



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Administrative Office Building located at 5841 Brookshire Boulevard on Tuesday, June 10 at 6:00 p.m.

PRC Minutes

June 10, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Present:

Scott McClure, Chair
Brad Pearce, Vice Chair
Mary Wilson, Executive Secretary
Kirk Otey
Brenda McMoore
Michael Noble
Jeff Tarte
Larry Huelsman (End of Term)
Owen Furuseth
Joe Pata
John Barry
Beverly Lawston (6:35)
Dot Law
Jim Garges (7:10)

Absent: **James Brown (End of Term)**

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.

The Park and Recreation Vision Statement was read by Commissioner Noble.

The Park and Recreation Mission Statement was read by Commissioner Tarte.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

(1) Introductions

- Chair McClure ask that each Commissioner introduced themselves and tell the park district which they represented.
- Chair Scott McClure introduced the newly appointed PRC members, Kim Weissinger for the EPD and Tim Morgan for the South Park District.

(2) Proclamations and Awards – Retirement of Bob Gresham and Verdell Sanders

- Lola Massad, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services, recognized the retirement of Bob Gresham and Verdell Sanders and presented appreciation awards to each of them. Both Bob and Verdell retire with 30 years of service to Mecklenburg County.

(3) Public Appearance

- Our Childrens Memorial Walkway: Jerry Mudge, shared background on “Our Children’s Memorial Walkway”, established in 1999 in coalition with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation. This small memorial garden is located within Frazier Park and was established to allow for families of all ages, denominations, and races from across the area to have a place to come together in memory of their children. Jerry presented plaques of appreciation to Director Garges, Mike Cozza, and Jeff Robinson. All were encouraged to take time to visit the garden, the only one of its kind in NC located in a public park.
- Charlotte Tennis Association: Joel Turner of the Charlotte Tennis Association came before the PRC as a follow up to a presentation made earlier in the year and to share concerns regarding the level of attention tennis, tennis programming and tennis courts was being given both in the Master Plan report and the upcoming bond referendum. Joel shared some statistics from the public survey for the Master Plan. (This information was provided in a handout to the Commission and a copy is included in the PRC minutes binder housed in the Director’s office). Joel expressed his desire for a tennis complex of 30 plus courts to enhance programming and economic development as opposed to two and four court blocks throughout the county. The Commission was asked to help the Charlotte Tennis Association understand better the disconnect between the feedback provided by the public relative to the what is in the Master Plan report in terms of recommendations. Questions and concerns were addressed regarding USTA, acreage, cost and locations. Chair McClure suggested that staff be given some time to review and that Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services, work with Commissioner Nobles and bring back a report at the August or September PRC meeting to give the CTA proposal a full hearing. Joel noted that this has been an issue for a number of years and the CTA think it should be a pat of this November’s bond referendum.
- Bill Brawley: Former PRC Commissioner Bill Brawley came before the Board to recognize and express appreciation for the service of Commissioners James Brown and Larry Huelsman. Bill said he was proud to have served with them on both Advisory Councils and the PRC.

(4) Program Presentation – Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Outdoor Pools

- James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services, introduced Jeff Carwile, Facility Manager of the Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center and also responsible for the outdoor/neighborhood pools. Jeff gave a brief overview and presentation of the outdoor pools including where we are, where we've been and what our vision is for the outdoor pools. (**Note:** A copy of this presentation is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office.) Topics covered in this presentation included:
 - Pool History of Cordelia and Double Oaks
 - Usage
 - Water Related Injury Facts
 - Learn to Swim Programs
- Commissioner Pata asked for the annual maintenance cost of both indoor and outdoor pools.
- Commissioner Pearce raised the issue of the inability of children from at-risk neighborhoods to find transportation to the outdoor pool locations in order to participate in swimming programs. He suggested transportation from recreation centers.
- Chair McClure said that David Howard would be on the agenda in August to give a pool presentation regarding one of our existing pools.

(5) Appointments –Advisory Councils – Applicants

- **CPD I:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Lawston to reappoint Dorothy Crowder, Lelia D. Payton-Johnson, Sheila Sweet and Thom Perkins to second full terms expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.*
- **CPD II:** *Motion was made by Commissioner McMoore to appoint Hope McKinney to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.*
- **CPD III:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Otey to reappoint William R. Pearce Jr. to a second full term expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.*
- **EPD:** *In the absence of Commissioner Brown, Chair Scott McClure made a motion to reappoint Thomas Haack to a first full term expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.*
- **GOLF:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Lawston to reappoint all current members of the GOLF Advisory Council to a first full term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously. Those member reappointed are as follows:*
 - Eugene Neal
 - Victor Brown
 - Lorraine Pearman
 - Dennis Dixon
 - Dennis Shanahan
 - Richard Van Dyke
 - Anne Dunovant
 - Raymond Cantey
 - John Murphy
 - Marvin Ponds
 - John Love

- **Greenway:** Motion was made by Chair McClure to reappoint Gerald Hopkins to a first full term expiring 6/2011 which was seconded by Commissioner McMoore and approved unanimously.
- **NPD:** Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to reappoint Kevin Falank to a first full term expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **NEPD:** Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to reappoint Rachel Bailey to a second full term expiring 6/2011 and to reappoint Judy Mason and Peter Knoell to first full terms expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **NWPD:** Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to appoint Kristin Toler, representing the equestrian community, to an expired term, expiring 6/2011 and to appoint Russell D. Carroll to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and approved unanimously.

Motion was also made by Commissioner Pearce to reappoint William Hixon, Aaron McKeithan, and Walter Young to second full terms expiring 6/2011 and to reappoint David Morgan and Constance Oliphant to first full terms expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner McMoore and approved unanimously.

- **Soccer:** Motion was made by Commissioner Otey to reappoint Thomas Finley and Jon Koslick to first full terms expiring 6/2011 and to reappoint Rob Brisley to a second full term expiring 6/2011 which was seconded by Commissioner Furuseth and approved unanimously.
- **SPD:** Motion was made by Commissioner Huelsman to appoint Howie Paul Hartnett to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2009 and to reappoint Classie Worth to a first full term expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and approved unanimously.
- **SWPD:** Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to appoint Jennifer Lynch-Caldwell to an expired term, expiring 6/2011 and to reappoint Dorothea Dawkins and Gary Rhinehart to first full terms expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **NPNR:** Motion was made by Commissioner Wilson to appoint Andrea Cook to an unexpired vacancy expiring 6/2010 and to reappoint Alan Barnhardt to a first full term expiring 6/2011 and to reappoint Lawrence Barden to a second first term expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.
- **TRAC:** Motion was made by Commissioner Pata to reappoint Nancy Callaway to a second full term expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pearce and approved unanimously.

(6) Public Hearings – Oaklawn Recreation Center Naming

- Lola Massad, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services brought before the board a naming request to name the Oaklawn Recreation Center the “Ivory/Baker Recreation Center”. This request has been approved by the Central Park District II Advisory Council on March 17 and May 19. Anita Stroud of the Anita Stroud Foundation was present and provided a brief history on both the nominees for the naming. (**Note:** A copy of the naming application and petition is included in the PRC minutes binder and contains information on Ms. Ivory and Mr. Baker.) Motion was made by Commissioner McMoore to accept the request to name Oaklawn Recreation Center, the Ivory/Baker

Recreation Center, which was seconded by Commissioner Wilson and approved unanimously.

(7) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

(8) Director's Report

- Budget: One of the changes to the budget was public safety and more money will be coming to the Department to handle the security issues in the parks.
- Additional CMPD Unit for Parks: The Department put together a study that recommended an additional CMPD Unit for Park and Recreation. This would be a \$4 Million dollar budget change and did not get funded this year. However, there is support for that in the Administration and going forward we will be advocating for that change in our budget.
- Matthews: Following a presentation of the Master Plan to the Matthews Town Board and was adopted unanimously.
- Capital Budget: On June 24 the County Commission will be reviewing the Capital Budget. This will be an important meeting for PRC to attend. There will probably be some conversation about the Park and Recreation bond issue.
- Neighborhood Cabinet: We have a number of special initiatives we are working on with the Neighborhood Cabinet, especially neighborhoods with a high volume of foreclosure and the increased number of children left unattended. The Department is looking at possible playground programming and job programming.
- Gang of One: Isaac Applewhite continues to work with Gang of One, a collaborative initiative between the Police Department, Charlotte Mecklenburg Health Department, Department of Social Services and Park and Recreation. A recent workshop at Jetton received a lot of attention with elected officials and state representatives in attendance. We have a \$1.5 Million grant through the State to do something with that initiative.
- City of Charlotte Endorsement: The City of Charlotte City Council has endorsed the Master Plan.

(9) PRC Chair Report

- End of Term: Well wishes went out to Commissioner Larry Huelsman, as he has reached the end of his term of service on the Park and Recreation Commission. Larry was presented with an etched bowl in recognition and appreciation of his service. Commissioner James Brown has also reached the end of his term and due to absence will be recognized at a later date.
- State of the Commission: Chair McClure, gave a "State of the Commission" as he has reached the end of his term as Chair. Scott recounted highlights of the past years accomplishments and events.

(10-12) Consent Items

- *Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce to approve all consent items, including the May minutes of the PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Otey and approved unanimously.*

Staff Reports and Requests

(13) Election of the PRC Executive Committee 2008/2009

- *Motion was made by Commissioner Huelsman to approve the slate of officers as presented at the May PRC meeting of:*
 - *Brad Pearce – Chair*

- Owen Furueth - Vice Chair
- John Barry – Executive Secretary

Which was seconded by Commissioner Nobles and approved unanimously

- Presentations: A bowl presentation was made to Commissioner Larry Huelsman, in recognition and appreciation of his service on the PRC. A caricature presentation was made to Chair Scott McClure in recognition and appreciation of his service to the Board as Chair.

Adjournment

- *Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Commissioner Barry to adjourn at 7:45 p.m., which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously*