



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Park and Recreation Administrative Office Building located at 5841 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte NC 28216 on October 12, 2010 at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES
October 12, 2010**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Rob Brisley , Chair
Charlie McRee, Executive Secretary
Beverly Cotton Lawston , Vice Chair (Left at 7:10)
Paul Bailey
Norman Mitchell (Left at 6:45)
Philip Carey
Ed Barnhart
Kendel Bryant
Elaine Powell
Doug Burnett
Brenda McMoore (Left at 7:00)
Jeff Tarte

Jim Garges
Dot Law

Absent Joe Pata (Business)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Rob Brisley, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions:

Proclamations and Awards

Public Appearance

a. **Disc Golf Course Proposals: Disc Golf:** Jeff Robinson, Division Director of Park Operations, gave a short history on the development of disc golf courses in Mecklenburg County and then introduced Pam Royal, Superintendent of Recreation for Huntersville, NC and Stan McDaniel, Director and architect of Charlotte Disc Golf Club.

Pam Royal expressed the support of the Town of Huntersville for the course designed by Stand McDaniel for Bradford Park and stated that they would be providing manpower, staff and volunteers to assist with building the Bradford Park disc golf course. She then introduced Stan for further details.

Stan passed out maps of 5 course designs for the following parks and a map of Mecklenburg County showing the existing and proposed locations of disc golf courses:

- R. C. Bradford Regional Park
- R. L. Smith Park
- Idlewild Road District Park
- William R. Davie Park
- Thomas McAllister Winget Park

Stan pointed out that the existing and proposed disc golf courses represent a nice geographical spreading of the courses throughout Mecklenburg County and will help bring to Charlotte the 2012 Pro and Amateur World Championship. The plan is to complete the 5 remaining courses over the next two years in order to be prepared for over 1000 competitors. Stan said that a biodiversity analysis was done on the designs for the 5 remaining courses and adjustments made were made to the Bradford course design to stay away for a national heritage area. Following questions, the following concerns and information were addressed:

- The five courses presented are designed but not built
- The Pro and Amateur World Championship will be in the Summer of 2012
- Two of the current courses are beginner oriented, but the club plans to have true beginner courses in the future, including leagues for kids and juniors
- The contract for the World Championship event has not been signed but the governing body of professional disc golf is announcing in upcoming literature that Charlotte will be hosting the event and have made a financial commitment to the event. A contract will be signed
- If the proposed 5 courses are not built, the Championship will have to go outside of the county.
- The five courses could be built in 14 months
- Approximately 100,000 people have planned disc golf in Charlotte
- Stewardship made recommendations regarding the designs and all recommendations were followed; staying away from high quality natural areas.

Director Garges reminded the Board that the Department still has work to do with the club and that tonight is an opportunity for them to see if there are any concerns about it before we move ahead.

(Note: The proposed five disc golf designs and the map of current and proposed courses in Mecklenburg County are included in the October, 2010 PRC Minute's Binder **Section 3a**, housed in the Director's office.)

Motion was made by Commissioner McRee for the Board to accept the presentation as information, which was seconded by Commissioner Barnhart and approved unanimously

b. Officer Sean Clark Memorial Garden – Blythe Landing: Jeff Robinson, Division Director of Park Operations introduced Pete Herrick, Executive Producer of the Ace and TJ show on KISS 95.1, to share information and seek endorsement from the

Commission to build a memorial garden at Blythe Landing in honor of fallen officer Sean Clark.

Mr. Herrick explained that the idea of building a park to honor each of the officers killed in the line of duty in April of 2007; Officers Sean Clark and Jeff Shelton, came as a result of a public outcry from the community and radio listeners to do something to memorialize these two officers. The idea was to build a memorial park near the homes of each of the officers. Officer Shelton was a resident of Locust, NC and the radio team stepped in and revitalized the Locust City Park and it was dedicated as the Officer Jeff Shelton Memorial Park. Officer Clark was a resident of Iron Station in Lincoln County, but efforts to secure a location for a memorial park/garden failed. Mr. Herrick and his team began working with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation staff, Jeff Robinson and Peter Cook, to look at building the memorial garden for Officer Clark at Blythe Landing. A location at Blythe Landing was identified and a landscape plan was designed by Triad Landscape for the proposed memorial park/garden.

(Note: A copy of the park design is included in the October, 2010 PRC minute's binder, Section 3b, housed in the Director's office.)

The proposed park will be built by volunteers; friends, family and radio listeners and completely funded by donations. In addition, the radio organization will maintain the park for an agreed upon number of years, with approval and guidance from Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation staff. At the end of the agreement, Mecklenburg County could take over the maintenance with all remaining donated funding placed with Partners for Parks and divided between the two parks and used for maintenance cost until the fund is depleted.

Commissioner Mitchell asked why, since the proposed memorial garden/park will be in a Mecklenburg County park and both officers were CMPD Officers, it would not be named after both officers since Charlotte residents would identify with both officers.

Pete Herrick said that the idea all along had been to honor each of the officers with a park near their homes. The concern that the park in Mecklenburg County should be named after both officers had not been brought up. However, the plaques on the monuments at both parks tell the story of both officers.

Commissioner Tarte said that discussion at the North Region Advisory Council went in to more detail regarding the operating and capital cost, but that it was unanimously supported. The rush to get the project before the Commission for endorsement is due to planting season. This is the right time to get plantings in and waiting till later would delay getting this area ready for another season.

Jeff Robinson explained that if they could begin now, a dedication/opening could take place in the spring. Based on questions and concerns, Jeff provided the following information:

- Blythe Landing does not have a natural play area. This would be an added amenity to the park.
- The trails of the proposed memorial garden/park are ADA compliant but if a separate entrance ramp is built it would have to be an elevated board walk type.
- At the end of the seven year maintenance agreement and when the PFP funds are depleted, maintenance for this type of park will not be great. Lori Saylor,

Volunteer Coordinator can organize volunteer efforts for much of the maintenance.

- These two officers have been singled out for memorializing due to public outcry and support of the projects. All fallen officers are memorialized downtown.
- The question of naming the memorial park/garden for both officers will be discussed with Sherry Clark and considered.
- Concrete used in the area will be of a porous nature with regard to watershed and the environmental impact to water quality.

Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to endorse a memorial garden at Blythe Landing Park in honor of Officer Sean Clark and that the Department move forward with the project, which was seconded by Commissioner Burnette.

Commissioner Barnhart asked that the motion be amended to include consideration of a name change to include the names of both officers.

Discussion followed and the motion was amended:

Motion was made and amended by Commissioner Tarte to endorse a memorial garden at Blythe Landing Park in honor of Officer Sean Clark and to move forward with the project and that consideration be given to naming the memorial area after both officers; Sean Clark and Jeff Shelton. The motion was approved unanimously

Program Presentations:

Capital Planning and Development: Greenway and Park Project Updates

Lee Jones, Division Director of Capital Planning Services and Gwen Cook, Greenway Planner gave an update on park and greenway projects including:

- Alexander St. Park and LSC GW, a project in conjunction with CHA and Trinity Episcopal
- LSC GW, Elizabeth Avenue to Charlottetowne Avenue
- LSC GW, Midtown/CPCC Section
- LSC GW, Kings Drive Section
- First Ward Park, a partnership with Daniel Levine, UNCC and Center City Partners
- Revolution Learning Academy
- Robbins Park and the Westmoreland Athletic Complex
- Stewart Creek Greenway, a funding project with the land owner
- Toby Creek GW, a partnership ARRA and NCDOT
- Four Mile Creek GW parking lot
- Four Mile Creek GW, a partnership with the Town of Matthews
- McDowell Creek GW, a joint project with stream restoration
- Torrence Creek GW, a partnership with Huntersville through NCDOT Enhancement Grant Program
- West Branch Rocky River GW, a partnership with the Town of Davidson and Developer and funded by ARRA

(NOTE: The PowerPoint presentation and information regarding the above projects is included in the October, 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 4a**, housed in the Directors office.)

In addition, Lee Jones shared that Pride Magazine will be doing a major story on Romare Bearden Park as they plan a month long series of events next year in celebration of Romare Bearden's 100th anniversary (September 2, 2011).

Chair Brisley inquired as to the process for notifying residents of upcoming construction in their areas. Lee and Gwen responded that residents were notified by construction signs, correspondence with neighborhood leaders and announcements at neighborhood meetings.

Chair Brisley asked if the Department was continuing a relationship with CATS to ensure that we are looking for opportunities to mesh our Greenway plans with their Master Plans. Lee and Gwen responded that do have a continuing relationship with CATS.

Commissioner Barnhart asked for an update on the Miracle Field. Lee responded that Queens has decided they want to move the Miracle Field to another location on the property near a baseball and softball field included in their future planning. They have also agreed to fund and build a concession building to accommodate the three fields. The Department is urging Queens to move forward with the infrastructure for the Miracle Field, but currently they have other projects underway of greater priority. A meeting has been set to discuss these issues and to work out the agreement. Another public meeting will be set to update the community and stakeholders of any changes to the original plan.

Appointments – Advisory Councils – Applicants

Aquatics: ***Motion was made** by Commissioner Bailey to appoint **Janet Harrison** to an expired term (1st full term) **10/2010 – 6/2013**, which was seconded by Commissioner McRee and approved unanimously.*

Greenways: ***Motion was made** by Commissioner Barnhart to appoint **Brian Malec** to an unexpired term, **10/2010 – 6/2011**, and to appoint **Aubin Guinness** to an unexpired term, **10/2010 – 6/2012**, which was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and approved unanimously.*

South Region: ***Motion was made** by Commissioner Burnett to appoint **Sarah Waterrose** to an unexpired term, **10/2010 – 6/2012**, which was seconded by Commissioner Barnhart and approved unanimously.*

Director's Report – Jim Garges

Dot Law Retirement: Director Garges announced that Dot Law, Deputy Director was retiring. A Reception is scheduled for Friday, November 5, 2010 at the Administrative Office Building in the Board Room from 3 to 5 p.m. Everyone was invited to attend. Jim expressed great appreciation for Dot and the outstanding job she has done for the County, saying that having the opportunity to work with Dot over the past few years has been a real highlight of his career.

PRC Chair Report

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Commissioner McRee to approve all consent items, including the September 14, 2010 PRC Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and approved unanimously.

Staff Reports and Requests

13. Quarterly Budget Update: Mario Chang, Sr. Fiscal Administrator gave a brief update on the budget, three months into the fiscal year. Mario pointed out that net spending is at 50% of where we were last year. Mario went on to provide information on the government budget process. (**NOTE:** The PowerPoint presentation and information regarding the FY2011 Operating Budget, 3 Months Ending September 30, 2010, is included in the October, 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 13**, housed in the Director's office.)

14. Quarterly Capital Project Update: Lee Jones, Division Director of Capital Planning Services provided an update on Department park and greenway projects. Lee said many were dependent on bond dollars and therefore are on hold. He did give specific updates on the following:

- Work continues on the greenway wayfinding and sign package to come up with an approved design that will withstand vandalism and weather conditions
- LandDesign is working on the park design for the Mid-Town Park, a piece of property adjacent to the Metropolitan Offices. It is hopeful that this park will be under construction in the near future.
- James Shipley, sports developer, has expressed interest in putting an indoor recreation facility at Elon Park
- The dog park and playground recently constructed at Shuffletown Park is getting a lot of use
- CDOT has approached the Department to fund and renovate the entrance to Veterans Park. LandDesign has agreed to design the entrance pro-bono.
- Working with Clay Gibbs and the Town of Huntersville to possibly place a BMX track at Bradford Park.
- Operator of the BMX track at Hornet's nest has come up with an idea to expand that track

(**NOTE:** A status report for current park and greenway projects is included in the October, 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 14**, housed in the Director's office.)

Park Commissioners Reports and Requests

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.