



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Revolution Park Sports Academy located at 1225 Remount Road, Charlotte, NC 28208 at 6:00 p.m. on May 11, 2010.

**PRC MINUTES
May 11, 2010**

ATTENDANCE

Present: Rob Brisley (6:40)
Charlie McRee
Ed Barnhart
Owen Furueth
Brad Pearce, Chair
Brenda McMoore
Jeff Tarte
Beverly Lawston (6:20)
Paul Bailey

Jim Garges

Absent David Morgan – Business
Scott McClure
John Barry
Norman Mitchell

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 Introductions:

1. **Revolution Park Sports Academy:** Karla Thornhill, Youth Sports Manager welcomed everyone to the new Revolution Park Sports Academy and introduced the staff. Karla gave credit to the entire Department and thanked them for ultimately getting the building up and ready and culminating with the recent grand opening on May 8th. This special L.E.E.D. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified facility offers life skill development for youth and teens through non-traditional sports, fitness programs and after school enrichment activities as well as recreation programming for all ages. It is part of the Revolution Park complex which includes Revolution Park Golf Course, First Tee facility, Irwin Creek Greenway and Revolution Park.

Chair Pearce shared that the grand opening was very well attended by current and past Park and Recreation Commissioners, Public Officials, Elected Officials and local media. Everyone was encouraged to take the opportunity to tour the building.

Proclamations and Awards

2a. Recognition of Dr. James Worsley: Director Garges introduced Dr. James Worsley, Park and Recreation Manager – East Region. James recently received his Doctorate of Philosophy in Leadership from N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University. His dissertation was an Examination of Upward Mobility for African-American Leaders in the Field of Parks and Recreation.

Program Presentation

4a. Revolution Park Golf Course Update: James Alsop, Division Director of Enterprise Services, presented an update on the Revolution Golf Course including the history and improvements made from 1927 to present. The course was closed in November 2008 to begin the most recent renovations and it is anticipated that the course will reopen in October 2010. Some of the improvements are:

- Course design by Clyde Johnston Designs, Inc.,
- Rebuilding tee boxes
- Rebuilding greens
- Construction of a water reuse pond
- Irrigation
- Barrier netting along the greenway and the driving range adjacent to Barringer Drive
- Hole # 8 will become new #9
- Greens are in place and grass growing begun
- Renovation of the Club House by First Tee of Charlotte for their offices

(NOTE: The PowerPoint presentation is included in the May PRC Minute's Binder, Section 4a, housed in the Director's office.)

Appointments -Advisory Councils - Applicants

5c. NEPD: *Motion was made* by Commissioner Furuseth to appoint **Jason Johnson** to an unexpired term, expiring 6/2011, which was seconded by Commissioner McMoore and approved unanimously.

Director's Report - Jim Garges

8. Budget Meetings: Director Garges encouraged the Commissioners to attend two key budget meetings:

- May 18 BOCC Meeting – Presentation of Manager's FY2011 Operating Budget
Government Center at 6 p.m.
- May 27 Public Hearing – Budget
Government Center at 6 p.m.

This will be an opportunity to speak on the impacts to Park and Recreation services from the budget cuts and to express the importance of what we do.

Budget Updates: Director Garges shared the following information regarding the budget:

- The County Manager changed the recommended budget cut for Park and Recreation from 50% to 44% which will give the Department money back for temporary employees will also be enough money to keep Methodist Home Recreation Center open.
- Highlights of impacts to the Department at a 44% reduction:
 - 4 Recreation Centers will close
 - 1 Nature Center will close
 - All remaining Recreation Centers and Nature Centers will be on reduced hours
 - Impacts will affect every single area of the Department; reduced maintenance, reduced hours, fewer staff, fewer programs
 - Loss of over 207 positions
- The following information was also communicated:
 - Will begin to notify employees on the morning of May 18 and will take 2 and a half days to notify everyone affected by the reduction.
 - \$10 million of the cut is in personnel cost and the balance is in supplies, materials and operating cost
 - Budget will require a daily watch to keep from going over
 - Department going from 5 to 3 management regions
 - Specialized Park Maintenance Division is being absorbed into Park Operations and Jeff Robinson will move into Park Operations
 - Entire supervisory levels will be eliminated
 - Greater reliance on part-time and temporary personnel
 - Some services will be outsourced
 - Greater reliance on volunteers
 - July 1 and moving forward will be a work in progress and until the Department gets through a full year of managing at a different level, there will be many shifts and changes as the Department transitions
 - The Department is prepared for another reduction in the next fiscal year
- The BOCC will have three straw-vote meetings on June 3, 7 and 8 to discuss the recommended budget with the County Manger and staff. Once they have decided on a final budget and have a majority vote, the budget will go to the June 15 BOCC meeting for passing.
- Director Garges will communicate budget information by Division and specific impacts to the Department to the PRC on May 18. Jim asked that the information he will provide be kept confidential until the County Manager presents his budget.
- Commissioner Lawston asked about the decision by the County Manger to cut Park and Recreation so deep. Jim responded that basically, while Park and Recreation is considered an essential service, it is not a mandatory service.
- Commissioner Barnhart asked if the employees affected by the RIF would be furloughed or have an opportunity to be recalled. Jim responded that the last day for RIF'd employees will be June 30, but will be guaranteed an interview for job openings in the County for up to one year.
- Commissioner Brisley asked how the impacts would be communicated to the public. Jim responded that there would be a press conference on the 19th.

Regional and Facility Managers will continue to communicate with people in the neighborhoods.

- Commissioner Lawston asked if there was any opportunity for the budget to change. Jim responded that it was possible, but that it would have to change by a vote of the County Commission, but is not likely to happen.
- Commissioner Furueth asked about the transition plan to a smaller staff once the RIF'd employees are gone. Jim responded that his senior team has been working on a transition plan for quite some time and the larger leadership team (SuperTeam) will begin to work in more earnest after May 18 on the transition to July 1.
- Chair Pearce encouraged any Board member that would like to speak at the May 18 BOCC meeting to access the County website www.charmeck.org and sign up early to speak. Director Garges suggested they might make a public statement as a group at the May 27 Public Hearing and certainly can speak at the BOCC meeting on May 18, but to work together as a group on how they would like to handle any statements. Director Garges felt that it would be important to have PRC presence to talk about the impacts and what it means to the Park and Recreation family.
- Commissioner Brisley asked if the Department would be continuing the volunteer opportunities. Director Garges responded that the Department would be keeping the volunteer staff (1 full time and 1 part time) and that we will be stepping up the efforts to recruit volunteers throughout the Department. New volunteer initiatives will soon be announced.

CPCP Parking Deck Suit: Director Garges reported that the suit was dropped and a presentation will be made to the BOCC to move ahead with that project on May 18 and will allow the Department to do the greenway connection.

May 20th Society: Director Garges reminded the Board of the unveiling of the Captain Jack statue on May 20th. Everyone should have received an invitation.

Citizen Board Member State Forum: This will be held in Greensboro and registration is open on line.

Ultra Swim: This will be going on this week at the Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center and will include among others; Michael Phelps , 11 Olympians and the whole US National Team. This is the premier swim meet in the country this year.

PRC Chair Report

9. **Budget Cuts:** Chair Pearce reminded the Board that budget cuts experienced by the County will be passed along to groups that receive money from the County. Director Garges noted they would get a proportional cut which will be 44 – 50 percent.

Catawba Lands Conservancy:	\$46, 500
Discovery Place	\$28, 660
Latta	\$30, 225
Catawba Valley Scottish Society	\$20,000

These figures are based on the anticipated reduction for the Department and represent a 50% reduction for each of these groups.

June PRC Meeting Date Change: Due to the BOCC Straw Vote meetings scheduled for June 3, 7 and 8, the Board agreed to move the June PRC meeting to June 9.

NRPA Coaching Webinar: Chair Pearce encouraged the Board to sit in on a free one hour NRPA Webinar on Coaching to Win and for Life Lessons. Details should have been conveyed through an e-mail from NRPA.

Nominating Committee Report: Chair Pearce recognized Commissioner Furuseth for a report from the nominating committee. Commissioner Furuseth reported the following nominations to serve during the coming year:

Rob Brisley – Chair
Beverly Lawston – Vice-Chair
Charlie McRee – Executive Secretary

Chair Pearce said that elections would be held at the June 9 PRC meeting.

David Morgan Resignation: Chair Pearce announced that due to his job being relocated, Commissioner David Morgan had resigned his position on the board effective June 30 and had asked that Chair Pearce take his proxy to vote on the slate of officers at the June PRC meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pearce that he be allowed to have Commissioner David Morgan's proxy to vote at the June PRC meeting for the PRC's officers, which motion was seconded by Commissioner Furuseth. Discussion followed by Commissioner Lawston asking if any member that may be absent could assign their proxy vote to another member. Chair Pearce responded yes. The motion was amended to allow any absent Commissioner to give their proxy to vote on officers to another Commissioner at the June 9 PRC Meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Furuseth and approved unanimously.

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to approve all consent items, including the April 13, 2010 PRC Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner McMoore and approved unanimously.

Staff Reports and Requests

13. Update to Resolution Restructuring the PRC regarding Commission Member Representation.

Chair Pearce recognized Neil Carroll, Park Superintendent. Neil shared that since 1977, the Department has gone from a one park region (McDowell Park) to 3 regions in 1981 (North, South and East) to 9 Districts in 1994, to 5 regions in 2009. In light of the upcoming budget cuts and in order to manage the park system, the Department will be going to 3 regions (North, South and Central). (**Note:** A draft copy of parks and facilities by region and a map of the new regions are included in the May 11, 2010 PRC Minute's Binder, **Section 13a and 13b**, housed in the Director's office.

Director Garges suggested that the Advisory Councils in each of the new regions be combined into one Advisory Council, so as not to reduce the number of council members, but the number of councils. Jim then proposed a change to how the Park and Recreation Commission members represent the County. The recommendation of the Department is to have three (3) Commissioners to represent each of the 3 regions, one (1) for the Southern Towns, (Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville), one (1) for the Northern Towns (Davidson, Huntersville, Cornelius) and two (2) at large members.

Commissioner Furuseth recommended that the PRC representation for each of the regions be geographically balanced across the region.

Following discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion was made by Commissioner Brisley to amended Article II, Section 8 and Article IV, Section 18 of the Resolution Restructuring the Park and Recreation Commission as follows:

Article II, Section 8: COMPOSITION

- a. *Three (3) members representing each of the three park regions (Central, North and South), provided that such members shall reside in different geographical areas of the respective park regions as plotted on a map by GIS and identified as North 1, 2 and 3; South 1, 2 and 3 and Central 1, 2 and 3 for a total of nine (9) members of the Commission;*
- b. *Two (2) members representing the County at large;*
- c. *One (1) member representing the Northern towns of Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville; and*
- d. *One (1) member representing the Southern towns of Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville.*

Article IV, Section 18: ADVISORY COUNCILS

The Commission shall have three advisory councils, one for each of the park regions, and may form one or more additional advisory councils. The members of the advisory councils shall be appointed by the Commission and shall serve for three-year terms (provided, however, that no advisory council member may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms). Such councils will be set up in a manner that it will include representation from civic, social, service, religious, education and other groups; will include representation for all recognized recreation activity groupings and for all relevant geographical areas of the County. The councils will meet at times which, in the opinion of the Park and Recreation Commission, are desirable and which will be most helpful. The Councils will act in an advisory and liaison capacity with the Commission and the Department, and the residents of the County. The advisory councils will report on items of concern for such council, will accept study and action projects given to it by the Park and Recreation Commission and will also develop their own suggestions, which may be passed on to the Park and Recreation Commission for its consideration, analysis, interpretation, and, when found feasible by the Commission, for its action.

A member of the Park and Recreation Commission will chair each of the advisory councils, with the members of the Commission representing one of the three park regions acting as co-chairs of the respective park region advisory councils. If a member of the Commission is unavailable to attend and chair a meeting of an advisory council and has not designated

a member of the advisory council to chair such meeting, then the staff liaison from the Park and Recreation Department shall chair the meeting.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tarte and approved unanimously.

Park Commissioners Reports and Requests

Commissioners reported the following:

Commissioner Furueth: The Park and Recreation Commission along with the Latin-American Coalition sponsored the Fanta Festival at McAlpine Park and was attended by 25 – 30 thousand.

Commissioner Lawston: Would business cards be available to the Commissioners?
Director Garges said yes.

Commissioner Tarte: The Asian Festival and Dragon Boat Race will be held at Ramsey Creek on Saturday, May 15.

Commissioner Bailey: The Matthews Town Board approved alignment for trail B on 4-Mile Creek Greenway on April 26.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.