



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, on October 11, 2011, at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES  
October 11, 2011**

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRC Present:** Kendel Bryant, Vice-Chair  
Elaine Powell, Executive Secretary  
Charlie McRee,  
Ed Barnhart  
Doug Burnett  
Brenda McMoore  
Beverly Lawston  
Norman Mitchell  
Phil Carey

**PRC Absent:** Rob Brisley  
Jeff Tarte  
Joe Pata

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Vice- Chair Kendel Bryant, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance and introductions of each commissioner.

**Welcome and Introductions: None**

**Proclamations and Awards: None**

**Public Appearance - None**

**Program Presentation - Park Operations**

**Update on Capital Reserve Projects:** Jeff Robinson, Division Director of Park Operations gave a presentation on the Capital Reserve Projects and Process. Jeff explained that this county wide capital reserve funding source is generated from a small fraction of the sales tax revenue and is currently approximately 12 million dollars. In the past, Park and Recreation was allotted a certain amount of this overall fund to be used exclusively for Park and Recreation projects. Over the years the department's allotment, previously referred to as "Pay as you Go" funds, grew from \$420,000 in FY2004 to \$1.23

million in FY10. The department prioritized projects using life cycling information and a facility condition index.

In 2010 the County discontinued “Pay As You Go Funds” and reincorporated it into the overall countywide capital reserve fund, which meant the department would complete for funding with Real Estate Services, the Library and the Sheriff’s Department, to name a few. Projects were submitted and critical criteria for project selection were emphasized; safety, structural integrity, water infiltration and historical significance. In FY11 a half a million dollars worth of projects were approved. For FY12, \$4.2 million in projects were approved. Jeff said that while we are doing well at securing funding for building projects, non-structural projects such as re-paving, re-striping and court renovations are continuing to compile deferred maintenance. To counter this, Jeff said he has asked the selection committee to consider taking 1 – 2 million off the top of this fund and set it aside for non-structural repairs, renovations and upgrades. While the committee has not yet agreed to this, Jim said this was the same philosophy used with the BOCC regarding land acquisition because land could not be linked to a construction project. Jeff said, with this in mind, FY13 will be heavy with non-structural requests, currently at \$3.1 million and possibly when complete, as high as \$5 million.

Commissioner Lawston asked if funding from this source would be used on park areas in preparation for the Democratic National Convention (DNC). Jeff responded that we would spend a considerable amount of money at Marshal Park as it will be a focal point during the DNC, as well as some at 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Park and other areas inside the loop. However, funding would have to come from operational dollars.

Commissioner Barnhart asked if the department would realize any additional revenue as a result of the DNC. Jim responded not directly, but indirectly through the sales tax and hotel/motel tax .

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

No applications for advisory council vacancies.

### **Director’s Report**

Director Jim Garges reported on the following items of interest:

Romare Bearden: Demolition for Romare Bearden is occurring and the park portion of the project should be under construction in late December or early January. It should take approximately 12 months to finish.

Midtown Park: This park project is currently under construction and will complete the LSC GW section by metropolitan.

CPCC LSC GW Section: This section should be complete in the next month.

Memorial Stadium: Jim reported that the structural analysis on Memorial Stadium is almost finished. Most of the deterioration has been found in the upper bowl, which was not a part of the original construction but added at a later date. Jim said a Memorial Stadium Stakeholders Workshop is being planned so that the structural analysis report can be presented and various options for Memorial Stadium/Grady Cole repairs and or renovations can be presented as well as the opportunity to consider ideas and suggestions from the stakeholders. Jim asked that the November 8 PRC meeting be cancelled and the Commissioners attend this workshop instead. All present agreed. The workshop is scheduled for November 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. at the Grady Cole Center. Stakeholders will include all PRC, citizens from the Elizabeth neighborhood, CPCC and stadium users. Next steps will be to develop an

overall Master Plan for the entire site. In the meantime, the upper section of Memorial Stadium will be closed.

Communication on this process will be by all the normal methods such as use of the internet and mailings as well as creating a website/blog where citizens can keep up with the progress and also have a place to post questions, comments and suggestions. Plans are to have this process in place before the workshop on November 17.

Director Garges said that he felt we needed to put a public private partnership together for funding. Next steps will be additional community workshops, the master planning process, a feasibility study, finalization of the recommendation and a presentation to the PRC.

Balance Scorecard: Jim reported that Park and Recreation was exemplary in almost every category of the Balance Scorecard. Customer satisfaction, both internal and external was the highest of any department in the county. In addition the Department has had some new hires and some internal promotions; a good sign that we are turning the corner.

### **PRC Chair Report/Commissioner Updates**

Commissioner Bryant reported that Chair Brisley is working on linking each PRC with a County Commissioner. She said that Rob would be contacting everyone to see if they have a particular Commissioner they would be interested in linking with. Rob also thinks a good approach would be for two PRC to be teamed up with one Commissioner so they will have sufficient opportunity to communicate and to have more than one PRC to get to know. (**NOTE:** Everyone was provided with a map divided into BOCC districts and showing the location of each PRC member. It also listed the top 5 capital projects planned for each BOCC district. This map and attachments can be found in the October, 2011 PRC Minute's Binder (**Handouts**) housed in the Director's Office.

### **Consent Items:**

***Motion was made** by Commissioner Mitchell to approve all consent items, including the September 13, 2011 PRC Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner McRee and approved unanimously.*

### **Staff and PRC Reports and Requests**

**Southern Towns PRC Applicants:** Commissioner Powell asked about the two applicants going before the BOCC on October 18, 2011 for appointment consideration. Director Garges suggested that the PRC review the applications and let their recommendation be known to Chair Brisley so that he can make a recommendation to the BOCC. Commissioner Powell said she felt like Kristen Shaben's experience serving on the Matthews Park and Recreation Advisory Council and her interest and skills surrounding greenways and fitness and wellness would make her a very good fit for the PRC.

**Commissioner Powell:** Commissioner Powell reported that she attend the Robbins Park opening in Cornelius, the Lincoln Heights grand opening, attended the Greenway Advisory Council meeting regarding McAlpine Park and went on a hike to Stephens Road Nature Preserve with the Stewardship Advisory Council to name a few.

### **PRC Reports and Requests:**

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.