Golf:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClettie to appoint Derrick Cherry and Edward Newland each to an expired term, expiring 6/2010 and to reappoint Donald D. Smith, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **Greenway:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to appoint Roy Alexander to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2009 and to reappoint Ron Gentry, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously. John Gouch was deferred to the September, 2007 agenda.
- **NPD:** Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to appoint Silas Terry Davis, Jr. to an expired vacancy, expiring 6/2010 and to appoint Kevin Falank to an unexpired vacancy, expiring 6/2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **NEPD:** Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to appoint Peter Knoell to an unexpired vacancy, expiring 6/2008, which was seconded by Commissioner McClettie and approved unanimously.
- **Soccer:** Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to appoint Jon Koslick to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2008, and to reappoint Don Wilson and Thomas Bagger, each expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Huelsman and approved unanimously.
- **Tennis:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClettie to appoint A. J. Anderson to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.

Chair McClure informed the board that Commissioner Furuseth had been assigned to the Strategic Planning and Long Range Finance (SPLRF) committee along with Commissioners Tarte, Wilson and Huelsman. An additional board member is needed to serve on the SPLRF committee and the Fees and Charges committee. Chair McClure asked for anyone interested to let him know.

Commissioner Pearce asked if the Off Leash Dog Park Advisory Council (OLDPAC) should be eliminated with the elimination of fees for use of the dog parks. Chair McClure suggested the OLDPAC discuss at their next meeting and make a recommendation to the Board.

Chair McClure made a plea to the Board to consider serving on the Therapeutic Advisory Council as well as to make a bigger push to fill all advisory council vacancies.

(6) Public Hearings

None

(7) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

(8) Director's Report:

Director Garges reported on the following:

New West Park & Brooklyn Village Workshop: The first public workshop for New West Park and Brooklyn Village was held Monday evening, August 13 at Johnson and Wales University. This first meeting went well. It opened with a general overview of where we are, the Land Swap and the new West Park site as well as stressing the relationship of these two parks to the existing parks and the Little Sugar Creek Greenway. Members of the workshop rotated through two individual discussion sessions and brought their ideas and opinions back to a total group discussion. The workshop was covered by local TV stations and NPR.

Timing is contingent on the Land Swap, but the goal is to open New West Park at the same time as the opening of the Ball Park in 2009.

NACo Awards: Park and Recreation staff is being recognized at the BOCC meeting for receiving nine (9) NACo Achievement Awards, an outstanding accomplishment for a single Department in Mecklenburg County. (**Note:** a detailed list of these awards is included in the PRC meeting binder housed in the Director's office.)

Car Break-Ins: The Department has put together a plan to reduce the number of car break-ins at our parks. With this type of crime up 17% in Mecklenburg County, and many of them occurring in our parts, it has become a serious issue. Staff has re-evaluated Park Watch assignments and made changes that have brought the number of break-ins in some areas to

zero. We will continue to work with the police and getting the word out that Park and Recreation has beefed up their security measures. Attention to this issue is ongoing.

Master Plan: Staff has met with Pros Consulting to discuss the scope of the Master Plan project, approach and time frame. The goal is to have the Master Plan completed by the end of January 2008 in order to be prepared to go back on the ballot in 2008 with a bigger land bond. Input from citizen workshops and the views and opinions of key leaders in Mecklenburg County will be collected and analyzed to provide direction for the new Master Plan. Concerns were expressed by Commissioners Furuseth and McClure that the suggested time frame will make it difficult to gather adequate citizens input. Director Garges felt confident that we could work within the time frame but said he would discuss this concern in more detail with Pros Consulting. Director Garges also suggested having Pros Consulting give a presentation on the Master Plan in place of a regular PRC meeting. Commissioner McClure asked if it would be permissible for the Land Bond Campaign Committee to attend the Citizen Workshops for the Master Plan to provide information on the upcoming Land Bond. Director Garges will get clarification from Marvin Bethune on the policy for campaigning and forward to the Board.

Eastway Specialty Park: The ground breaking for Eastway Specialty Park was on Saturday, August 11. Commissioner Valerie Woodard was in attendance and spoke.

CONSENT ITEMS

All consent items (9-11) were unanimously approved.

STAFF REPORTS AND REQUESTS

(12) Mike Dickey, Management Analyst, presented data from the Fiscal Year 2007 County Community Awareness and Customer Satisfaction Survey. Questions and discussion followed regarding how the survey was conducted, areas of opportunity to improved the survey, future survey methods, use of demographic and cross tabulation of results, flaws, changes to the survey questions as a result of the new Master Plan and how the results might affect the strategic planning aspect. (**Note:** A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included in the PRC Minutes Binder housed in the Director's office.) Director Garges said to look forward to more Balanced Scorecard presentations.

(13) This agenda item was pulled by Greg Jackson.

(14) Lee Jones, Division Director of Capital Planning and Alliance Development and Don Morgan, Division Director of Greenway Planning and Development gave an update on the active 1999 and 2004 Capital Bond Projects. Chair McClure asked that the Board be given time to review the updates and Mr. Jones and Mr. Morgan return at the next PRC meeting for questions. (**Note:** The document detailing the project updates is included in the PRC Minutes Binder housed in the Director's office.)

PARK COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND REQUESTS

(15) Chair McClure shared that the PRC Executive Team had discussed and would like to suggest that every other PRC meeting be held in a different district. He asked that each Commissioner be thinking of when and where they would like to host a meeting in their districts.

(16) Commissioner Wilson reminded the Board of the upcoming PRC Retreat. It will be Thursday, September 20, 2007 at the Bette Rae Thompson Recreation Center from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Topics of possible discussion are the CNA process, Director's vision, SPLRF, budget, balanced scorecard. The Board was invited to make suggestions.

(17) Each Commissioner gave a short update of events, progress, or participation in their respective districts.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried that there being no further business to come before the Board that the meeting be adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

Matthews Sportsplex Community Workshop

Thursday, September 6, 2007

6:30 p.m.

Matthews Community Center (Behind Matthews Elementary School)

New West Park & Brooklyn Village Community Workshop

Monday, September 10, 2007

6 p.m.

Johnson and Wales University – Hance Auditorium

PRC Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, September 11, 2007

6:00 p.m.

AOB Conference Room B

PRC Fall Retreat

Thursday, September 20, 2007

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bette Rae Thomas

Matthews Sportsplex Community Workshop

Thursday, September 27, 2007
6:30 p.m.
Matthews Community Center

New West Park & Brooklyn Village Community Workshop
Wednesday, October 3, 2007
6 p.m.
Johnson and Wales University – Hance Auditorium

PRC Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, October 9, 2007
6 p.m.
AOB Conference Room B

Matthews Sportsplex Community Workshop
Tuesday, October 30, 2007
6:30 p.m.
Matthews Community Center

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