



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at Ray Splash Planet located at 215 N. Sycamore Street, Charlotte, NC at 6:00 p.m.

PRC MINUTES
January 12, 2010

ATTENDANCE

Present: Rob Brisley
Scott McClure
Paul Bailey
Charlie McRee
Owen Furuseth
David Morgan
Beverly Lawston
Norman Mitchell
Brad Pearce, Chair
Brenda McMoore
Jim Garges
Dot Law

Absent Jeff Tarte (Business Travel)
John Barry, Executive Secretary

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 led by Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services.

Welcome and Introductions:

Chris Matthews: Michael Kirschman, Division Director of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources, introduced the Department's new Natural Resources Manager, Chris Matthews. Chris comes to the Department with over 15 years of professional experience.

Chris said he started with the Department in October and is excited to be on board with Park and Recreation. He also gave an update on the feral hog situation at Cowan's Ford Wildlife Refuge, and the cooperation between the Wildlife Resources Commission and the Department.

Genni Reel and Ray's Splash Planet Staff: James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services, introduced Genni Reel, Facility Manager at Ray's Splash Planet. Genni welcomed the Commission and had each of the staff member introduce themselves.

Proclamations and Awards

Public Appearance – Stan McDaniel – Disc Golf Proposal

James Worsley, East Region Manager, introduced Stan McDaniel with Charlotte Disc Golf Club to share with the Commission the design for a disc golf course at Eastway Park. Stan has been playing disc golf since 1977, is in the disc golf hall of fame and has a passion for playing and designing courses in partnership with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation.

Stan shared that Charlotte will be host to the Disc Golf World Championship in 2012. In preparation for this event, more courses will be needed. The Charlotte Disc Golf Club has been looking at all the parks targeted in the 2008 Park Master Plan for disc golf courses and others where it may be a good fit. Eastway Park came up as being a good fit. The design will have 18 baskets and two tee pads per basket; one for beginners and one for more experienced players. The club will design, build and place the baskets on the course and ask that Park and Recreation place the concrete tee pads and maintain the course.

Director Garges shared that if it were not for Stan and the club and the work that they have done, the Department probably wouldn't have a disc golf course in the entire County. Jim said that they have been very conscientious of the natural resources and have done a great job bringing in volunteers and working with the Boy Scouts to bring more activity and more people to the parks.

Following discussion regarding how the game is played, cost, lessons and tournament events a ***motion was made by Commissioner McClure to endorse the course design as presented for Eastway Park and allow Stan and the Charlotte Disc Golf Club, in partnership with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, to move forward with the build, which was seconded by Commissioner Furuseth and approved unanimously.*** (NOTE: The map of the course design/layout is included in the January, 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 3a**, housed in the Director's office.)

Program Presentation: Enterprise Services – Ray's Splash Planet- More Than Just a Waterpark!

Genni Reel, Facility Manager II, at Ray's Splash Planet gave a presentation on Ray's being more than just a water park. Genni shared that every inch of the facility is programmed: A full gymnasium shared with Irwin Elementary School, a fitness center, aerobics studio, weight room, party room, pre-school room, concessions, summer tennis camps at Frazier Park and more. The presentation included information on the water park, programs, birthday parties, the fitness center and special events hosted by Ray's Splash Planet. Genni ended the presentation saying that it is the staff that makes Ray's a success. All employees are challenged to C.A.R.E. Create a Remarkable Experience. (NOTE: A copy of the presentation is included in the January 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 4a**, housed in the Director's office.)

Appointments – Advisory Councils – Applicants

- a. **Cultural Arts:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell to appoint **Sy'Donia Williams, Ben Kubie and Jacob Oleksiak** to full terms on the Cultural Arts Advisory Council, expiring 6/2012, which was seconded by Commissioner Furuseth and approved unanimously.*

Director's Report – Jim Garges

Director Jim Garges Reported the following:

Congratulations to Greg Jackson: Director Garges informed the Board that Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services, has taken a position as Director of Greensboro Park Department. Jim praised Greg for the outstanding job he has done for Mecklenburg County and considers him a “top professional”. Greg will be sorely missed.

Public Market Study: Jim shared that the Department has started a public market study with Charlotte Center City Partners. The consultant, Project for Public Spaces, will be in town on February 12 to look at several locations for a possible permanent public market and for temporary markets. One of the locations being considered is the First Ward Park. Recommendations should be made by late summer.

Jim also shared that the Cooperative Extension will be hiring someone to promote public markets, community gardens and the preservation and preparation of food. This will be a good person to be involved with the Public Market Study group.

Noise Ordinance Presentation: Greg Jackson reported on his presentation to the BOCC Natural Resources Committee about the noise ordinance policy followed by the Department. Greg did a very nice job of presenting the history and sharing the whole process and policy. Plans are to redraft our policy to closer match what the City of Charlotte is doing in terms of sound levels.

BOCC February Retreat: The BOCC will have a retreat in February and topics of discussion that will affect us will be the operating and capital budgets. They will also be discussing a proposal for a bond sale in July, which hopefully will match what the Finance Department has indicated for the Department. That projection would be \$27 million for capital projects and \$10 million for land acquisition. If so, we will be able to start all of the 04 projects and start the Matthews Sportsplex.

Commissioner Lawston asked if Director Garges was aware of a task force with Senator Graham for the marketing and redevelopment of the Beatties Ford Road corridor. Jim said that he would check into it.

PRC Chair Report

Restructuring the PRC and Advisory Councils: Chair Pearce asked that the Board again consider the proposal to restructure the Park and Recreation Commission as a

result of the Department going from 9 districts to 5 regions. This proposal was brought up at the November, 2009 PRC meeting at which time several concerns were expressed. Chair Pearce asked that each Commissioner send their concerns or ideas to him and to plan to have a proposal put together for implementation by the Department by June, 2010.

Much discussion followed with topics of concern being:

- Splitting communities
- Why were the districts changed into regions
- New lines took some advisory council members out of their original area
- The idea of grandfathering council members
- Regions are larger and more difficult to know all that applies to the Region

Commissioner Lawston asked that the advantages and disadvantages be given to them regarding the partnering of the two Central Districts.

Greg Jackson stated that the Department does not have to adhere strictly to the regional boundary lines for the purpose of placing advisory council applicants; that the boundaries are mainly so that the BOCC can make PRC appointments. Chair Pearce stated that members could be “grandfathered” in to different regions.

South Park District PRC Application: Chair Pearce reminded the Board that the BOCC would be making a nomination/appointment to the vacant SPD PRC vacancy at the January 20 BOCC meeting. Among those applicants is Joe Pata. Joe served on the PRC and resigned due to his wife’s illness. The Commission was encouraged to contact the BOCC and express their recommendation for filling this position.

Communication with Staff: Chair Pearce reminded the Board members to keep in contact with their staff liaison for any events or projects going on in their respective areas and communicate with advisory council members.

Staff Reports and Requests

(13) Workshop Operations Manual Update: Blaine Gregory, Sr. Planner, shared with the Commission the updated operations manual outlining procedures for stakeholder meetings and public workshops. Blaine covered the basic procedures used to facilitate master planning a new park as well as other programs and issues that come to the Department. (**NOTE:** A detailed policy is included in the January 2010 PRC Minute’s Binder, **Section 13**, housed in the Director’s office.)

(14) Advisory Council/PRC Alignment Restructuring: (Covered under the PRC Chair Report section.)

(15) Budget Update: Mario Chang, Sr. Fiscal Administrator, gave a budget update. Mario pointed out the Revenue and Capital Reserve, both of which are monies collected as a Department. The Capital Reserve is money that comes in but is kept in a reserve account for specific purposes; the development of a park or significant maintenance not funded by the County. Mario also pointed out the negative revenue variance showing up in December of FY2009 YTD. This was due to non recurring items such as the expiration of a NRPA \$50,000 football grant, Blue Cross Blue Shield sponsorship down from \$60,000 last year to \$50,000 this year and an insurance claim of \$58,000 that showed up as revenue last year. (**NOTE:** The budget report present is included in the

January 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 15 and 15a**, housed in the Director's office.)

Chair Pearce said he had talked with Commissioner Chair Jennifer Roberts who said that the County is not going to know anything with regard to the Operating Budget until they get the sales tax report in March. Director Garges said this would be discussed further at the February PRC meeting.

Neil Carroll: Director Garges announced that Neil Carroll will fill Greg's position temporarily until we go through the selection process to fill the position. Both internal and external candidates are being considered.

Consent Items:

***Motion was made** by Commissioner Brisley to approve all consent items, including the November 19, 2009 PRC minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Furuseth and approved unanimously.*

Park Commissioners Reports and Requests

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.