



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Mallard Creek Recreation Center, 2530 Johnston-Oehler Road, Charlotte, NC at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES
June 12, 2012**

ATTENDANCE

PRC Present:

Rob Brisley, Chair
Kendel Bryant, Vice-Chair
Elaine Powell, Executive Secretary
Jim Garges, Park and Recreation Director
Ed Barnhart
Doug Burnett
Charlie McRee
Norman Mitchell
Joe Pata
Kristen Shaben
Sheryl Smith
Jeff Tarte

PRC Absent:

Brenda McMoore

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chair Rob Brisley, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance and introductions of each commissioner.

Welcome and Introductions:

Lola Massad, Community and Recreation Center Services Division Director introduced and welcomed members of the **Mallard Creek Recreation Center** staff.

Chris Hunter, **North Park Region General Manager**, introduced members of the North Region Advisory Council.

Proclamations and Awards: None

Public Appearance - None

Program Presentation -:

Nature Preserves and Natural Resources

Chair Rob Brisley **recognized** MCPRD Deputy Director Michael Kirschman, who serves as the Park and Recreation **Senior Leadership Team Liaison** for the Park and Recreation Commission - Stewardship Advisory Council. Michael Kirschman provided an informative update and overview of the **Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Nature Preserves and Natural Resources Division** and key department updates represented in a "Year in Review" presentation for FY12. The overview included Nature Preserve and Nature Center visitation, program participation, increased services and improvements, new initiatives and current challenges. Questions and answers followed from the Commissioners.

Reference Documents:

[4a.1](#) Mecklenburg County Nature Preserves and Natural Resources Presentation

Commissioner Smith **requested** an update on **Nature Center/Nature Preserve based Summer Camps** and their respective costs. Commissioner Smith requested an update on the Blue Cross Blue Shield matching grant and any offset it has provided to youth desirous to attend nature based camps. Deputy Director Michael Kirschman indicated the nature based camps average \$160 for enrollment fees, whereas Recreation Center based camps average \$45. Scholarships are available and have been utilized this summer to facilitate youth citizen participation when requested.

Commissioner Smith **requested** to receive a brief update on **Animal sightings** as it related to Coyotes and Bears. Deputy Director Michael Kirschman provided a quick citation of Coyote sighting data as indicated by the Coyote tracking and monitoring program. Deputy Kirschman reported there was one bear sighting at Reedy Creek Nature Preserve in the last year.

Commissioner Bryant **requested** to know the **Environmental Impact** of large public events at natural sites such as Rural Hill. Specifically, Commissioner Bryant inquired whether parking and driving on the grass and creation of "mud pits" deteriorate the natural condition of the site. Additionally, Commissioner Bryant requested to know how the land is reconditioned to its previous state after events. Deputy Director Michael Kirschman provided assurance that no unnatural damage occurs to the condition of the land and that reconditioning is minimal after such events.

Chair Rob Brisley **requested** to know how we are leveraging our relationship with **Appalachian State University** to facilitate MCPRD work related to Natural Resources and Nature Preserves in Mecklenburg County.

Commissioner Powell **commends** the Natural Resources and Nature Preserves division on the excellence and level of work exuded daily to allow for functional natural sites in Mecklenburg County.

Appointments -Advisory Councils - Applicants

No appointments.

Per notification from the Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners, the following reappointments will be made at the June 19, 2012, County Commission Meeting:

Norman Mitchell	2 nd Term
Brenda McMoore	2 nd Term
Charles McCree	2 nd Term
Jeffery Tarte	2 nd Term

***Motion was made** by Commissioner Ed Barnhart to accept the recommendation for reappointment of the above Park and Recreation Commission Members. This motion was seconded by Commissioner McCree and approved unanimously.*

Director's Report

Park and Recreation Director Jim Garges reported to the Park and Recreation Commission the challenges facing the Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council, including the difficulty of managing the dynamics relating to interacting with and representing the suggestions of the target citizen group. Duplicity of effort often exists as well, with a large number of advocacy groups who presently support this demographic of citizens. For this reason, the dissolution of the Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council will be further considered and a recommendation brought before the Park and Recreation Commission for action.

A brief update was provided on the FY12 Budget Process and final funding outcomes.

A brief introduction to information regarding a **County-wide Smoking Ban in all Public Park Parks and Park Property** was made by Director Garges.

Chair Rob Brisley **requested** information regarding how communication regarding any approved ban will be communicated to Mecklenburg County Citizens. Director Garges agreed that a draft media plan would be provided to the Park and Recreation Commission for review, prior to public distribution.

A brief project update was provided on the construction of Romare Bearden Park uptown.

Commissioner Barnhart **requested** information regarding any land sharing that would occur to facilitate neighborly use of land around Romare Bearden Park and a potential uptown Ballpark. Director Garges reported there were options to be considered and that conversations at that level regarding the subject, were underway.

Director Garges briefly heard and engaged citizen concern regarding a perception of limited recreation center resources and programming.

PRC Chair Report/Commissioner Updates

Consent Items:

(10) ***Motion was made** by Commissioner Charlie McCree to approve the May 8, 2012 PRC Minutes. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Barnhart and approved unanimously*

Staff Reports and Requests

None

PRC Reports and Requests

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.