



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the West Charlotte Recreation Center located at 2400 Kendall Drive on Tuesday, September 9, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

PRC Minutes

September 9, 2008

ATTENDANCE

Present:

- Brad Pearce – Chair**
- Owen Furueth – Vice Chair**
- Robert Brisley**
- Scott McClure**
- Kirk Otey**
- Tim Morgan**
- Beverly Lawston**
- Jeff Tarte**
- Joe Pata**
 - Dot Law**
 - Jim Garges**

Absent:

- John Barry**
- Brenda McMoore**
- Michael Noble**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Brad Pearce, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

(1) Introductions

a. Chair Pearce introduced Robert (Rob) Brisley, new Park and Recreation Commissioner for the East Park District. Each Commissioner introduced themselves and the district they represent.

b. Director Garges introduced Colandra Barnes, Facility Manager I of West Charlotte Recreation Center. Colandra welcomed everyone and shared information about the center and programs. It was noted that some of the biggest challenges and needs for the West Charlotte Recreation Center was a need for more space to accommodate programming, improved heating and air and updated gym floors. When asked about collaborations with West Charlotte High School, Colandra said one plan was to host a job fair for the teens from West Charlotte.

(2) Proclamations and Awards

Charles King, Information Technology Manager, recognized Felina Harris, Technical Associate/Trainer, for receiving the CharMeck 311 Customer Service Liaison Award. Felina received this award for her excellent work as the Department's 311 liaison and trainer.

(3) Public Appearance

None

(4) Program Presentations

a. Natural Resources Invasive Species Control Program and Maintenance Standards for Parks.

Michael Kirschman, Division Director of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources, shared information about the maintenance program for nature preserves and natural resources and introduced the evenings topic: Invasive Species Control presented by Don Seriff, Natural Resources Manager and Gary Marshall, Natural Resource Specialist. This presentation covered what invasive species are, how the Division attempts to control invasive species and why it is important. (**Note:** The PowerPoint presentation is included in the PRC minute's binder housed in the Director's office.)

b. Accessible Playground Update

Lori Saylor, Volunteer Coordinator, shared the year end volunteer figures. (**Note:** Included in the PRC minute's binder (4) housed in the Director's office.) Lori also gave an update on the upcoming totally accessible playground build at Nevin Park, September 28 – October 6. This Hearts and Hands community project will have a NASCAR theme and will be called Race Playce. Currently, 3300 volunteers have been booked with a need of 1000 remaining. The greatest volunteer need is evenings and Sunday. All the Commissioners were invited to participate. Lori said she would send an e-mail out that would include the volunteer packet and the sponsorship packet. (**NOTE:** A copy of the Project Hearts and Hands Accessible Playground Community Project PowerPoint presentation (11d) is included in the consent items of the September PRC agenda packet posted on the PRC SharePoint site)

(5) Appointments –Advisory Councils – Applicants

- a. **CPD I:** *Motion was made by Commissioner Lawston to appoint George Wise and John Ferguson, each to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Tarte and approved unanimously.*
- b. **EPD:** Appointments to the EPD Advisory Council were deferred to the October 13 PRC meeting.

- c. **SPD:** Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to appoint Henk-Jan Van Ettekoven to an expired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.

(6) Public Hearings

None

(7) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

(8) Director's Report

a. **Annual Land Acquisition Projections:** Director Garges went over the methodology used to calculate the projected annual land acquisition goals in accordance with the Park and Recreation 10-Year Master Plan. (**Note:** This report is included in the PRC minute's binder (8a) housed in the Director's office)

b. **REI Donation:** REI has donated \$10,000 towards the development of a *Natural Play Area*. This type of play area is designed to encourage more frequent, longer, and richer outdoor play experiences in safe, natural settings. The check will be presented at an upcoming BOCC meeting. Chair Pearce asked about the cost of a natural play area. Michael Kirschman answered that they would be doing a design charette in December with two of the best designers in this field, which will help determine the cost based on what might be included in the area. Chair Pearce asked for an update after the December charette.

c. **September 3 BOCC Meeting:** Director Garges thanked all the Commissioners for attending the September 3 BOCC meeting and giving their support to the park bonds. Jim also reminded the Commissioners that factual information about the bond issue would be provided to them and would also be available on the web site.

d. **Jr. Olympics:** Director Garges recognized James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services, who works with our Jr. Olympics group. We had 22 county youth that participated in the 2008 Jr. Olympics in late July in Omaha.

c. **Eastway Park Meeting:** Director Garges said that as a result of concerns voiced at the September 3 BOCC meeting by members of the Eastway Park community, Chair Jennifer Roberts has set up a meeting with them on Saturday, September 20 at 10 a.m. to address their concerns. Members of the PRC were encouraged to attend as well as members of Partners for Parks. Director Garges emphasized that no changes would be made to the proposed bond projects, but that they would explain the Master Plan process and talk about future improvements and when they might happen.

(9) PRC Chair Report

Chair Pearce made assignments to the Advisory Councils as follows:

- Aquatics – Mike Noble
- EPD – Rob Brisley
- Stewardship – Tim Morgan
- SPLRF (Strategic Planning and Long Range Financing) – Rob Brisley

(10-12) Consent Items

Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to approve all consent items, including the August minutes of the PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner McClure and approved unanimously.

Staff Reports and Requests

- (13) **Parking Plan for Eastway Park:** Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services, provided information to the PRC regarding parking and access to Eastway and Briarwood parks. Greg shared that these two parks were Master Planned at the same in 2004. Access to Briarwood has always been through the neighborhood, but members of the community are proposing, in order to discourage access to the park through the neighborhood, to allow the park gates to be open during school hours at Briarwood Elementary School and have the gates closed during non school hours which would hopefully divert parking to the school. It is anticipated that this process would create a problem with communicating to the public when and where to park as well as a problem with on-street parking. Members of the neighborhood were supposed to address with CDOT the possibility of banning on-street parking. Chair Pearce asked that this subject be brought up for discussion at a future PRC meeting once the neighborhood and staff has talked with CDOT and received an answer from them regarding on-street parking. Greg reminded the Board that when CMS renovates the school, Park and Recreation will work with them to create a new entrance to the park through the school site. The current park entrance would then be closed to the public.

Park Commissioners Reports and Requests

- (14) Commissioner Furuseth deferred the Quality of Life Report to the October PRC meeting.

Commissioner McClure asked that all the Commissioners look at their calendars for either Wednesday mornings or Thursday afternoons to join him and Brad at the Chamber Bond Campaign meetings.

Commissioner McClure shared that Partners for Parks would have a booth at Festival in the Park, September 18-21 and will provide space to promote the bond campaign. Coordinate through Sally Billington to sign up to cover.

Commissioner Lawston thanked James Alsop for his help with the Jr. Golf Program and Lee Jones for his help with Second Ward Park and Second Ward Foundation.

Commissioner Brisley invited everyone to attend the 9/11 program planned for 8:30 a.m. Thursday, September 11 at Frazier Park. The program 30 minute service and a replica of the twin towers made from 3,000 flags, one for each life lost on 9/11.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.