



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

August 12, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Present:

- Brad Pearce Chair**
- John Barry, Executive Secretary**
- Scott McClure**
- Kirk Otey**
- Brenda McMoore**
- Michael Noble**
- Jeff Tarte**
- Dot Law**
- Jim Garges**

Absent:

- Joe Pata**
- Beverly Lawston**
- Owen Furuseth**
- Michael Noble**

CALL TO ORDER

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

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

(1) Introductions

None

(2) Proclamations and Awards

- a. **Green Guardian Award:** Heidi Pruess, Environmental Policy Administrator for Mecklenburg County, presented Julie Clark, Division Director of Greenway Planning and Development with the August Green

Guardian Award. Julie is environmentally friendly at work and at home and works hard to do what she can to lessen her environmental impact. Some of her efforts include taking the bus or biking to work as often as possible, living on and taking advantage of a greenway for transportation, being a one car family, use of rain barrels, composting, and a manual lawn mower and using a coffee mug in place of Styrofoam. (**Note:** A copy of the Outlook article is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office.)

- b. **PRC Service Award:** Director Garges presented Laura McClettie with a Service appreciation award for her years of service on the Park and Recreation Commission. Laura served from June 2000 to October 2007.
- c. **PRC Service Award:** Director Garges presented Mary Wilson with a service appreciation award for her years of service on the Park and Recreation Commission. Mary served from June 2006 to July 2008.

(3) Public Appearance

None

(4) Program Presentation – Horticulture Program

Jeff Robinson, Division Director of Specialized Park Services, introduced Tim Turton, Maintenance and Operations Supervisor for a program presentation on Department Horticulture. Tim shared many pictures of the various landscapes throughout our park system. (**Note:** A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office.)

(5) Appointments –Advisory Councils – Applicants

- a. **Aquatics:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to appoint Shawn Meachem to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Otey and approved unanimously.*
- b. **CPD I:** *Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to appoint Thomas Sowell to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Morgan and approved unanimously.*
- c. **CPD II:** *Motion was made by Commissioner McMoore to appoint Diane English to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Otey and approved unanimously.*
- d. **CPD III:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Otey to appoint Marc Gustafson to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Morgan and approved unanimously.*
- e. **EPD:** *Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to appoint Kim Weissinger to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Tarte and approved unanimously.*
- f. **NPD:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to appoint Robbie Lawrence to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Morgan and approved unanimously.*
- g. **SPD:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Morgan to appoint Phillip Covington to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2009, Hermes Goudes to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2010 and Robert Busbee to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner McMoore and approved unanimously.*

- h. **Therapeutic:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Otey to appoint Jeffrey Katz to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Tarte and approved unanimously.*

(6) Public Hearings

None

(7) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

(8) Director's Report

Director Garges reported on the following:

- Highlighted the information in the Director's Report, included in the agenda packet
- Ground Breakings and Openings: Jim reminded the Commission of the Ground Breakings and Openings that will be coming up between now and November 3. These are associated with several of the Department's major projects and all will be important as we begin to educate people about the bond campaign.
- Charlotte Observer Article: Shared the front page Charlotte Observer article "What's in the Park Bond for You?"
- September 3 Public Hearing: Reminded the Board of the September 3 public hearing on the bonds at 6:00 at the BOCC meeting. From an advocacy standpoint, it will be important to have a packed house. Suggested a speaker for every category related to the park bond.
- Information Booklet: Jim shared that the Department is putting together an educational booklet of facts and benefit information and will assist the Board with talking adequately about anything that is in the bond package and very useful for advisory council members.
- Bond Project Reports: Jim asked that Lee Jones share information that was put together at the request of the PRC at the recent bond project meeting which included a report on the status of the 2004 bond projects, the 2008 park bond recommendation request broken down by BOCC district and park district, the 2008 park bond recommendations showing project location by city and town districts, a 2008 park bond referendum project description and a bond history report 1978 – 2008. (**Note:** All are included in the agenda packet in the PRC minute's binder). Suggestions and recommendations from the PRC and staff included:
 - Using the word "construction" in place of the word "development".
 - Reducing all documents to letter size.
 - Graphic representation of gaps and proposed projects by category on maps and in a PowerPoint.
 - Report of past, current and future bond spending plans to show progression.
 - Include the BOCC Commissioner's name as well as the district on maps and documentation.
 - Check with bond campaign staff to determine the kind of mass produced printed material they are going to recommend.
 - Post bond information documents to the web site.

- Strategic Planning/Balanced Scorecard: Jim invited all to attend the upcoming 3 mornings of strategic planning and balanced scorecard annual results and presentations for the Department.

(9) PRC Chair Report

Chair Pearce asked each of the Commissioners to let him, Commissioner Barry or Commissioner Furueth know if there is any topic they feel needs covering and he will contact staff to have it placed on the agenda. Chair Pearce wanted all members to feel they have a voice on the board.

Ground Breakings and Openings: The Commissioners were reminded of the upcoming ground breakings and openings and ask that each Commissioner contact Sophia Hollingsworth and let her know which events they plan to attend.

Race Playce: Asked that Commissioners get familiar with the Race Playce project and get involved.

Advisory Council Vacancies: Asked that all the advisory council vacancies be filled within the next two months. Members were advised to work with the Park and Recreation Managers.

Bond Campaign: Commissioners were advised to start educating and energizing advisory council members regarding the bond campaign.

(10-12) Consent Items

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

Staff Reports and Requests

- (13) Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services, presented the third reading on Eastway Specialty Park naming and asked for the Board's approval of the naming of Eastway Specialty Park to "Eastway Park". The first and second reading went before the NEPD Advisory Council on April 22, 2008 and June 26, 2008. *Motion was made by Commissioner McMoore to approve the naming of Eastway Specialty Park to Eastway Park, which was seconded by Commissioner Morgan and approved unanimously.*

Park Commissioners Reports and Requests

Commissioner Tarte reported on the following:

- The NPD Advisory Council passed a resolution to not only focus on active and passive park activities, programming and facilities, but to also focus on arts and cultural activities.
- Looking forward to Robbins Park ground breaking in the near future
- The Cornelius Pony Baseball Team made it to the World Series this year.
- A Mayoral proclamation will be presented to Deputy Director Dot Law at the next PRC meeting in recognition of her assistance in resolving a water problem at Public Works that threatened to stop an Equestrian Event at Latta Plantation.

- The North end is actively supporting the Park Bond. Time has been spent with Commissioner Bentley and Commissioner Clarke to educate on the benefits to the citizens in the North and county wide.

Commissioner McClure:

- Scott asked if there would be letter of support from the northern town mayors similar to the one from the southern town mayors. (Commissioner Tarte said they were very supportive and that a lunch meeting was planned for the next day regarding this topic.)
- Suggested that the September 3 BOCC meeting be used in place of the regularly scheduled meetings in order to encourage greater attendance at the BOCC public hearing.
- Asked if a senior staff member could be made available or assigned to each Commissioner to attend meetings to provide factual information regarding the bond package.
- Suggested each Commissioner make plans to be in attendance at all grand opening or ground breakings and all planned Chamber speaking engagements in their districts.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.