



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Hickory Grove Recreation Center, located at 6709 Pence Road, Charlotte, NC at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2008.

ATTENDANCE

Present:

- Scott McClure, Chair**
- John Barry**
- James Brown**
- Beverly Lawston**
- Owen Furuseth**
- Larry Huelsman**
- Brad Pearce, Vice Chair**
- Brenda McMoore**
- Joe Pata**
- Kirk Otey**
- Mary Wilson, Executive Secretary**
- Michael Noble**

Absent: **Jeff Tarte (Excused – Business)**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Scott McClure, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Lola Massad, Division Director for Community and Recreation Center Services, shared information regarding joint use partnerships with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS). The location of tonight's meeting, Hickory Grove Recreation Center, is housed within the Hickory Grove Elementary School. Staff has use of the gymnasium for activities during after school hours and on the week ends and full use of the multi-purpose room and youth activity area for programming during school hours. Joint use partnerships with CMS are part of the capital planning process. Lola and Lee Jones meet regularly with Guy Chamberlain of CMS to review the schools future plans for development and possibilities for joint use partnerships

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

(1) Introductions

- a. Each commissioner introduced themselves and the district they represent. Chair Scott McClure introduced and welcomed newly appointed PRC members Michael Noble for the Northern Towns and Brenda McMoore for CPD II.
- b. Commissioner Brown reminded everyone of the grand opening of the Center for Bio-diversity at Reedy Creek Park on Saturday, January 26 at 10 a.m. All were encouraged to attend. The event features the recently acquired herbarium.

(2) Proclamations and Awards

- a. Peter Cook, Park and Recreation Manager, recognized the retirement of Sam Simpson, Jr. after 30 years of dedicated service. Several members of Mr. Simpson's family were in attendance for the award presentation.

(3) Public Appearance

- a. Presentation by the Charlotte Tennis Association (CTA) of the State of Tennis in Mecklenburg County.

Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services, reported that in order to learn more about the state of tennis in Mecklenburg County he had applied for and been accepted to the CTA Board of Directors. As a result, it was decided that it would be a good idea for the CTA to give a "State of Tennis" presentation to the Park and Recreation Commission.

CTA members, Randy Chamberlain, Carla O'Conner and Joel Turner gave a PowerPoint presentation on the State of Tennis in Mecklenburg County, which was followed by questions and answers. (**Note:** A copy of this PPT presentation is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office.)

(4) Program Presentation – "Visual Tour of Greenways"

Joe Mangum, Greenway Planner, shared a PowerPoint presentation that showcased recent Greenway Division field trips. Recent destinations included Atlanta, GA, Greenville, SC, the Triangle Area, Madison, WC and a greenway conference in Chicago. These trips give Greenway Division staff the opportunity to visit other communities and learn about their greenway systems and ideas that can be incorporated into Mecklenburg County's greenways. Greenway staff learned of varying greenway components such as the use of artwork, wayfinding systems, trail design, greenway services, handling of greenway traffic and wetland and railroad challenges. (**NOTE:** A copy of this presentation is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office.)

(Note: Skip to Agenda Item 13)

Staff Reports and Requests

(13) RFAI – (1) Motion was made by Commissioner Brown to approve an amendment to the Northwest Park District Advisory Council Bylaws to increase the number of members from nine (9) to eleven (11) to include equine representation, which was seconded by Commissioner Furuseth and approved unanimously.

(NOTE: A copy of the NWPD bylaw amendment is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office.)

(2) Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to eliminate individual bylaws and golf advisory councils at the Charles T. Myers, Renaissance, Revolution, Sunset Hills and The Tradition golf courses and to approve bylaws and create a twelve (12) member Consolidated GOLF Advisory Council, which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.

(NOTE: A copy of the new Consolidated GOLF Advisory Council bylaws is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office.)

(5) Appointments –Advisory Councils – Applicants

d. GOLF: Motion was made by Commissioner Lawston to appoint the following to the Consolidated GOLF Advisory Council:

- Richard Van Dyke (from the former Renaissance Golf Advisory Council)
- Dennis Shanahan (from the former Renaissance Golf Advisory Council)
- Eugene Neal (from the former Tradition Golf Advisory Council)
- John Murphy (from the former Charles T. Myers Golf Advisory Council)
- Marvin Ponds (from the former Charles T. Myers Golf Advisory Council)
- Ann Dunavant (from the former Sunset Golf Advisory Council)
- Raymond Cantey (from the former Sunset Golf Advisory Council)
- Lorraine Pearman (from the former Revolution Golf Advisory Council)
- Dennis Dixon (from the former Revolution Golf Advisory Council)
- John Love – At Large (New Applicant)

To unexpired positions, expiring 6/2008

and

to appoint Samuel Lomax, Mary Richardson and Gail Halverson as associate members

and

to defer appointment of the second Tradition vacancy to the February Park and Recreation Commission meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.

f. NWPD: Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to appoint MaryLou Millhauser and Constance Oliphant (both from the former Equestrian Advisory Council) to the two added positions on the NWPD Advisory Council, terms expiring 6/2008, which was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and approved unanimously.

h. Soccer: Motion was made by Commissioner Otey to appoint Francis G. Jonas to an expired vacancy on the Soccer Advisory Council, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.

(7) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

(8) Director's Report

Director Garges shared information as follows:

- **Gang Prevention Coalition:** The city and county have come together to address the gang problem. Both have taken trips across the country looking at best practices. Initial plans are to appoint a gang coordinator to run point between the police department and other agencies to address the gang problem in terms of enforcement and prevention. Interest is very high regarding this issue among local agencies, non-profits, City Council and CMPD. The Park and Recreation Department will be taking a strong role in this task force with Isaac Applewhite, Community Services Coordinator, as our representative.
- **Master Plan Endorsement:** Plans are to go to each of the towns to talk about the Master Plan as our plan, to discuss its process and time frame and to ultimately get their endorsement of the plan. We will then go to the County Board of Commissioners with these endorsements and ask for their acceptance of the plan.
- **Master Plan Policy Guidelines:** This Master Plan will also include policy guidelines for the County Commissioners to approve regarding plan use, park use, environmental stewardship use, etc. These policy statements on how we do things as a county and city are critical and will require a great deal of discussion as a group before they are formalized.
- **Master Plan Public Workshops:** Several public meetings have been scheduled for the end of January and through February. The Commissioners were encouraged to attend as many as possible. Please check the PRC SharePoint website calendar for events and meetings.
- **Master Plan Survey Results:** Preliminary results are in. A presentation on the results will be held at a later date, led by Leon Younger and Ron Kline. Much of the information gathered from the first Public Workshops were verified in the survey results.
- **Separate Survey:** Parallel with the Master Plan, the Department will conduct a separate survey to validate the dollar amount for the bond issue. It will determine willingness to pay and reveal the atmosphere and temperature of the voters as we go into a bond issue.
- **Charlotte Center City Partners:** Park and Recreation will be working with Charlotte Center City Partners and other agencies to revise their 2010 plan. This will be a detailed, all urban type of review. The Commission will be updated as we move ahead.
- **Commissioner Requests/Questions:** Director Garges reiterated information sent to the Commissioners in a recent e-mail. In an effort to help staff, he asked that any questions or request for materials go through him. Answers and information will be shared with all the Board to facilitate good communication.

(9) PRC Chair Report

Chair Scott McClure introduced a new item to the standard PRC Agenda, 'PRC Chair Report'. This item will serve as a reminder for the current and future Chairs of the Commission to report on any meetings the PRC Chair attended as a representative of the Board and any other pertinent information. Chair McClure reported on the following:

- **District Updates/Visits:** Commissioner McClure encouraged each Commissioner to visit the recreation centers and to do project site visits in their districts and to bring that information to the PRC meetings. This is sometimes the only way the Commissioners are able to know what's going on

in the different districts. Commissioner Lawston concurred and said that her visits to the recreation centers in her district had proved to be very helpful. She felt it was very important to get out and introduce yourself and develop relationships.

- **Public Workshop – Northern Towns:** At both the SPLRF committee meeting and the Greenway Advisory Council meeting, the question of why a public workshop had not been planned in one of the northern towns in the second round of the Master Plan Public Workshops. It was felt that it would be a political mistake to schedule a meeting in Matthews and not schedule one in the northern towns. In opposition to that, Commissioner Furuseh felt the workshop held in Cornelius did not offer the participation of a more diverse group. Director Garges said the Department would look at adding another Workshop to the schedule that would suit the purposes of the concerns addressed.
- **Public Workshop Attendance:** Commissioner McClure asked that each Commissioner come to the February PRC meeting prepared to share which of the public workshops they will be attending. It's important that PRC representation be present at all workshops.
- **NRPA Legislative Forum:** Commissioner Huelsman, as Chairman of the CBM will be attending this Legislative Forum held in Washington DC. In addition, the Board would like one other representative from the Commission to attend. The Park and Recreation Department budgets for at least one Commission to attend events of this type. The Department will pay and assist with registration and reservations. Board members must pay their expenses and request reimbursement.
- **Citizens Board Member Forum:** Commissioner Huelsman reminded the Board of the Citizens Board Member Forum for the state of North Carolina, August 7-9 in Greensboro, NC. All were encouraged to plan to attend.
- **PRC Advisory Council Assignment Review:** Chair McClure made new assignments as follows:
 - Cooperative Extension – Kirk Otey
 - GOLF – Beverly Lawston,
 - Fees and Charges – Beverly Lawston and Brenda McMoore (with John Barry and James Brown
 - SPLRF – Joe Pata (with Owen Furuseh, Larry Huelsman, Jeff Tarte and Mary Wilson)
 - Therapeutic – Joe Pata

Chair McClure shared that he had appointed Commissioner Huelsman and Commissioner Brown to sit on the nominating Committee for the Executive Committee for next year. He reminded the Commissioners that they needed to give serious thought to the amount of time they had to give to this Advisory Council since the Department would be asking for a Bond Package in '08, requiring a great deal of additional work.

(10-12) Consent Items

Having no objections, a motion was made by Commissioner Otey to approve all consent items 10 - 12, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.

Staff Reports and Requests

- (14) **RFAI-** Endorsement of proposed master plan for Pine Valley Neighborhood Park. **This item was pulled** with an update from Blaine Gregory, Senior Planner. This neighborhood park is located in the South Park District off South Blvd. near I-485. The Department has been working with this community for a number of years to get playground equipment for a small pocket park. Money was finally allocated in the Operations Budget, however the community feels the park would best suit them if it was located on property they own where they have a community center building. Details are being worked out before bringing the conceptual master plan back before the Commission.
- (15) **9th Street Volunteer Playground Build:** Director Garges reminded the Commission of the 9th Street volunteer playground build, taking place on Saturday, January 12 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The playground is located at the corner of 9th Street and Graham Street. All were invited to come out and participate.

Adjournment

Having no further items to address, a motion was made by Commissioner McClure to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Barry and approved unanimously.