



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Administrative Office Building, located at 5841 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte, NC, on January 10, 2012 at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES**  
**January 10, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRC Present:**

Rob Brisley, Chair  
Kendel Bryant, Vice-Chair  
Elaine Powell, Executive Secretary  
Charlie McRee,  
Ed Barnhart  
Doug Burnett  
Norman Mitchell  
Jeff Tarte  
Kristen Shaben

**PRC Absent:**

Brenda McMoore  
Phil Carey  
Joe Pata

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chair Rob Brisley, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance and introductions of each commissioner.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Director Garges, introduced and welcomed the newest member of the Park and Recreation Commission, Kristen Shaben. Kristen will be representing Southern Towns and has served on the Parks and Recreation Board of the Town of Matthews.

Genni Reel, Aquatics Manager, introduced the Aquatics Advisory Council members as a group and then asked that each of them introduce and share some information about themselves. The following council members were present at the PRC meeting:

- Daniel Medvid – Member of Charlotte Sharks water polo team
- Diane Dunn – Active in the Queen City Dolphin Swim Team
- Jerry Clark – Deeply involved in the Masters Swimming program
- Chuck Sitter – Concerned citizen from the Cotswald area

- Ginny Woolard – Concerned citizen and closely associated with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward community
- Gary McFadden – Retired homicide detective from the CMPD

Commissioner Powell thanked everyone for taking an active part in local government.

### **Proclamations and Awards: None**

### **Public Appearance – North Carolina Community Sailing and Rowing**

Luke Largess from the NC Community Sailing and Rowing Center made a presentation to the Commission requesting their support to amend the lease to remove restrictions on weekend operations and allow NCCSR to operate during normal park hours. Mr. Largess gave background on the history of the organization and the programs and activities offered. He shared that the original issues centered on safety and that the center was recently given permission by Director Garges to test extended hours and they have had no safety issues. The proposal has been before the North Region Advisory Council and has received endorsement from them. Following the presentation, Mr. Largess invited the commissioners to ask questions. Mr. Largess addressed their concerns satisfactorily regarding: patrons of the sailing center trespassing or vandalizing property of home owners located near the sailing center, safety record, options for patrons to use the center for a day as opposed to a season pass, required swimming test and use of personal floatation devices, department liability, neighborhood notification, volume of users as a result of extended weekend and holiday hours, concerns regarding the letter from the Lake Norman Marine Commission (see correspondence consent item 11c of the January 10, 2012 agenda packet), and potential opportunities for summer camps. In addition, Commissioner Tarte received an e-mail response from Chief Bence Hoyle of the Cornelius Police Department that they had received no issues or complaints regarding the Sailing Center. (**Note:** The PowerPoint presentation by the NC Community Sailing and Rowing Center is included in the January PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 3a**, housed in the Director's office.)

***Motion was made*** by Commissioner Bryant to accept as information the report from the NC Community Sailing and Rowing Center, which was seconded by Commissioner Brisley, and approved unanimously.

Director Garges said that at this point it is the Department's decision to amend the current lease or not and that the Department will get with Marine Commission and then report back to the Park and Recreation Commission and then make a recommendation.

### **Program Presentation – Nature Preserves and Natural Resources – 2011 Deer Management Program Results:**

Michael Kirschman, Division Director of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources, introduced himself to the board and provided brief background information on the annual controlled deer hunts held annually since 1994 at Cowan's Ford, McDowell, and Latta Plantation Nature Preserves and also Rural Hill. Michael said the deer hunts have resulted in healthier herds and healthier nature preserves by greatly reducing browse lines and erosion. Michael then introduced Ronnie Roberts from the Natural Resources Division to give a report on the 2011 hunt. Ronnie provided information on deer health, the process through the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to arrange the hunts, our training and safety procedures for each hunt and the various data collected from the deer harvested. This year's hunt resulted in the harvesting of 88 deer. (**Note:** The PowerPoint presentation is included in the January PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 4**, housed in the Director's office.)

## **Appointments – Advisory Councils – Applicants**

**Cultural Arts:** ***Motion was made** by Commissioner Mitchell to appoint **Deborah Walker** to an unexpired term on the Cultural Arts Advisory Council, expiring 6/2012, which was seconded and approved unanimously.*

**Greenway:** ***Motion was made** by Commissioner Barnhart to appoint **Roy Alexander** to an unexpired term on the Greenway Advisory Council, expiring 6/2012, which was seconded and approved unanimously.*

**Senior Citizens:** ***Motion was made** by Commissioner Mitchell to appoint **Marie Rink** to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2012 and to appoint **Pearl Stitt** to a first full term, expiring 6/2014, which was seconded and approved unanimously.*

## **Director's Report**

**Concealed Carry in NC Parks:** Jeff Robinson, Division Director of Park Operations, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Amendment to General Statute 14-415.23. Jeff explained that in order for there to be statewide uniformity in the concealed weapon laws, NC, effective 12-1-2011, amended the law to limit a municipalities power to regulate concealed carry by legally permitted individuals. Concealed carry will be prohibited in government buildings and “recreational facilities”. Recreational facilities are defined as playgrounds, athletic fields, swimming pools and athletic facilities and can be specifically identified in the local ordinance. The Department ordinance plans to mirror the amended statute and to specifically identify sites and amenities where concealed weapons will not be allowed. Also in accordance with the law, park signs will be updated to reflect the new law and predominate signage will be posted where concealed weapons are not allowed. Director Garges said we would also present this information to the BOCC and give them our recommendation as to how to react to the current law. Following questions and discussion:

***Motion was made** by Commissioner Barnhart to endorse the Department's plan to revise the concealed weapon ordinance to mirror the North Carolina amendment to G.S. 14-415.23 regarding concealed carry by legally permitted individuals and for the Department to specifically identify sites and amenities where concealed weapons will not be allowed, which was seconded by Commissioner Tarte and approved unanimously.*

Director Garges reported on the following points of interest:

**Romare Bearden Park Bids:** Director Garges said that the bids for Romare Bearden came in under bid at \$9.7 million, plus there is \$1.3 million for road infrastructure. Construction will begin as soon as all the contracts have been signed. A planning team has been pulled together to plan the opening festival in the spring of 2013. Romare will be a great addition to the park system and provide us with the opportunity to plan community recreation programs.

**Annual Report:** The Department Annual Report is complete and will be posted on [www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com)

**Budget:** Budget work has already begun for the next budget season. Director Garges said he felt that as long as the tax revenues continue to grow slowly and the economy continues to heat up, we should be looking toward a good year and no reductions.

**2008 Bonds:** Commissioner Tarte inquired about the time line for the 2008 bond/projects? Director Garges said that we would need to have the money spent by 2015 and that the Department is hoping for a bond allocation next July. If other department projects fall off the list, then our projects will have the opportunity to move up in ranking.

**Master Plan Update:** In 2013 the Department will be updating the 10 year Master Plan and this will be a great opportunity for the Commission to have input and to take a look at what we've done the last 5 years and what we want to do in the next five years.

**Memorial Stadium:** The stakeholder's community workshop for Memorial Stadium went very well under the leadership of Chris Matthews, Natural Resources Manager. About 50% of the participants want to keep the historical aspect of the stadium while others are interested in a bigger field with a different look to the stadium. Money has been allocated for correction of the safety concerns. Once these repairs have been made the remaining money will be used towards the development of a Master Plan for the Stadium and Grady Cole for final recommendations for improvements.

**CIP:** Commissioner Tarte asked if the Commission could get an update on the Department CIP (Capital Improvement Projects). Director Garges said we would provide that at the next meeting in February.

### **PRC Chair Report/Commissioner Updates**

Chair Rob Brisley covered the following:

**Central I Vacancy:** Chair Brisley reminded the Commissioners of the Central (1) vacancy and that we currently have one application – Sheryl Smith, which will be up for appointment consideration before the BOCC on January 18, 2012.

**PRC BOCC Assignments:** Chair Brisley made the following assignments to pair each Park and Recreation Commissioner with a County Commissioner. The assignments are as follows:

Elaine Powell	Karen Bentley
Ed Barnhart	Neil Cooksey
Kristen Shaben and Joe Pata	Bill James
Norman Mitchell and Rob Brisley	Harold Cogdell
Doug Burnett	Jim Pendergraph
Charlie McRee	Dumont Clark
Brenda McMoore	Vilma Leake
Phil Carey	Jennifer Roberts
Kendel Bryant	George Dunlap
Jeff Tarte	At Large
Central Vacancy	

Commissioner Powell reported the following:

- She visited 88 local, state and national parks in 2011.
- She participated in the New Year's Day event at Rural Hill

- Shared that the Department closed on the purchase of 114 acres (Retreat at Latta).
- Encouraged everyone to attend a Waste Management Charette at the Hal Marshall Center on January 26 at 6 p.m.

Commissioner Tarte inquired about PRC representation at the State and National level. Director Garges said that a good place to start is to attend the annual Citizens Board Member Forum held each year in August in Greensboro, NC. Jim said that the Department would pay for their attendance and that we would provide them with the date of the next forum as soon as it was available. He also encouraged the board to get involved at the national level and reminded them that the National NRPA Convention will be in Charlotte in 2014, providing many opportunities to participate.

**Next PRC Meeting: WEDNESDAY, February 15 at Veterans Park Shelter 1 at 6 p.m.**

### **BOCC Assignments:**

### **Consent Items:**

***Motion was made** by Commissioner Tarte to approve all consent items, including the October 11, 2011 PRC Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Powell and approved unanimously.*

### **Staff and PRC Reports and Requests**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.