

DRAFT

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 Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES
April 13, 2010**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Rob Brisley
 Charlie McRee
 Ed Barnhart
 Owen Furuseth
 Brad Pearce, Chair
 Brenda McMoore
 John Barry, Executive Secretary
 Jeff Tarte
 Beverly Lawston
 Norman Mitchell
 Jim Garges

Absent David Morgan – Business
 Scott McClure
 Paul Bailey – Sick

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.

Welcome and Introductions:

Chair Brad Pearce introduced himself and welcomed all guests to the Park and Recreation Commission meeting.

Chair Pearce invited Ed McLean, Executive Director of Rural Hill, to the podium to briefly speak about the upcoming Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games. Mr. McLean share that the Festival begins Friday evening, April 16 and runs through Sunday, April 18. The festival will draw around 10,000 visitors and participants from all across the States, Scotland and Canada. Activities will include the following activities and more:

- Heavy Athletics
- Celtic Music/Concerts
- Clan Ceremonies
- Pipe Bands

- Celtic Music

The Commission members were given passes to the festival and encouraged to attend.

Proclamations and Awards

Public Appearance:

3a - CPCC Parking Deck Update:

Julie Clark, Division Director of Greenway Planning and Development, gave an update on a new plan being discussed regarding the construction of the CPCC Parking Deck at the corner of Charlottetowne and 7th Street, a joint project between CPCC and Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation. In light of the concerns raised by a few of the Elizabeth Neighborhood residents, additional meetings were arranged to give the community another opportunity to provide input on the project. The April 13 PRC meeting was the 3rd scheduled public meeting. One of the concerns of the neighborhood was the provision of connectivity for both vehicular traffic and pedestrian and bicycle traffic along Armory Drive with separation between. CPCC has agreed to include this connectivity in their parking deck construction. The design would involve shifting Armory Drive up, construction of a 12 foot wide pedestrian bike trail, divided by an 8 foot planting strip and a sidewalk to provide connection to LSC GW, the South side of Kings Drive, the ticket booth at Memorial Stadium, the parking deck, the intersection and the CPCC Culinary Arts Building. This connection will require dedication from the County and CPCC, right of way and an easement for the sidewalk.

Tarma Fontaine, CPCC Student Government President, spoke before the PRC in support of the CPCC parking deck project. Ms. Fontaine said that student parking is a continuing problem and the new deck will add 1000 parking spaces for student use.

Following discussion:

Motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell to endorse the encroachment agreement between CPCC and Park and Recreation, which was seconded by Commissioner Barnhart and approved unanimously by Commissioners Barry, Brisley, Furuseth, McMoore, Mitchell, Barnhart, Pearce and Tarte. Commissioners McRee and Lawston abstained from the vote.

16 – Country Time Carriages – Latta Equestrian Center Covered Arena

James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services, ask the Commission to endorse a proposal to fund and construct a covered arena at the Latta Equestrian Center by Country Time Carriages. James said a covered arena will greatly improve event and program opportunities by eliminating inclement weather concerns. He also explained that the subject of a covered arena has been a topic of discussion for quite some time but funding had always been an issue. Country Time Carriages has agreed to raise funds for the cover and seek a small business loan for any balance in exchange for extending the term of the existing management agreement. The Stewardship Advisory Council and the Northwest Park District Advisory Council have endorsed the proposal. The Department will review and approve any and all plans and the process will include County Code Enforcement and Real Estate Services. Following discussion:

A motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to endorse the proposal for Country Time Carriages to fund and construct a covered arena at the Latta Equestrian Center, which was seconded by Commissioner Brisley and approved unanimously.

Program Presentation – Capital Planning – Cordelia and First Ward Master Plans

4a – Cordelia Park: Lee Jones, Division Director of Capital Planning and Alliance Development, introduce David Nelson, South Park Region Planner, to share the Master Plan Update for Cordelia Park. Following three community workshops, the following updates are included in the Cordelia Master Plan:

- Addition of an indoor shelter ('08 bonds)
- Improve circulation
 - Increase parking spaces by 42
 - LSC GW entering the park
 - Clean up and expand the existing trail system and add 3 new connectors
 - Addition of an exercise course
- Expand the current tank to provide a wider range of aquatic activities
- Expand the deck space
- Rebuild the changing room
- Rehab the current basketball court
- Addition of two sand volleyball courts

Commissioner McMoore said that Cordelia Park was in her district and shared that the neighborhood is very much behind the park with a couple of neighborhood groups that do regular cleanup. She also informed the Commission that the Central Park District II Advisory Council had endorsed the updated Master Plan at the last advisory meeting.

Commissioner McMoore invited the Board to attend a neighborhood festival at Cordelia Park on Saturday, April 17, from 11 – 2.

Motion was made by Commissioner McMoore to endorse the updated Master Plan for Cordelia Park, which was seconded by Commissioner Barry and approved unanimously.

(**Note:** The Master Plan and PowerPoint presentation are included in the April, 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 4a and 4d**, housed in the Director's office.)

4b – First Ward Park: Lee Jones, introduced Brian Conroy, Central Region Planner, to share the conceptual Master Plan for First Ward Park. Lee first shared some background information on the planning for the First Ward Park. A conceptual Master Plan was put together almost 2 years ago by ColeJenest & Stone. Since that time, Daniel Levine of Levine Properties has provided a more defined outlook of plans for development in this area; UNC Charlotte is planning a building, and new amenity concepts for the park are being discussed, such as a farmers market. As a result, it was felt the plan needed updating. A new conceptual plan by Shadley Associates was designed around the new parameters. Mr. Levine agreed to pay for the additional design services and for construction of the park. These funds will be paid back over 15 years. Brian Conroy presented the park plan and asked that the Board endorse the conceptual First Ward Master Plan. (**Note:** The First Ward Conceptual Master Plan and the PowerPoint presentation are included in the April, 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 4b and 4c**, housed in the Director's office.) Following discussion the following motion was made:

Motion was made by Commissioner McRee to endorse and recommend to the BOCC the First Ward Conceptual Master Plan, which was seconded by Commissioner Brisley, and approved unanimously with one abstention.

Appointments -Advisory Councils – Applicants

Motion was made by Commissioner Lawston to appoint Tyrone Bradley to an unexpired term on the CPD I Advisory Council, expiring 6/2011; appoint Renee Jones to an expired term on the NPD Advisory Council, expiring 6/2012; and appoint Sybil Richardson to an unexpired term on the NWPD Advisory Council, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner Brisley and approved unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to defer appointments to the NWPD Advisory Council to the May 11 PRC meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Barry and approved unanimously.

Director's Report – Jim Garges

Frazier Dog Park Incident: Director Garges informed the Board of the recent dog park incident at Frazier Park where a small dog was killed by a larger dog. Jim said the larger dog was brought to the park by someone other than the owner and the smaller dog was in the park on the larger dog side. It was determined that the larger dog may have mistaken the smaller dog for a toy. Jim said that this was a rare but unfortunate incident. Animal Control was notified as is the case with any dog incident in any of our parks. Jim shared that he felt the rules for the dog parks were appropriate and well posted.

Budget Update: Director Garges gave the following update on the current budget:

The Department is currently waiting for the County Manager's decision regarding the budget reduction target, which may be by the end of next week. If the 50% reduction holds for the Department, \$10 million will come out of personnel and \$7 million will come out of the operating budget. At this level of reduction the Department will have to operate under a new organization and greatly reduced levels of service such as facility closings, reduced hours and program reductions or eliminations. The Department would be operating under a 1996 budget.

The County Manager's recommended budget will go to the BOCC on May 18. There will be a public hearing on May 27. Jim shared that he felt this would be an appropriate time for the PRC to talk about the impacts to the BOCC.

PRC Chair Report

Redistricting: Chair Pearce, informed the Commission that they would be considering the endorsement of a redistricting of the current 5 park regions to 3 "Super Regions"; North, Central and South at the May PRC meeting. Details will be provided at that time.

Nominating Committee: Chair Pearce reminded the Commissioners that he, Commissioner McClure, Commissioner Barry and Commissioner David Morgan would be leaving the Commission in June. In preparation for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Secretary, Chair Pearce appointed the following nominating committee:

- Owen Furuseth – Chair
- Norman Mitchell
- Jeff Tarte

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to approve all consent items, including the March 9, 2010 PRC Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

Staff Reports and Requests

Revolution Park Sports Academy Naming: Neil Carroll, Park Superintendent, introduced Karla Thornhill, Park and Recreation Manager, to present the third and final reading to name the facility located at 1225 Remount Road, Charlotte, NC 28208 the *Revolution Park Sports Academy*. Karla share that after discussing with neighborhood leaders, staff and management, it was agreed that *Revolution Park Sports Academy* best fit the new facility and its purpose.

Motion was made by Commissioner Lawston to endorse and recommend to the BOCC the naming of the facility at Revolution to Revolution Park Sports Academy, which was seconded by Commissioner McRee and approved unanimously.

Karla reminded the board that the grand opening ceremony for Revolution Park Sports Academy will be May 8 at 10 a.m. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

Fees and Charges Update: Commissioner Barry went over the recent updates to the Proposed Fees and Charges, Items 7, 8, and 9, with the Commissioners. (Items 1 – 6 were endorsed by the Board at the March PRC meeting.) Commissioner Barry pointed out that the majority of the fee increases will cover or almost cover the operating expenses.

Commissioner Furuseth asked if, given the financial climate, it would be appropriate for the fees to cover the actual cost.

Mario Chang responded that on some occasions fee charges are based on if the service is individualized, which would be a higher fee, or if it is a subsidized service, which would be free or a lower fee.

Commissioner Furuseth also asked if it was true that the charge for lighted fields does not cover the cost of lighting.

Mario Chang responded that the latest study confirms that the rate being charged covers the electricity and replacement bulbs, but that he would double check.

Director Garges said he felt like we had a fair fee system in place; one that keeps public recreation affordable while maintaining a rate that charges more according to the level of service. This system is reviewed annually.

(**Note:** The complete updated fees and charges schedule is included in the April, 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Agenda Item 17**, housed in the Director's office.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Barry to endorse the fees and charges as presented, line items 7, 8 and 9, which was seconded by Commissioner Brisley and approved unanimously.

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Commissioner Furuseth to approve all consent items, including the March 9, 2010 PRC Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Mitchell and approved unanimously.

Park Commissioners Reports and Requests

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.