



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at Albemarle Road Recreation Center, located at 5027 Idlewild Road N., Charlotte, NC at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES**  
**April 10, 2012**

**ATTENDANCE**

**PRC Present:**

Rob Brisley, Chair  
Kendel Bryant, Vice-Chair  
Elaine Powell, Executive Secretary  
Jim Garges, Park and Recreation Director  
Ed Barnhart  
Doug Burnett  
Brenda McMoore  
Charlie McRee  
Norman Mitchell  
Joe Pata  
Jeff Tarte

**PRC Absent:**

Kristen Shaben  
Sheryl Smith

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Chair Rob Brisley, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance and introductions of each commissioner.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Director Jim Garges, introduced and welcomed the newest member of the Park and Recreation Senior Leadership Team, **Kesha Meads**. Kesha is the new Administrative Support Supervisor for Park and Recreation. Kesha will assume the roles with the Park and Recreation Commission previously assigned to Patsy Houston.

Michael Kirschman, Division Director of Natural Resources and Nature Preserves introduced and recognized **Ronnie Roberts**, who will retire from employ with Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation effective May 1, 2012.

Lola Massad, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services, introduced and recognized **Stephanie Frisbee** on her recent Promotion to Facility Manager I at Mallard Creek Recreation Center (North Park Division). **Lathornia Brooks** was also introduced and thanked on

behalf of her site team for their courtesy and hospitality in hosting the current month's commission meeting. Lola introduced as well, **Robbie Furr**, Cooperative Extensions Director who provided a short informative presentation.

**Robbie Furr**, Cooperative Extensions Director introduced and welcomed members of Cooperative Extensions Advisory Council: **Scott Ewers**, **Kristin Davis**, **Nicole Sanders**, **Sharon Pearson**, **Cynthia McQueen**. Robbie Furr provided a short informative verbal presentation on the Cooperative Extensions initiatives and partnerships.

### **Proclamations and Awards: None**

### **Public Appearance - None**

### **Program Presentation – Budget Update: Mario Chang , Budget Manager:**

Chair **Rob Brisley** recognized **Mario Chang**, Budget Manager for Park and Recreation. Mario provided a comprehensive update and overview of the FY2013 Budget, budget process and schedule. Among the content shared for review with the Park and Recreation Commission were the Budget Process, Critical Success Factors, and the Park and Recreation FY2013 Budget Transmittal Letter. Questions and answers followed from the Commissioners.

#### Reference Documents:

- 4a.1 FY13 Budget Presentation
- 4a.2 FY13 Budget Transmittal Letter
- 4a.3 FY13 Critical Success Factors

Chair **Rob Brisley** recognized **James Alsop**, Enterprise Services Division Director, Park and Recreation. James provided an overview of Adult Athletics, Facilities with Programming in Adult Athletics and Special Events catered to the adult demographic in Mecklenburg County. Questions and answers followed from the Commissioners. James introduced in the meeting some members of the Adult Athletics Department who were in attendance (in alphabetical order): **Robert Anderson**, **Preston Buckman**, **Aaron Cheeks**, and **Michael Moraglia**.

#### Reference Documents:

- 4b.1 Adult Athletics Presentation\*

\* Truncated to remove some picture only slides and the original slide no. 2, "Org Chart" containing employee position numbers

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

No appointments.

Members of the Park and Recreation Commission we made aware of the following resignations:

Cultural Arts Advisory Council  
1 New Vacancy (3 Expired), Expiring 6/2015  
Currently No Applications

Stewardship Advisory Council  
1 New Vacancy, Expiring 6/2015  
5 Applications on File

## **Director's Report**

No items for action, discussion or review provided by the Director.

Director Jim Garges, reminded all commissioners and meeting attendees that the Urban Section of Little Sugar Creek Greenway (4<sup>th</sup> & Kings) would be honored with its opening ceremony on April 20, 2012. All commissioners were asked to be in attendance.

Director Jim Garges, provided a very brief verbal update on the opening of the bidding process for the new Matthews Sportsplex and on upcoming Capital Projects.

Director Jim Garges, announced that Michael Kirschman, Park and Recreation Nature Preserves and Natural Resources Division Director, has been selected and offered the vacant position of Deputy Director for Park and Recreation, Mecklenburg County.

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

**Hats Off To Parks:** A reminder was provided to all in attendance to financially support the Hats off to Parks event, to be held on Friday, May 11, 2012 .

## **Consent Items:**

**Motion was made** by Commissioner Brenda McMoore to delay the approval of the consent item – March 13, 2012, PRC Minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.

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

**Robert Haywood Morrison Park Naming Request:** Gwen Cook, Landscape Architect, asked the Commission to endorse naming the park at Harding Place and Morehead Street, “*The Robert Haywood Morrison Park on Little Sugar Creek Greenway*”. Robert Haywood Morrison, who passed away in 2005, was a journalist, professor and successful businessman. He was also a long-time resident of Charlotte who delighted in the native flora of western North Carolina. His passion for botany led him to invest in properties that provided needed habitat for rare flora. The Robert Haywood Morrison Foundation’s interests remain deeply connected to Morrison’s desire to protect ecologically important land and waters.

The Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners will be asked to recognize a donation of \$250,000 from the Robert Haywood Morrison Foundation in care of the Carolinas Healthcare Foundation for a garden to be developed at Harding Place and East Morehead Street as part of Little Sugar Creek Greenway. The donation will be placed with Partners for Parks.

The Mecklenburg County Board of County Commissioners will be asked to acknowledge a donation of \$200,000 from Carolinas Healthcare Foundation (CHF) to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Trail of History, Inc. (TOH) for a Trail of History statue to be placed in the garden.

The donation of \$250,000 will be received by Partners for Parks and this funding will be available to Park and Recreation beginning in calendar year 1012 to develop the gardens in coordination with the statue and its artist.

TOH will be responsible for receiving the \$200,000 the donation for the sculpture, selecting and managing the artist chosen to create a sculpture of Jane Wilkes, who played the leading role the Charlotte Home, Hospital of Saint Peter's Episcopal Church as well as Good Samaritan Hospital, both forerunners of the modern Carolinas Medical Center.

All work is planned to begin as soon as the funding is in place.

***Motion was made*** by Commissioner McCree to endorse the naming of the park at Harding Place and Morehead Street, "The Robert Haywood Morrison Park on Little Sugar Creek Greenway", which was seconded by Commissioner Powell and approved unanimously.

Reference Documents:

- 13.1 Legislative Item 12-0174, "Robert Haywood Morrison Park"
- 13.2 Robert Haywood Morrison Naming Application
- 13.3 Harding Place Park - Map

### **Senior Concerns**

Commissioner Mitchell informed members of the commission and attendees that concerns have been expressed to he and his advisory council supporting seniors. He is requesting Park and Recreation contacts and partnership to help resolve the concerns.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.