



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Park and Recreation Administrative Office Building, 5481 Brookshire Blvd., Charlotte, NC at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES  
May 8, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRC Present:** Rob Brisley, Chair  
Kendel Bryant, Vice-Chair  
Elaine Powell, Executive Secretary  
Ed Barnhart  
Doug Burnett  
Brenda McMoore  
Charlie McRee  
Joe Pata  
Kristen Shaben

**PRC Absent:** Norman Mitchell  
Sheryl Smith  
Jeff Tarte  
Jim Garges, Park and Recreation Director

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Chair Rob Brisley, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance and introductions of each commissioner.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

James Alsop, Enterprise Services Division Director introduced and welcomed members of the **Athletics Advisory Council**. Each provided a concise overview of their partnerships in representing the sports and recreation interests of citizens in Mecklenburg County.

Invited and present for introductions were: **SportsLink** (Corey Mendat), **Charlotte Soccer Academy**, **Ramblewood Soccer Incorporated** (Frank Jonas), **Charlotte Sports Commission** (Chris Cloutin), **Providence High School Booster Club – CMS** (Mike England), **Mallard Creek Optimist Club** (Stew Mallard), **Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Activities League – PAL** (Jeff Hood) and **Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Adult Athletics Staff** (Michael Bailey, Bob Reardon, Jason Tryon and Ventress Williams).

Others invited were the **Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority**, **MatchMaker Tennis** and **Couloak Little League**, who were unable to attend and be introduced to the Park and Recreation Commission.

Reference Documents:

- 1a. Mecklenburg County Athletics Advisory Council Member Overview

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

### **Public Appearance - None**

### **Program Presentation -:**

#### **Athletics Advisory Council**

Chair Rob Brisley **recognized** Enterprise Services Division Director James Alsop, who serves as the Park and Recreation **Senior Leadership Team Liaison** for the Park and Recreation Commission - Athletics Advisory Council. James Alsop provided an informative update and overview of the **Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission – Athletics Advisory Council** and its mission. Topics of discussion included refreshed data on the availability and access to ball fields in Mecklenburg County and the significant cost avoidance (nearly \$700K) that is generated by the rental and use of ball fields for athletic events; partnerships for Capital Investments, updates to the Critical Success Factors and Economic impacts for the Enterprise Services Division, as well as discussion of capital improvements that will impact and benefit the use of athletic facilities in Mecklenburg County. Questions and answers followed from the Commissioners.

Reference Documents:

- 4a.1 Mecklenburg County Athletics Advisory Council Presentation
- 4a.2 CRVA Sports Facilities Calendar

Commissioner Barnhart **commended** the **Police Athletic League (PAL)** on the work and rich history it has in the City of Charlotte and within Mecklenburg County. Commissioner Pata requested to know the extent of the relationship between the police of the **Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department** and the **children** they work with in this league. **Jeff Hood** indicated PAL is not organized as a program under the umbrella of CMPD operations. PAL is organized as a separate 501C3 non-profit agency. PAL receives its main collaboration in the form of support from CMPD officers but in all other programmatic aspects is a standalone program. Police employed with CMPD often play an important role in sports coaching, as well as employees of the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office. Historically and presently there has always been a great emphasis on building and bridging relationships between Police and urban youth.

Chair Rob Brisley **requested** to know the office location for **Police Athletic League**. **Jeff Hood** indicated PAL currently operates from the main offices of the Greenville Combined Youth Organization. That address is 1211 Spring Street, Charlotte, NC 28206-2823.

Chair Rob Brisley **requested** to know how **Police Athletic League** recruits participants. **Jeff Hood** indicated their primary method of generating participation is direct outreach within local communities.

## **Capital Planning**

Chair Rob Brisley **recognized** W. Lee Jones, **Capital Planning Division Director** for Park and Recreation. Lee Jones presented on the status of several Capital Planning projects such as Romare Bearden Park, First Ward Park and Matthews Sportsplex. Lee Jones provided a brief overview of the projected cash flow for the projects and informed the commission of emergent issues and unanticipated delays that occurred during/as a result of the excavation process at the Romare Bearden Park site. Lee Jones also encapsulated the recent bidding process for Matthews SportsPlex; of the 15 bids on the list ,12 bids came in. Contracts awarded were as follows: Mecklenburg County Regional SportsPlex Construction Contract – Eaglewood, Inc.; Synthetic Turf Construction Contract – Sports Construction Management; Athletic Field Lighting Construction Contract – Musco Sports Lighting. All contracts were brought in underbid. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Matthews SportsPlex will be held May 17, 2012 at the construction site.

Chair Rob Brisley **requested** information regarding the timing of when the Board of County Commissioners would review and approve the Request(s) for Board Action regarding the regional Sportsplex. Lee indicated internal staff are in the process of preparing the RFBAs.

- **Action subsequent to meeting** – Legislative items 12-0177, 12-0178 and 12-0266 (Matthews SportsPlex contracts) went before the Board of County Commissioner for approval and aforementioned contracts approved to be awarded.

Chair Rob Brisley **requested** information regarding any capital partnerships relating to the SportsPlex. Lee Jones indicated that the Town of Matthews would contribute \$2 million dollars towards the project but have not stipulated when the contribution would be made. Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation will continue to facilitate conversations with the Town of Matthews to secure these funds as early as possible. This capital partnership represents a vested interest in the regional SportsPlex becoming a nucleus of amateur sports.

Commissioner Barnhart **inquired** as to who will control sports programming for the facility. Lee Jones suggests that very likely Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation will, although program development will be collaborative to accommodate the needs of sports teams and the citizens of Mecklenburg County.

Commissioner Pata **recognized** **W. Lee Jones** and his team for their foresight and planning; the regional SportsPlex will bring a competitive advantage to our local market for sports venues based on other available sports amenities in the area.

Commissioner Powell **requested** to know whether there will be a way to cool the synthetic turf. Lee Jones informed the commission that presently, irrigation is being explored, however the determination of whether turfs will be cooled prior to events will ultimately be left up to the sports teams and staff utilizing the fields, for numerous reasons.

Commissioner Powell **requested** to know whether the regional SportsPlex will contain the most synthetic turf fields at a single facility, in the county, upon its completion. Lee advised the commission that it would, with 5 lighted fields.

Chair Rob Brisley **requested** clarification regarding the First Ward Park capital project. Chairman Brisley requested to know if the present land challenges are encumbered upon Mr. Daniel Levine alone, or other parties. Lee Jones advised the commission the project is a four-way partnership. Mecklenburg County is ready to make good on its investment, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has made good on their investment and both of these parties are working with the remaining parties having a vested interest to reach a suitable and expedient outcome.

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

No appointments.

Members of the Park and Recreation Commission were reminded of the following resignations:

Cultural Arts Advisory Council  
1 New Vacancy (3 Expired), Expiring 6/2015  
Currently No Applications

Stewardship Advisory Council  
1 New Vacancy, Expiring 6/2015  
5 Applications on File

Commissioner Elaine Powell and Deputy Director Michael Kirschman requested to receive the five applications on file for the Stewardship Advisory Council.

### **Director's Report**

Park and Recreation Director Jim Garges was represented by Deputy Director, Michael Kirschman.

Deputy Director Michael Kirschman briefly reminded the Park and Recreation Commissioners of the Mecklenburg County Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget Calendar.

Deputy Director Michael Kirschman encouraged all Park and Recreation Commissioners to be present for the Public Hearing on the Budget, scheduled for May 24, 2012.

Deputy Director Michael Kirschman requested all Advisory Councils have a presence during the citizen speakers portion of the hearing, to advocate for funding for parks and natural resources.

Deputy Director Michael Kirschman briefed the Park and Recreation Commissioners on the success of two recent events, targeted to assist with raising funds for the Clark's Creek Nature Preserve; GoPlay! Day at Reedy Creek Nature Preserve and the Hats Off to Parks Luncheon

Commissioner Barnhart **inquired** as to the prioritization of funding and spending for items needed at the Clark's Creek Nature Preserve. Michael Kirschman advised the commission that the present priority would be (1) a true parking lot, (2) Shelter/Amenities, (3) Playground(s) on site.

Chair Rob Brisley **requested** information regarding Partners for Parks role in the fundraising. Michael Kirschman advised the commission that Partners for Parks sponsored or co-sponsored the events, were in receipt of the funds raised by each event, and funds

raised at each event would remain deposited with Partners for Parks to be earmarked for use at Clark's Creek Nature Preserve. A desirable target cost for this site is \$150,000.

Deputy Director Michael Kirschman announced planning for the summer gathering of the PRC members, which would be a leisure meeting and requested feedback as to desired locations. Upon discussion, all PRC members agreed to use the Historic Latta Plantation and Nature Preserve as the site for the gathering and to hold this meeting in July.

- **Action subsequent to meeting** – Administrative Support Kesha Meads advised the PRC members and Park and Recreation Senior Leadership Team that July is a “no-meeting” month. A date will be selected at the June 2012 PRC meeting for the month of August, for this gathering.

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

Chair Rob Brisley reiterated the importance of representation from the Park and Recreation Commission and its advisory councils at the upcoming Public Hearing on the County budget.

### **Consent Items:**

- (10) ***Motion was made*** by Commissioner Charlie McCree to omit the approval of the March 13, 2012 PRC meeting minutes, which are unavailable, and to approve the April 10, 2012 PRC Minutes. A technical error occurred, wherein the voice recording of the March meeting was not obtained. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhart and approved unanimously
- (11) All PRC members acknowledge electronic or hard copy receipt of the May 2012 PRC Correspondence items
- (12) ***Motion was made*** by Commissioner Joe Pata to accept the acknowledgement that no Advisory Council meeting minutes were submitted for review at the May 2012 PRC meeting. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Brenda McMoore and approved unanimously

### **Staff Reports and Requests**

None

### **PRC Reports and Requests**

Commissioner Joe Pata requested an update on the status of requested changes/updates to the PRC website on the CharMeck.org webpage.

Chair Rob Brisley informed the commissioners he had received confirmation from **Leo Caplanides** and **Kesha Meads** that updates had been made to the commission photo and listing, commission directory, meeting minutes listing/archive and meeting agenda listing/archive. Administrative Support Kesha Meads agreed to remove the personal/home telephone numbers of PRC members from the public facing directory.

Commissioner Barnhart requested feedback on the feasibility of modeling the Park and Recreation CharMeck.org site after the State Reservation System. **Deputy Director Michael Kirschman** advised that modeling the Mecklenburg County site after the state's

web/page formatting had been discussed as well as mobile apps to facilitate citizen access to information, use and reservations of park and recreation amenities and facilities.

Commissioner Elaine Powell commended Park and Recreation staff for their tremendous efforts at the Bark in the Park event at Rural Hill. Commissioner Powell's personal experience was very pleasant. Commissioner Powell requests that at future large events, where Park and Recreation staff will be once again volunteering, that prominent/brilliant/bright colors for Park and Recreation employees be used in selecting shirts. Commissioner Powell additionally would like to ensure that the names of Park and Recreation employees are displayed in a larger fashion than the standard nametag. This request is being made to ensure that patrons can easily identify Park and Recreation staff and to ensure that feedback on Customer Service and visitor satisfaction can be routed appropriately, as employee names will be more visible.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.