



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Administrative Office Building, located at 5841 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte, NC at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, 2008.

### **ATTENDANCE**

**Present:**

- Scott McClure, Chair**
- John Barry**
- James Brown**
- Owen Furuseth**
- Larry Huelsman**
- Brenda McMoore**
- Joe Pata**
- Kirk Otey**
- Mary Wilson, Executive Secretary**
- Michael Noble**
- Jeff Tarte**

**Absent:**

- Beverly Lawston**
- Brad Pearce**

**Director Jim Garges - Vacation**

### **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.

Chair McClure advised the Board members that he would be making a concerted effort to keep the PRC monthly meetings to an hour or hour and a half and encouraged the Commissioners to review the agenda prior to the meeting to facilitate this goal.

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

### **(1) Introductions**

Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services introduced Department Intern, John Chaney. John is a student of East Carolina University majoring in Recreation Facilities Management.

### **(2) Proclamations and Awards**

### **(3) Public Appearance**

### **(4) Program Presentation – Carolina Thread Trail**

Don Morgan, Division Director of Greenway Planning and Development, introduced Dave Cable, Executive Director for the Carolina Thread Trail. Dave explained to the PRC that the Carolina Thread Trail is a 15 county regional network of trails and greenways for walking, biking, commuting and enjoying. Its plan is to link communities and attractions across North and South Carolina. Depending on privately funded grants initially, the Carolina Thread Trail will encourage local planning and participation in the creation and connection of greenways and blueway. Dave asked the Commission for their endorsement and support of the Carolina Thread Trail project by signing a 'Resolution of Support'. (Note: additional information on the Carolina Tread Trail can be found on their website at [www.carolinathreadtrail.org](http://www.carolinathreadtrail.org) )

Commissioner Huelsman felt that in order for this project to be successful the PRC endorsement of the Carolina Thread Trail should act as a springboard for endorsement by other county agencies and to the Board of County Commissioners for their endorsement.

Chair McClure suggested seeking the endorsement of the Environmental Policy Coordinating Council an environmental group through LUESA made up of members of these different agencies. Chair McClure also shared that this same presentation was recently presented to the Little Sugar Creek Greenway Action Committee for their support.

Commissioner Otey felt that, given the speed at which things are moving, it would be key to have the Planning Commission begin to designate corridors for the linkages that are not in the Greenway Plan and protect those corridors in the same way they do street expansion right of ways.

Chair McClure suggested the Board endorse this project and to represent and support the Carolina Thread Trail organization when they are ready to present to the BOCC.

*Motion was made by Commissioner Otey to sign the Resolution of Support, which was seconded by Commissioner Huelsman and approved unanimously.*

Chair McClure thanked Dave and his organization for their support on the recent bond campaign and look forward to their continued support of future bond campaigns.

## **Staff Reports and Requests**

### **(5) Appointments –Advisory Councils – Applicants**

f. **GOLF:** In the absence of Commissioner Lawston, *motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to defer appointment of Victor Brown to the March PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Otey and approved unanimously.*

g. **NEPD:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to defer appointment of William Woodard to the March PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Otey and approved unanimously.*

### **(7) Advisory Council – Committee Reports**

#### **(8) Director’s Report**

- Deputy Director, Dot Law, reported that Director Garges was out of town on vacation for the birth of his second grandchild, which had been born that morning,
- Chair McClure reminded the Commission that Director Garges celebrated his 1<sup>st</sup> year with the Department on February 1.

#### **(9) PRC Chair Report**

- Commissioner Otey, in order to familiarize himself and his advisory council members with the parks in their district, took the council on a parks tour. As a guide for that day and also as a reference for the Advisory Council members as they discuss park issues with the public and in their neighborhoods, Commissioner Otey felt it would be helpful to have a reference manual of all CPDIII parks and facilities. Karla Thornhill and her staff put this manual together using information from the Park and Recreation Website and from POLARIS.
- Chair McClure recently went by the Metro Project and was taken through the whole presentation of the Pappas Property project. Scott noted that they did an excellent job of talking about the relationship between their development and the Greenway Project. Plans are to have a future Greenway Advisory Council meeting at their sales center.
- A final Master Plan Workshop schedule was distributed with participation commitments made as follows:
  - Sr. Center: Commissioners John Barry and Larry Huelsman
  - Friendship Missionary Baptist Church: Commissioners Owen Furuseth, Brenda McMoore, Mary Wilson and James Brown.
  - Cornelius Town Hall: Commissioners Michael Noble, Owen Furuseth and Jeff Tarte
  - Matthews Town Hall: Commissioners Joe Pata, Larry Huelsman, and James Brown

- Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center: Commissioners Kirk Otey, Joe Pata, Mary Wilson, Larry Huelsman, Brenda McMoore and James Brown.
- Commission members were encouraged to have patience with the PRC SharePoint site and to use this resource for all PRC meeting agenda related information. Contact Sandy Goodwin for training and support.
- Deputy Director Dot Law invited all the Commission members to attend a Master Plan meeting with consultant, Leon Younger on Friday, February 22 at 9 a.m. for an update on the Master Plan before the public workshops begin. Chair McClure requested that Commissioner Huelsman and Commissioner Furuseth attend a Master Plan meeting with him on February 20.

**(10-12) Consent Items**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to approve the minutes of the January PRC meeting and all other consent items, which was seconded by Commissioner Tarte and approved unanimously.*

**Staff Reports and Requests**

- (13)** Blaine Gregory, Sr. Planner for Capital Planning Services gave an overview of the proposed Master Plan for Frazier Dog Park in the uptown area and asked for the Commission's endorsement of the plan. *Motion was made by Commissioner McMoore to endorse the Master Plan for Frazier Dog Park, which was seconded by Commissioner Barry and approved unanimously.*

**Around the County**: Each Commissioner reported on their park districts:

- Commissioner Owen Furuseth – NEPD: (1) Opening ceremony for the Kirk Family Farm Field on March 15 at 10 a.m.
- Commissioner Jeff Tarte – NPD: (1) Director Garges will be doing an update of the Master Plan to the Cornelius Town Board on Monday, February 18. (2) The Cornelius Town Board will be taking action on releasing 1.3 million dollars to be invested in and begin work on Robbins Park. (3) The NPD Advisory Council got the programming for the sailing center at Blythe Landing recommendation and will look forward to that coming before the PRC.
- Commissioner Brenda McMoore – CPDII: (1) Frazier Dog Park (2) CPD II Advisory Council annual park tour on Saturday, February 23 in lieu of February meeting.
- Commissioner James Brown – EPD: (1) The grand opening of the Center for Bio-diversity at Reedy Creek Park on Saturday, January 26 was a great success with approximately 150 in attendance
- Commissioner Michael Noble – Northern Towns: (1) Record number of tennis teams signed up in the Northern Towns. Short on facilities to support growth.
- Commissioner Larry Huelsman – SPD: (1) Kick off for the senior games were held on Saturday with 125 participants. (2) Bark in the Park will be Saturday, April 26 at Davie Park. (3) CBM Forum will be August 7, 8 and 9.
- Commissioner John Barry – SWPD: (1) Working to get advisory council members lined up for the Master Plan meetings
- Commissioner Mary Wilson – At Large: (1) Facilitated connecting Park and Recreation Therapeutic services to our service men at the Mecklenburg Ministries luncheon on January 24. This was not only a chance to talk about

therapeutic services available but also provided information about Park and Recreation to be shared with all the congregations represented at the luncheon.

- Commissioner Joe Pata – Southern Towns: (1) Attended the Matthews Father/Daughter valentines dance. (2) Met with mayor to talk about setting up a task team to work on the Matthews Sports Complex. (3) Met with Pineville Park and Recreation Director (4) Attended Mint Hill Town Meeting (5) Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council met.
- Commissioner Kirk Otey – CPDIII: (1) In the midst of a very successful youth basketball season, soccer will be starting up in another month to six weeks. (2) CPD III Advisory Council toured the district parks. (3) Use of the Mahlon Adams and Tom Sykes centers is well beyond the projected usage and speaks to a need that needs to be addressed in our Master Planning for facilities not associated with a park.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further items to address, a motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.