



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Administrative Office Building located at 5841 Brookshire Blvd. on Monday, October 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

PRC Minutes

October 13, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Present:

- Brad Pearce – Chair**
- Owen Furueth – Vice Chair**
- John Barry – Exec. Secretary**
- Robert Brisley**
- Scott McClure**
- Brenda McMoore**
- Beverly Lawston**
- Jeff Tarte**
- Joe Pata**
- Jim Garges**

Absent:

- Kirk Otey**
- Tim Morgan**
- 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
None

(3) Public Appearance

None

(4) Program Presentations - Greenway Land Acquisition Study Group Findings

Julie Clark, Division Director of Greenway Planning and Development, introduced Tom Cox, Chair of the Greenway Land Acquisition Study Group, to present the outcome of the study to the Park and Recreation Commission. The main outcome of the group, as reported by Mr. Cox, was a majority agreement to recommend to the BOCC that eminent domain continues as a last resort policy for land acquisition and to continue to follow the communication process currently used by Park and Recreation including a transparency letter to be given to every land owner whose property is being considered for acquisition at the initial contact meeting. (**Note:** The study group's report is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the director's office.)

Discussion followed and concerns were expressed regarding:

- Cost of proposed procedures for citizen notification including standard notices, corridor notices and transparency letter
- Accuracy of some information included in the minority report
- Need for the Board to have time to study the report

Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to: (1) accept as information the report presented by Tom Cox, Chair of the Greenway Land Acquisition Study Group; (2) request that Park and Recreation staff provide further cost analysis on the implementation of the study's proposed procedures for citizen notification; (3) place the study back on the agenda for the November PRC meeting for consideration and action; (4) request that the BOCC defer the study groups presentation until the PRC makes their recommendation, which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.

(5) Appointments –Advisory Councils – Applicants

- a. **Aquatics:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to appoint Diane Dunn to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner McClure and approved unanimously.*
- b. **CPD II:** *Motion was made by Commissioner McMoore to appoint George Sullivan to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.*
- c. **EPD:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Brisley to appoint Alica McKenzie to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Furueth and approved unanimously.*
- d. **GOLF:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to appoint Glenn Jaffe and Gail Halverson each to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Furueth and approved unanimously.*
- e. **SWPD:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to appoint Michael Jones to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2009 and to appoint Aaron Beck to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Furueth and approved unanimously.*
- f. **Soccer:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Pata to appoint Jamie Luckie to an expired vacancy, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded Commissioner Brisley and approved unanimously.*

g. Therapeutic: Motion was made by Commissioner Pata to appoint Shannon Burns to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Furuseh and approved unanimously.

h. Stewardship: Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to defer appointments to the Stewardship Advisory Council to the November PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Furuseh and approved unanimously.

(6) Public Hearings

None

(7) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

(8) Director’s Report

In addition to the items covered in the written Director’s Report included in the agenda packet, Director Jim Garges discussed the following:

- Race Playce Playground Build: Jim thanked everyone (Park Commissioners, County Commissioners and staff) involved with helping to build the all accessible playground at Nevin Park. He shared that it was a great week with wonderful weather, a great opportunity to promote the bonds and over 4,000 great volunteers. The playground surface is currently going in and the opening celebration is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m.
- Capital Project: Because of the financial difficulties that the country is going through, capital bond projects that are already in progress will continue, but bond sales for other projects has slowed considerably until the credit crunch has eased. Communication with the Finance Department continues to let them know which projects are priorities.
- Openings: Jim thanked Park Commissioners and County Commissioners for attending the recent openings of Four Mile Greenway and Frazier Dog Park. He reminded the Board that more openings are scheduled providing additional opportunities to attend and show citizens how their bonds have been working.
- Bond Campaign: Jim thanked everyone for all their hard work and continued work on the bond campaign. He reminded the Board that the Department would provide them with any informational material needed.

(9) PRC Chair Report

(10-12) Consent Items

Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to approve all consent items, including the September minutes of the PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner McMoore and approved unanimously.

Staff Reports and Requests

- (13) Presentation on Economic Impact of Amateur Sports on Mecklenburg County:** Greg Jackson, Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services, introduced Mike Anderson and Mike Applegate of the Charlotte Regional Visitor’s Authority (CRVA). The Department works closely with the CRVA to recruit regional, national and international amateur youth athletic competitions to

Mecklenburg County. A tournament of significance coming to Charlotte is the 2009/2010 State Games of the Carolinas. A video with details of what this tournament will mean to Charlotte was shown. Following the video, Mike Applegate, Director of Research for CRVA, shared a presentation on the booking trends from 2004 to 2008. The presentation covered:

- Annual Events
- Annual Attendees
- Annual Hotel Room Nights Consumed
- Annual Direct Spending Generated
- Annual Economic Impact Generated
- Annual State & Local Taxes Generated
- Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Facility Utilization

(Note: The above presentation is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office.)

Director Garges pointed out that these events are big business and makes the bond projects such as the Sportsplex in the south, making improvements to the Aquatic Center, and upgrading existing facilities important to staying on the leading edge for bringing in these events as well as making sure the children and adults of Mecklenburg County have top flight facilities.

Park Commissioners Reports and Requests

- (14) **Presentation of Charlotte Neighborhood Quality of Life Assessment:** Commissioner Furuseth made a presentation on the Charlotte Neighborhood Quality of Life Assessment, prepared by Metropolitan Studies and Extended Academic Programs at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. **(Note:** The PowerPoint presentation is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office and can also be viewed online at <http://www.charmeck.org/Departments/Neighborhood+Dev/Sustain+Neighborhoods/Quality+of+Life/Home.htm>)

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.