



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 28216 on June 9, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

PRC MINUTES
June 9, 2009

ATTENDANCE

Present: Brad Pearce – Chair
Owen Furueth – Vice Chair
John Barry – Exec. Secretary
Rob Brisley
Jeff Tarte
Tim Morgan
David Morgan
Beverly Lawston
Scott McClure
Paul Bailey
Jim Garges
Dot Law

Absent: Brenda McMoore
Norman Mitchell

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Vice -Chair Owen Furueth, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Commissioner Tarte.

- (1) **Welcome and Introductions**
Each Commissioner introduced themselves and the area they represent.
- (2) **Public Hearings**
- (3) **Proclamations and Awards**
 - a. Director Garges recognized Joe Pata, former Park and Recreation Commissioner for Southern Towns, and presented him with gold cards, a Department ball cap and an award in appreciation for the time he served on the Commission.
 - b. Director Garges recognized Isaac Applewhite for his recent retirement and 30 years of service to the county.
- (4) **Public Appearance**

(5) **Program Presentations: Enterprise Services – Golf Operations Update**

James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services, introduced the presentation topic, Golf Operations Update. The board was reminded that Mecklenburg County owns and operates 5 municipal golf courses: Charles T. Myers, Renaissance, Revolution, Sunset Hills and The Tradition and that in November of 2007 the 5 separate golf courses advisory councils were combined into one consolidated council with endorsement from the PRC. This consolidated council felt that it was a good time to bring an update on golf, golf operations, golf programs and golf participants and partners to the PRC. James introduced the guest speakers to talk about plans and visions for golf in Mecklenburg County: Del Ratcliffe, President of Ratcliff Golf Services, Larry Benson, CEO COO of the IRI Golf Group and Vincent King, Executive Director of the First Tee of Charlotte.

Mr. Dale Ratcliffe, Ratcliffe Golf Services gave opening remarks on the evening's subject. Mr. Ratcliffe shared information on why the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation is involved in the golf business, stating that golf contributes to quality of life, provides large economically viable green space and has a significant economic impact in North Carolina. He also cited a study by SRI International that revealed a total economic impact of \$5.3 billion, 69,000 jobs and \$1.7 billion of wage income in NC. Mr. Ratcliffe said municipal golf courses provided citizens with an easy, inexpensive non-intimidating avenue for people to learn how to play the game of golf.

Larry Benson, IRI Golf Group: Mr. Benson shared that IRI Golf Group manages The Tradition Golf Club and noted that Park and Recreation was a joy to work with and a terrific group of professionals. Mr. Benson went on to share the rounds report for The Tradition stating that year to date rounds were down 9% mainly due to cold weather, 12 days of rain and snow in March and 14 days of rain in May. He also covered current promotions, programs and recent renovations and landscaping projects at The Tradition.

Director Garges asked Mr. Benson to cover the lease operations they have, which is different from the one with Ratcliffe Golf Services. Mr. Benson responded that in 1995 or 96 a group of Charlotte business men partnered with the County to come up with the funding to build The Tradition Golf Course. The County was very generous in the land lease that allowed that partnership to borrow the money to build The Tradition. In 1999 IRI Golf Group bought the assets and took over the long term lease.

Vincent King, First Tee of Charlotte: Mr. King, recalled his first meeting with the PRC three years ago to introduce himself and to make them aware of the plans to build a learning academy. Mr. King was happy to report that 3 and a half years later, having raised just over \$2.3 million dollars, the academy at Revolution has been built and programs are scheduled to start on Monday, June 14, 2009 with approximately 250 kids per day. Mr. King also shared the results of a study he was part of by UNLV/UVA in 2005 that provided evidence that going through a First Tee program resulted in higher grades, improved attitudes, higher character attributes, improved perception of surroundings and better behavior. Programs will be provided for kids ages 5 – 8, (Teeny Tees) and for 9 – 18 years old. He concluded by expressing his appreciation for the partnership with Park and Recreation, Ratcliffe Golf Services and the IRI Golf Services Group.

Del Ratcliffe, Ratcliffe Golf Services, manages four of the County's golf courses: Sunset Hills, Renaissance, Charles T Myers and Revolution shared that they too have seen a reduction in rounds this year mainly due to weather, except for the learning course at Sunset Hills which is actually outperforming

2008 figures. This course, which is less expensive, takes less time and is less difficult to play; appeals to the entry level golfer. Mr. Ratcliffe also covered the Capital improvements that are being made at the golf courses and the programming being offered.

(Note: The PowerPoint presentation in its entirety can be found in the PRC Minute's Binder housed in the Director's office, item 4a.)

Commissioner Lawston thanked Del for his graciousness when the Golf Advisory Council comes out and meets at the different courses. She also asked to get a copy of the video of the closing ceremonies last summer of the First Tee program.

(6) Appointments –Advisory Councils – Applicants

Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to approve all reappointments included in the June Agenda, which was seconded by Commissioner McClure and approved unanimously. Reappointments were as follows. All terms are reappointed terms are from 6/2009 to 6/2012:

Name	Council	Term
Paul Tillman	CPD III	1 st Full Term
Maxwell Hanks	CPD III	2 nd Full Term
Jennifer Coble	CPD III	1 st Full Term
Crystal Gray	EPD	1 st Full Term
Vernon Frost	EPD	1 st Full Term
Roy Alexander	Greenway	1 st Full Term
Kevin Walsh	Greenway	2 nd Full Term
Richard Winters	Greenway	2 nd Full Term
Robbie Lowrance	NPD	1 st Full Term
Kendel Bryant	NEPD	1 st Full Term
William Woodard	NEPD	1 st Full Term
Richard Baker	NEPD	2 nd Full Term
Nathan Krum	Soccer	2 nd Full Term
Phillip Covington	SPD	1 st Full Term
Howie Hartnett	SPD	1 st Full Term
Charlie Williams	SPD	1 st Full Term
Kenneth Kneidel	Stewardship	2 nd Full Term
Douglas Shoemaker	Stewardship	2 nd Full Term
Douglas Burnett	SWPD	2 nd Full Term
Michael Jones	SWPD	1 st Full Term
Laine Walter	Therapeutic	1 st Full Term

Motion was made by members of the Commission to appoint the following new applicants to vacant positions:

Name	Council	Term
Christian Cherry	CPD III	Expired Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012
Claudia Prado	Greenway	Expired Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012
Owen Sutowski	Greenway	Expired Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012
Cathy Joe Young	NPD	Expired Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012
Jacqueline Dear	NEPD	Unexpired Term: 6/2009 – 6/2011
Denis Shropshire	NEPD	Expired Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012
Oscar Huertas del Pino	Soccer	Unexpired Term: 6/2009 – 6/2010
Raymond Fumo	Soccer	Expired Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012

Sharon Wilson	SAC	Expired Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012
Cathy McCann	Cultural Arts	New Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012
Joanne Ahern	Senior Citizen	New Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012
Peggy McDonald	Senior Citizen	New Term: 6/2009 – 6/2012

These positions were seconded and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Lawston moved to defer appointments to CPD I until the August PRC Meeting. (Yvonne Perkins will be placed on the August agenda for consideration.)

Director Garges reminded Chair Pearce that a PRC member would need to be appointed to chair the Cultural Arts Advisory Council and one to chair the Senior Citizen Advisory Council.

(7) Advisory Council – Committee Reports

(8) Director’s Report – Jim Garges

Director Garges covered the following topics:

Naming/Renaming Policy Revision: The BOCC is working on revising the current naming and renaming policy. The First Tee naming and the Phillip O. Berry renaming may be delayed, however Director Garges did not think there would be any substantial changes to our current process. A draft of the recommendation will be sent to the PRC for review once it is complete.

Budget Workshop: The first and only BOCC budget workshop was held on June 2, 2009. At the workshop they voted to approve the CMS cuts, although the final vote will be on June 16. Two changes in the Department’s budget was an additional cut of \$250,000 which will come out of field light. This does not totally deplete funds for lighting and the Department will be looking to see if there is enough to go ahead and light Elon Homes. We also received a request from Commissioner Leake to use two CMS swimming pools for additional swim lessons for children and open swim, which the Department will be funding. All services and programs of the Department will continue and more.

Director Garges praised the hard work of Dot Law, Mario Chang and Shawn Phillips on the budget process. The Department does have vacancies and the County has asked that they be advertised so that qualified employees in other departments identified in the RIF can apply. Likewise some of our employees identified in the RIF have interviews in other departments.

Swimming: A preliminary recommendation has been put together to present to the BOCC Natural Resources Committee on lifting the swimming ban at County owned lake properties. If this committee approves the recommendation, it will go before the BOCC for final approval on lifting the ban. The Department would then work with Duke Energy and apply for a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permit to allow swimming. This process could take as long as 24 months. In the event that swimming

returns, the preferred location will be Ramsey Creek. The Department will present a much more detailed report to the PRC in order to have their recommendation before going to the BOCC to request the swimming ban.

Commissioner McClure asked if you would request FERC approval on any kind of construction or maintenance of targeted facilities for swimming. Director Garges responded that clearing of the swimming area and making it safe is part of the permitting process.

Commissioner Lawston asked for information on the pool at West Charlotte as she understood it was purchased with County dollars. James Alsop responded that West Charlotte and Providence High School pools were purchased with County dollars and operated by the Department for a few years and then migrated to being operated by the schools. This was the only history on these two pools that he had, but would research and provide the Commission with additional information.

521 Recreation Center: The mold clean up is complete and scheduled to be reoccupied on Monday, June 15. Additional details are provided in the Director's Report.

NACo Awards: The Department has won several NACo awards. A full list will be forthcoming in the Friday Letter. Staff continues to provide innovative programming that has gotten recognized on a national level such as the NRPA Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award.

Retreat: Director Garges asked that the Commission members be thinking about some type of retreat that they might like to have in the new fiscal year and when. Commissioner McClure suggested a team building event such as at white water or golf outing on the learners course at Sunset Hills Golf Course. Commissioner David Morgan suggested facility tours as part of a retreat.

PRC Chair Report **None**

(10-12) Consent Items

Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to approve all consent items, including the PRC minutes of May 12, 2009, which was seconded by Commissioner Brisley and approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner McClure to amend the April 14 minutes to reflect the following additional information under Appointments – Advisory Councils:

Commissioner McClure asked if we were abiding by the Consolidated Golf Bylaws, which states that the advisory council will consist of two members representing each of the five golf courses? Commissioner Lawston affirmed that the council was adhering to this bylaw.

Commissioner Lawston seconded this motion and was approved unanimously.

Staff Reports and Requests

- (13) The First Tee of Charlotte Naming Request-Third Reading: James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services, brought before the Park and Recreation Commission for their endorsement the naming request from the First Tee of Charlotte to name the practice area and administrative office area at Revolution Park “The First Tee of Charlotte Learning Academy at Revolution Park”. As required by the Park and Recreation Public Areas and Facilities Naming and Renaming Policy, the first reading was on May 13 at the consolidated Golf Advisory Council meeting, the second reading was on May 18 at the Central Park District I Advisory Council meeting and the reading before the PRC will be the third reading before going to the BOCC for their final approval.

***Motion was made** by Commissioner Lawston to endorse the naming of the practice area and administrative office area at Revolution Park to “The First Tee of Charlotte Learning Academy at Revolution Park” which was seconded by Commissioner Furueth and approved unanimously.*

Park Commissioners Reports and Requests

- (14) PRC Vote for FY 2010 Officers: **Motion was made** by Commissioner Tarte to close the floor to nominations and to approve the slate of officers as presented by the nominating committee at the May 12, 2009 PRC meeting for FY2010, which was seconded by Commissioner Furueth and approved unanimously. PRC officers for FY2010 will be:
- Brad Pearce – Chair
 - Tim Morgan Vice Chair
 - John Barry – Secretary

Commissioner Lawston asked about the priorities and schedule for 2008 bond projects. Director Garges stated that 2004 bonds would be sold first and perhaps not until January of 2011. Also, a land bond sale would occur this July. 2008 bond projects will be ranked based on the 10 year Master Plan priorities and the methodology would be reviewed with the SPLRF Committee prior to the end of the year.

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.