



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at Amay James Recreation Center located at 2425 Lester Street, Charlotte, NC 28209 on September 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES**  
**September 8, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Brad Pearce – Chair  
John Barry – Exec. Secretary  
Rob Brisley  
Jeff Tarte  
Scott McClure (Arrive 6:30)  
Paul Bailey  
Charles McRee  
Norman Mitchell  
Brenda McMoore  
Greg Jackson – Stand-In for Jim Garges

**Absent:** Jim Garges (Employee Funeral)  
Dot Law (Family Emergency)  
Beverly Lawston (Personal)  
Tim Morgan  
David Morgan (Business)  
Owen Furuseth (Business)

**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 led by Commissioner McRee.

**Welcome and Introduction**

Joey Grahl, Facility Manager II, introduced the staff of Amay James Recreation Center and shared information regarding the center. Amay James serves the Reid Park, Wingate and Clanton Park communities and partner with an array of organizations for a variety of programs. They also covered some of the programs provided for youth, teens, adults and seniors. One major need is air conditioning for the gym. (**Note:** A handout was provided with information on the facility and programs, which is included in the September 2009 PRC Minute's manual, **Item 1.**)

**Proclamations and Awards**

**Public Appearance**

## **Program Presentations:**

**Capital Planning and Alliance Development – 2004 Bond Project Update:** Lee Jones, Division Director of Capital Planning and Alliance Development gave an update on the 2004 Bond Projects. The 2004 bond referendum included \$25 M for sportsplexes and athletic fields, \$10 M for Revolution Regional Sports and Learning Academy, \$9 M for Romare Bearden Park and \$25 M for Greenways, a total of \$69 M. Details of the projects within these categories and their current status were discussed. (**Note:** The entire PowerPoint presentation outlining the details on the 04 projects is included in the PRC Minute's Binder, September 2009, Item **4a.**)

**Community Survey Results:** Mike Dickey, Management Analyst for the Department, explained the 2009 Community Survey results. The County does this survey every year with two main goals in mind; determine public awareness of County facilities and County programs and to determine the satisfaction level among those that had visited a facility or participated in a program. This year, 901 households were surveyed. Questions related to customer satisfaction and public awareness of community services, parks and recreation facilities, e-government services and parks operation and maintenance. (**Note:** Complete survey results are included in the PRC Minute's Binder, September 2009, Item **4b.**)

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

- a. **CPD I:** In the absence of the PRC Chair for CPD I, appointments and applications were deferred to the October 7, 2009 PRC meeting.
- b. **Greenway:** ***Motion was made** by Commissioner McClure to appoint Landon Dunn to an unexpired term on the Greenway Advisory Council, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Tarte and approved unanimously.*
- c. **NPD:** No applications
- d. **Cultural Arts:** Appointments and applications were deferred to the October 7, 2009 PRC meeting.
- e. **Senior Citizens:** Appointments and applications were deferred to the October 7, 2009 PRC meeting.

## **Director's Report – Jim Garges**

**Smoking Ordinance:** In the absence of Director Garges, Greg Jackson, Division Director of Park Operations and Athletic Services, shared the Department's recent thoughts regarding tobacco restrictions in parks. The County is currently pursuing an ordinance that would prohibit tobacco use within 25 feet of entrances to County buildings and the Department felt this would be a good time to develop a policy for parks. The prominent proposal currently for the Department would be to restrict tobacco use at multi-field complexes to areas 25 feet from concession buildings, bleachers, dugouts and playgrounds. Real Estate Services will be taking the County proposal to a sub-committee of the BOCC on September 15, then to the Board in October or November. Issues and comments from the PRC were as follows:

- Why not ban smoking completely in parks
- Peer pressure, park watch, signage to enforce
- Add tobacco policy to reservation contracts
- Concerns for children walking through or past smoking areas

- Concern that the tobacco restriction may cause a parent to not bring a child to a park/game
- Opinion that it is not the role of the Park and Recreation Department to control personal tobacco use
- Increase the 25 foot distance to 200 feet

### **Staff Reports and Requests**

#### **PRC Chair Report**

Chair Pearce reminded the Board that the County is preparing a capital budget of approximately \$150M for a bond sale in the next calendar year, which will primarily be split between CMS, the new jail and Park and Recreation. The board was encouraged to contact members of the BOCC to express support of money for parks.

#### **Consent Items:**

***Motion was made** by Commissioner Barry to approve all consent items, including the August 11, 2009 PRC minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Brisley and approved unanimously.*

### **Park Commissioners Reports and Requests**

#### **Ajournment**

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.