



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met on the Waterfront Deck at McDowell Nature Preserve – 15222 York Road, Charlotte, NC 28278 at 6 p.m.

PRC MINUTES
June 14, 2011

ATTENDANCE

PRC Present:

Rob Brisley, Chair
Charlie McRee, Executive Secretary
Ed Barnhart
Kendel Bryant
Elaine Powell
Joe Pata
Norman Mitchell
Doug Burnett
Brenda McMoore
Jeff Tarte
Paul Bailey
Jim Garges

PRC Absent:

Beverly Lawston
Philip Carey

Call to Order:

Following a catered BBQ dinner, the meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chair Rob Brisley, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions: McDowell Nature Preserve Staff

Michael Kirschman, Division Director of Nature Preserves and Natural Resources welcomed the PRC to McDowell Nature Preserve and said that McDowell was over 1100 acres with some of the best topography and mature woodlands in the system. The preserve also has a nature center, 56 full service campground sites, an 150 acre piedmont prairie restoration, hiking, fishing, and camping. Michael pointed out all the recent improvements made possible by Capital Reserve funds. All campground fees go into the Capital Reserve Account and are used for repairs and improvements. Michael introduced staff:

- Mike Campbell, Park and Recreation Manager
- Chris Horrigan, Nature Center Manager
- Suzanne Belanger, Environmental Educator
- Brenda Arant, Campground Administrative Assistant

- Kevin Metcalf, Environmental Educator

Chris Horrigan, shared information on the Nature Center, staff and the standard line-up of programs on the weekends that attracts many families every week-end; Friday Night Campfire and on Saturday; Messy by Nature.

Proclamations and Awards - Commissioner Paul Bailey

Director Garges, presented Commissioner Paul Bailey with a service award for his service on the Park and Recreation Commission. Commissioner Bailey, who is up for reappointment to the Southern Towns position, has elected to not continue on the PRC due to his obligations as a member of the Matthews Town Board. Jim thanked Paul for his excellent service on the board and wished him well.

Public Appearance - None

Program Presentation - None

Appointments -Advisory Councils - Applicants

Athletics: Commissioner Pata set the membership number for the Athletic Advisory Council at 12. Therefore, applicants Bobby DeMuro and Walter Turnbull were not appointed. Their applications will be held for one year and they will be contacted to determine their continue interest in serving should a vacancy become available.

Central Region: ***Motion was made*** by Commissioner McMoore to reappoint the following Central Region Advisory Council members, which was seconded by Commissioner McRee and approved unanimously:

- ***Tyrone Bradley*** ***1st Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Bomani McLaughlin*** ***1st Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Betsy Hooker*** ***1st Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***

Commissioner McMoore deferred on the reappointment of **Diane English** until she is able to contact her for her continued interest.

Golf: ***Motion was made*** by Commissioner Bailey to reappoint the following Golf Advisory Council members, which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously:

- ***Duwanda Dorsey*** ***1st Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Carol Clarke*** ***1st Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Hong Liang*** ***1st Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Dennis Dixon*** ***2nd Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Dennis Shanahan*** ***2nd Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Richard Van Dyke*** ***2nd Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Samuel Lomas*** ***1st Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Raymond Cantey*** ***2nd Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Everett Taylor*** ***1st Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Marvin Ponds*** ***2nd Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***John Love*** ***2nd Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***
- ***Robert Mobley*** ***1st Full Term 6/2011 - 6/2014***

Greenway: ***Motion was made*** by Commissioner Barnhart to reappoint **Brian Malec** to a 1st full term 6/2011 - 6/2014 which was seconded by Commissioner Burnett and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Barnhart set the membership number for the Greenway Advisory Council at 8.

North Region: Motion was made by Commissioner Powell to reappoint **Jason Johnson** to a 1st full term 6/2011 – 6/2014 which was seconded by Commissioner Kendel and approved unanimously.

South Region: Motion was made by Commissioner Barnhart to reappoint the following South Region Advisory Council members, which was seconded by Commissioner Burnett and approved unanimously:

- **Paula Frick** 1st Full Term 6/2011 – 6/2014
- **Aaron Beck** 2nd Full Term 6/2011 – 6/2014
- **Henk Van Etteken** 2nd Full Term 6/2011 – 6/2014
- **Robert Busbee** 2nd Full Term 6/2011 – 6/2014
- **Classie Worthy** 2nd Full Term 6/2011 – 6/2014
- **Kim Weissinger** 2nd Full Term 6/2011 – 6/2014

Commissioner Barnhart did not reappoint **Thomas Bagger, Alicia McKenzie or Michelle McDonald**. He also requested that Vernon Frost and Roger Raymer be removed from the council. These members will be removed due to attendance.

Commissioner Barnhart set the membership number for the South Region Advisory Council at 18.

Stewardship: Motion was made by Commissioner Powell to reappoint the following Stewardship Advisory Council members, which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously:

- **Tracy Allen** 1st Full Term 6/2011 – 6/2014
- **Bernadette Stephens** 2nd Full Term Expiring 6/2014

Commissioner Powell set the membership number for the Stewardship Advisory Council at 10.

Therapeutic: Commissioner McRee set the membership number for the Therapeutic Advisory Council at 9.

Director's Report – Jim Garges

Director Garges reported on the following:

Budget/Advocacy: Director Garges said that the Board of County Commission approved an additional 2 million in operating dollars in the FY2012 budget. Jim felt the advocacy efforts by the PRC and Advisory Council members through e-mails, letters, attendance at budget meetings and direct contact with some of the Commissioners had a direct impact on securing these additional funds. These additional funds will make it possible to bring back 18 employees and provide operational money to help with continuing to provide service. Jim said that going forward we would need to be deliberate about advocacy and finding ways to education the BOCC about our services and what they do in order to improve the ranking of our services at the annual BOCC retreat. In addition, Jim said we need to continue to educate and to seek citizen

advocacy, especially of Advisory Council members so that we will have a strong showing up support at future BOCC budget meetings.

Commissioner McRee suggested that we invite each of the Advisory Council members to a PRC meeting and that each PRC member be assigned a County Commissioner to make contact with during the year. Director Garges agreed.

Commissioner Brisley felt it would be a good idea to more effectively highlight and communicate all the ways in which Park and Recreation educates in cooperating with other City/County service providers through our various programs. Director Garges agreed and felt there would be opportunity when the PRC meet with their County Commissioner to share about the ways the Department is able to add or enhance educational opportunities.

Capital Projects: Jim said the County will be taking all capital projects as a whole and ranking them by priority for \$132 million in capital dollars. Paper work was require to be completed for each project in order to obtain a ranking score which will be used by the County Manager and his staff to make a recommendation on the allocation of funds. Jim encouraged the PRC to reach out to the County Commissioners and advocate for a balance in how the money is allocated. Good news on the capital side is that the Department was able to convince the BOCC to take 5% off the top for any PayGo and set it aside for open space land acquisition. There will be \$6.6 million available for this purpose starting in July; an encouraging sign that the BOCC understands the importance of preserving open space in this County. Commissioner Barnhart asked if there were priorities set for this money. Jim said yes, it would be based on the Trust for Public Land green printing study in the Master Plan.

2014 NRPA: The latest word is that Charlotte has been selected for the 2014 NRPA Annual Conference. Commissioner Mitchell said this will be a perfect opportunity for the Department to put their best foot forward and make a very positive impact on the BOCC.

Gold Medal Finalist: Jim said the Department is again a Gold Medal Finalist. The winner will be announced at the 2012 NRPA Conference in Atlanta, GA.

PRC Chair Report

PRC Slate of Officers: Commissioner Tarte announced the slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee for FY2012:

- Rob Brisley – Chair
- Kendel Bryant – Vice-Chair
- Elaine Powell - Secretary

Motion was made by Commissioner Tarte to reappoint Commissioner Rob Brisley to serve as PRC Chair in FY2012, to appoint Commissioner Kendel Bryant as Vice-Chair and Commissioner Elaine Powell as Secretary which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.

Consent Items:

Motion was made by Commissioner McRee to approve all consent items, including the May 10, 2011 PRC Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.

Staff Reports and Requests

(13) Revision of Advisory Council By-Laws: Each section of the revised Advisory Council By-Laws was reviewed. Commissioner Powell said that, regarding Section IV Composition, the Stewardship Advisory Council members did not want the PRC Stewardship Advisory Council Chair to have the option of breaking a tie. Following discussion it was felt that the use of the word “option” covered the concern and an Advisory Council and Chair could make the decision to not exercise the tie breaking option and instead bring the vote to the PRC.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pata to accept the revised Advisory Council By-Laws Template, which was seconded by Commissioner Barnhart and approved unanimously.

(NOTE: The revised Advisory Council By-Laws Template as presented are included in the June 14, 2011 PRC Minute’s Binder, **Section 13**, housed in the Director’s office.)

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.