



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at Revolution Park Sports Academy located at 1225 Remount Rd., Charlotte, NC 28208 on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES
February 8, 2011**

ATTENDANCE

PRC Present:

Rob Brisley, Chair
Beverly Cotton Lawston , Vice Chair
Norman Mitchell
Philip Carey
Ed Barnhart
Kendel Bryant
Elaine Powell
Doug Burnett
Brenda McMoore
Paul Bailey
Jeff Tarte
Joe Pata
Jim Garges

Partner's for Parks Present:

Ed Schweitzer
Al Brown
Shannon Burns
Sophia Hollingsworth
Jane McNeary
Woody Woodward
Kyle Woodstra
Matt McGlothlin

Absent

Charlie McRee (Sick)

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. Each Commissioner then introduced themselves and shared their area of representation.

Welcome and Introductions:

- a. **Partners for Parks:** Director Garges welcomed members of the Partners for Parks (PFP) Board and shared with the Park and Recreation Commission that Partners for Parks, as a Mecklenburg County partner, advocates for Park and Recreation services, raises money for Park and Recreation programs and activities and advocates on the national level for Park and Recreation purposes. Director Garges invited Ed Schweitzer, President of PFP, to come forward and introduce the members and share information on PFP. Mr. Schweitzer introduced members present and then shared information on the mission, history, core values, and strategic vision and how the Board manages funds for projects and programming. Questions and answers followed. (Note: Additional information regarding Partners for Parks can be found on their website at www.partnersforparks.org.) Director Garges expressed his appreciation for all that PFP does for the Department and Chair Rob Brisley invited the Board to come back any time and asked that they share with the PRC their calendar of events.
- b. **Revolution Staff and Tour:** Michael Daly introduced staff for the Revolution Park Sports Academy:
- **Marquisha Clayburn** – Facility Manager
 - **Alvin Simpson** – Boxing Director
 - **Anthony James** – Track and Field Director
 - **Ken Koonce** – Youth Athletic Coordinator
 - **Viola Campbell** – Administrative Support
- Lola Massad, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services also welcomed the Park and Recreation Commissioners, Partners for Parks Board members and all other guest in the audience. Lola shared that Revolution was built with the intention of offering different programming from nearby recreation centers and the YMCA in order to not duplicate services. She also gave praise and appreciation to the partners that were on board with Park and Recreation from the beginning of design for Revolution Park Sports Academy. Those partners are: Revolution Neighborhood Association, Charlotte Flights Track and Field, Police Athletic League, Cross Country for Youth and the Charlotte Boxing Academy.

Tour: A tour of the facility followed.

Proclamations and Awards - None

Public Appearance

John Crawford: Mr. John Crawford spoke before the Commission seeking support of placing something in the Revolution Park Sports Academy honoring Donald Little John. Mr. Crawford shared that Mr. Little John was the first African American to ever win the City's Amateur Golf Championship, and was the Athletic Director at Cochran Jr. High for over 40 years, during which time he helped develop many young people. Following discussion, the Commission expressed support of Mr. Crawford's recommendation and asked that he put together a design/plan for honoring Donald Little John and return to a future PRC meeting. . Commissioner Pata will work with Mr. Crawford as the PRC

liaison on his request. Director Garges suggested that maybe the Department ought to develop a “Hall of Fame” at Revolution where local people who have made a difference in the lives of youth can be recognized. It was suggested that the Athletic Advisory Council be the Council to oversee the “Hall of Fame” process and seek the support of Partners for Parks.

Program Presentation: Mecklenburg County Golf Courses

James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services made a presentation on the Mecklenburg County Golf Courses and how they have evolved over the years. (**NOTE:** This PowerPoint presentation is included in the PRC Minute’s Binder, **February 8, 2011 Section 4a**, housed in the Director’s office.) The presentation also included information on the renaming request for Revolution Golf Course, including historical and biographical information of Dr. Charles L. Sifford, for whom the renaming request is asking the Golf Course be named for. This presentation led into the formal request for action on the renaming (**PRC Agenda Item #14 under Staff Reports and Requests**).

Appointments –Advisory Councils – Applicants

Aquatics: *Motion was made by Commissioner Bailey to appoint **Charles Sitter** and **Gary McFadden** each to a first term expiring 6/2013 on the Aquatics Advisory Council (2/2011 – 6/2013) which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.*

Golf: *Motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell to appoint **Carol Clarke** and **Everett Taylor** each to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2011 on the Golf Advisory Council (2/2011 – 6/2011) which was seconded by Commissioner Carey and approved unanimously.*

North: *Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to appoint **Anthony Morrison** to an unexpired term expiring 6/2012 on the North Region Advisory Council (2/2011 – 6/2012) which was seconded by Commissioner Bryant and approved unanimously.*

South: *Motion was made by Commissioner Burnett to appoint **Harry Johnson** to an unexpired term expiring 6/2012 on the South Region Advisory Council (2/2011 – 6/2012) and to appoint **Paula Fricke** to an unexpired term expiring 6/2011 on the South Region Advisory Council (2/2011 – 6/2011) which was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.*

Director’s Report – Jim Garges

Director Garges shared information on the following topics:

- a. **Park Road Park – YMCA:** The Department is working on a project with the YMCA to build a shelter facility at Park Road Park. The Department will do the design, a draft memorandum of understanding and then proceed with the approval process. The Y anticipates funding the project with donated funds and plans to use the facility for after school programs. The Department will in turn have a rentable facility.
- b. **Toby Creek UNCC Section Naming:** The Department has worked out an agreement with UNC Charlotte that will allow them to collaborate with the County on the naming of the section of Toby Creek Greenway that runs through the campus after a board member of the Carolina Thread Trail. The process outlined in the BOCC

policy for naming and renaming will be followed but not in the typical order due to timing of events associated with the process. **Motion was made by Commissioner Barnhart** to proceed with the naming process as long as the proper steps are ultimately completed as described in the BOCC policy which was seconded by **Commissioner Mitchell** and approved unanimously. (Note: Ultimately, dates and circumstances lined up so that the process will flow in proper order. The naming petition was approved unanimously at the North Region Advisory Council meeting on February 7, will go before the Greenway Advisory Council on March 7, the PRC on March 8 and, if possible, to the BOCC on March 15. The celebration has been set for May 3, 2011.)

- c. **BOCC Retreat:** **Director Garges** reported the following information from the recent BOCC Retreat
- **Land Acquisition:** The County believes they will be able to issue some bonds in January 2012 which would help with land acquisition. The Board has also decided that 5% of future bond sales and 5% of the paygo budget will be set aside separately for the purchase of open space for Park and Recreation. This is a good indication that the Board recognizes that the citizen of Mecklenburg County want and need more land for parks.
 - **Budget:**
 - The County is ahead on revenue collection by about \$4.5 million based on projections.
 - The Manager does not plan to give a mid-year budget correction.
 - The Manager would like to recommend an employee performance increase or cost of living adjustment in his budget,
 - Nothing has been said yet about Department budgets. Jim takes that as a good sign.
 - Things seem to be improving and the County should know more in March about the revenues coming into the County. Decisions made at the State level and particularly concerning the Schools will have an effect on the County's budget.
- d. **Capital Projects - Romare Bearden Park:** **Director Garges** said the Department would like to see Romare Bearden Park built, should funds become available, before the Democratic National Convention comes to Charlotte in 2012. If construction could begin in March it would be complete not only for the DNC but also for the celebration of Romare Bearden's 100 Anniversary. Jim encouraged the Board to advocate for and express their support of building this park to the Board of County Commissioners.
- e. **Advisory Council Meeting Schedules:** After **Commissioner Tarte** expressed concern at the loss of Council members on the North Region Advisory Council; saying that he felt like the driving distance to the meetings might be the reason, **Director Garges** said that the Commissioners were welcome to consider going from a monthly meeting to a bi-monthly meeting or quarterly meeting as long as they felt they could accomplish the meeting goals and keep the members active and engaged. Jim ask them to be thinking this over.
- f. **BOCC Ranking:** **Commissioner Pata** asked **Director Garges** to explain the BOCC "ranking". Jim said that the Board of County Commissioners, with input from the Executive Team, is tasked with ranking County services by priority; 1 – 4, mainly for funding/budget purposes. Mandated services would be ranked 1 and all other non-mandated services would follow down through the remaining rankings. **Commissioner Mitchell** said the Department needs a Park and Recreation champion on the BOCC. **Commissioner Tarte** asked if the Citizens Capital Budget Advisory

Committee (CBACC) played any role in the ranking. Jim said CBACC only looked at capital projects, but that going forward capital projects will all be grouped together and ranked against each other for funding, which makes it critical that the PRC advocated for Park and Recreation projects.

- g. **Hats Off Luncheon:** Jim shared with the Board the upcoming Hat's Off Luncheon event. This event will be May 5 at Freedom Park and will be the kick off for the new initiative for neighborhood playgrounds and parks. The start-up project will be Lincoln Heights Community Park. The event will be an opportunity to advocate, raise awareness, raise money and a day for the ladies to enjoy a fancy lunch and wear fancy hats.

Jim concluded by thanking all the PRC and Partners for Parks for all the time they give to the County in support of Park and Recreation.

PRC Chair Report

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Commissioner Bailey to approved all consent items, including the November 9, 2010 PRC Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner McMoore and approved unanimously. (NOTE: The January 11, 2011 PRC meeting was cancelled due to snow.)

Staff Reports and Requests

13. Capital Projects Quarterly Update – Lee Jones Division Director of Capital Planning Services

Lee Jones brought before the Commission an update on Capital Projects. (Note: The quarterly report, containing information on all capital projects can be found in the PRC Minute's Binder, **February 8, 2011 Section 13**, housed in the Director's office.) Mr. Jones made particular comments on the following projects:

- **First Ward Park:** This project is currently in the Construction document phase with Cole Jenest and Stone. A meeting was held with Daniel Levine, partner in the development and Jean Grier from the Arts and Science Council to discuss the art selection and placement in the park.
- **Disc Golf:** The Department is partnering with Stan McDaniel to develop disc golf courses at five (5) of our parks. Courses are underway at Robert L. Smith Park, Idlewild Road Park and Bradford Park. Staff is reviewing the viability of disc golf at William R. Davie Park and Winget Park.
- **Four Mile Creek Greenway:** The Zoning Committee deferred on the request for rezoning at Rea Road and Bevington Place to allow for a parking lot to accommodate Greenway users. Staff and advocates from CDOT, CMPD and the community plan to spend time educating on the process and importance of this project.
- **LSC GW Mid-Town Park** – Construction drawings for this park, adjacent to the LSC GW Metropolitan project, are progressing. Staff shared these plans with Jean Grier from the Arts and Science Council for placement of art. This park will complete this section of LSC GW.

- **Miracle Field:** A site has been selected at Marion Diehl for this all inclusive accessible field. Work continues on the agreement between Bill Nichols, Facilities Director for Queens University and Bill Allen, Republic Crane.
- **McAlpine Relief Sewer:** The Department continues to work with CMUD with regard to the relief sewer project scheduled to begin at McAlpine between 2012 and 2014 and will result in CMUD providing the sub-base for the Greenway; a significant cost savings to the Department. Efforts are being made to preserve as much soft track as possible.
- **Campgrounds at Copperhead Island:** The Department is working on a campground design to make Copperhead Island a full camping facility. Plans are to use the design as a marketing tool to raise the money to complete the campground.
- **Park Road Park- Lake Environs Project:** The last step to complete the Lake Environs Project is to remove the vegetation from the lake and fill with water. City Storm Water has stepped up to remove the vegetation and prepare for filling.
- **Romare Bearden Park:** Staff is working with the Romare Bearden 100 Committee towards the celebration of his 100th birthday, September 2, 2011. The Department would like to have some level of construction progress in the Romare Bearden Park site at the time of this celebration.

Commissioner McMoore said she had been working on Romare Bearden Committee but since changing her e-mail address had not received any communication from the committee. She asked that her name and e-mail be placed back on the distribution list. Lee Jones said he would make sure she was placed back on the list.

- **Veterans Park Entrance:** In partnership with Charlotte Neighborhood and Business Development, these groups are working to make improvements along the street and to the entrance at Veterans Park. Former employee Brian Conroy and Beth Poovey from LandDesign are members of the community and are applying for a grant that would provide adequate funds for the refurbishment.
- **Grand Opportunities:** One thing that the Department is charged with in planning is to look for funding partners and grant opportunities. Currently, we may have the opportunity with KABOOM for a playground at Lincoln Heights Park and another group is looking at Charlotte for playground development

Commissioner Powell asked about the attendance at the public meeting on the McAlpine Relief Sewer and if all the citizen concerns were addressed. Lee Jones said that there were about 100 in attendance and that 27 questions were asked and most addressed. All will be in the minutes from the meeting.

Commissioner Powell asked if we were addressing the concerns of citizens with regard to the parking lot proposed for 4-Mile Creek Greenway. Lee Jones shared some of the background on this project and assured the Commissioners that the Department was working with all the appropriate organizations to address citizen concerns. Director Garges said that ultimately it will be the Zoning Department's decision. Zoning meets again at the end of February.

Commissioner Lawston asked for the status on making the gym in Second Ward a historical site. Lee Jones said that the developer is staying in contact with General

Manager, Bobbie Shields and when the project moves forward the agreement is in place so that this will take place.

14. **Renaming Request - Revolution Park Golf Course**

James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services, presented the third reading of the renaming request submitted by Jeff Hood, James Black and James Ross to rename Revolution Park Golf Course the Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course at Revolution Park and to seek endorsement from the PRC to take the renaming request to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. James shared that Dr. Sifford is often referred to as the “Jackie Robinson of Golf” as he was the first black man to break the color barrier in one of the nation’s most elitist sports. James went on to share that Mr. Sifford was born in Charlotte and was one of three African Americans who played the Revolution Park Golf Course and went on to become Professional Golf Association (PGA) players.

Following discussion and expressions of support from the Commission, it was a unanimous consensus that the PRC and staff were honored to be a part of such a historical event and at the request of Commissioner Powell asked that they be allowed to also sign the petition included with the renaming request. (**NOTE:** Additional information on Dr. Sifford is included with the renaming request found in the PRC Minute’s Binder, **February 8, 2011, Section 14**, housed in the Director’s office.)

***Motion was made** by Commissioner McMoore to receive the third reading of the request to rename the Revolution Park Golf Course the **Dr. Charles L. Sifford Golf Course at Revolution Park** and to endorse and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners to approved the renaming, which was seconded by Commissioner Lawston and approved unanimously.*

Park Commissioners Reports and Requests

Chair Rob Brisley reviewed the Advisory Council assignments. New appointments included Kendel Bryant to Fees and Charges, Doug Burnett as Vice Chair of Greenways and Norman Mitchell as Chair of the Sr. Citizen’s Advisory Council. (**NOTE:** A complete list of the PRC assignments has been included in the February, 2010 PRC Minute’s Binder, **Section 15, Park Commissioners Reports and Requests**, housed in the Director’s office.) Chair Brisley also encouraged the North, South and Central Region Commissioners to be thinking about the possibility of quarterly meetings for their advisory councils and to report back at the March PRC meeting.

Commissioner Powell shared that her New Year’s Resolution was to visit 26 park facilities during 2011.

Commissioner Mitchell expressed great concern over the naming of the Sean Clark Memorial Garden at Blythe Landing since he thought the families were supposed to consider naming the memorial garden after officers, Sean Clark and Jeff Shelton, and then report back to the Commission. (**Note:** See the minutes from the October 12, 2010 PRC minutes for details.) After much discussion and suggestions, it was decided that Chair Rob Brisley and Director Garges would meet with the families and report back at the March PRC meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.