



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center in Room 278 located at 600 E. Fourth Street, Charlotte, NC 28202 on October 21, 2014 at 5 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES
October 21, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

PRC Present:

- Rob Brisley, Chair
- Elaine Powell, Executive Secretary
- Kendel Bryant, Vice-Chair
- Aubin Guinness
- Jude Harding
- Sheryl Smith
- Joe Pata
- Brenda McMoore
- Tristan McMannis
- Jim Garges
- Michael Kirschman

PRC Absent:

- Doug Burnett
- Norman Mitchell
- Ed Barnhart
- Charlie McRee

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Chair Rob Brisley, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions:

Each of the Park and Recreation Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

Proclamations and Awards - Jared Mull

Deputy Director, Michael Kirschman, recognized Jared Mull, Recreation Coordinator/Supervisor. Jared was awarded the statewide young professional of the year award by the NC Recreation and Park Association at the annual conference in Wilmington, NC. This award is given to a current member in good standing with NCRPA who has been a member for at least two years and has been in the parks and recreation profession no longer than ten years. Nominees must be currently certified in accordance with the guidelines of the NRPA, NCBRTL or other professionally recognized parks and recreation related certification plan. The individual must have rendered

outstanding services and/or accomplishments to the profession and/or NCRPA and held a leadership role in his/her professional organization and community. Jared is an outstanding employee and was a well-deserved choice for this award!

Appointments – Advisory Council – Applicants

Athletics: *Motion was made* by Commissioner Harding to appoint Thomas Lee to an unexpired term on the Athletic Advisory Council, expiring 6/2015, which was seconded by Commissioner Pata and approved unanimously.

Sr. Citizens: In the absence of Sr. Citizen Advisory Council Chair, Commissioner Norman Mitchell, appointment consideration of Fran Mathay and Howard Braverman was **deferred** to the November 11, PRC meeting.

Public Hearings: - Naming of County Park Property

Director's Report

Deputy Director, Michael Kirschman, covered the following topics:

Department InfoGraphic: The Department hired an outside graphic artist to design an InfoGraphic of information on the Department's facilities and benefits. This information was made available in every delegate registration packet at the NRPA Congress as well as to the Park and Recreation Commission. This document was well received by all. Plans are to have another InfoGraphic with program information. (**NOTE:** A copy of the InfoGraphic is included in the October PRC Minutes Binder, **Section 11b4**, housed in the Director's office.)

NRPA Congress: The NRPA conference held in Charlotte, October 11 – 17, was an amazing conference. With over 7,200 registrations, it was the most attended in 6 years. As the local host, the Department was responsible for a 5K fun run, a golf outing and all of the off-site institutes which included:

- Ann Springs Close Greenway: Outdoor Recreation, Education and Special Events
- Mecklenburg County Parks Tour: Best of the Best
- Urban Park Tour: Charlotte's Uptown Parks and Greenways
- Managing Unique Athletic Facilities and Partnerships
- U. S. National Whitewater Center: Public/Private Partnerships for Outdoor Recreation
- Latta Plantation Nature Preserve: Partnerships, Challenges, and Opportunities
- Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden: Using Flowers for Revenue and Recreation
- Unique Playgrounds: Planning, Installation and Programming
- Community Gardens: Planting the Seeds of Lifelong Health and Wellness
- Natural Communities Management Tour

The off-site institutes were well attended and well received with over 380 participants.

Among the many education sessions offered, ten of them were presented by Park and Recreation staff. In addition, staff were available at all times as volunteers to assist conference goers with questions and directions. Many positive comments were received on what a great job the Department did as host. The next conference will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Smoking – Board of Health Rule and County Ordinance: The vote by the County Commissioners was on their agenda for the October 21, 2014 BOCC meeting. (All Park and Recreation Commissioners were invited to attend this meeting following the PRC meeting.) The proposed ordinance has changed over the pasted 30 days from its original. The vote most likely will be for a Board of Health Rule prohibiting smoking in all County-owned buildings in Mecklenburg County, the City of Charlotte, and surrounding Mecklenburg County towns and a separate ordinance making Mecklenburg County parks and buildings on Park property tobacco-free, with the exception of 19 regional parks and County-owned/run golf courses. (The tobacco-free designation would include e-cigarettes, smokeless tobaccos, water pipes, etc., as well as cigarettes.) This version will hopefully produce a stronger vote by the BOCC, something the County Manager would prefer on a matter of this importance as well as showing strong support for Dr. Plescia’s (Health Department Director) health initiative.

Discussion followed among the Park and Recreation Commissioners with regard to their original motion on the smoking ban. It was decided, that if asked by the BOCC at the meeting for where the PRC stand, they would stand behind their original endorsement of an ordinance banning tobacco use in all parks, greenways and nature preserves. Director Garges was in agreement with this decision stating that the goal is to make Charlotte a healthier place. Commissioner Smith expressed concern as to if the PRC’s recommendations were taken seriously by the BOCC. Director Garges encouraged the PRC saying that as a BOCC appointed board, he felt they were taken seriously, but most importantly their opinion as knowledgeable advocates was very important to the Department, staff and everyone we represent.

PRC Chair Report

Advisory Council Assignments: Chair Brisley went over the chair and vice-chair assignments to the various citizen advisory councils and reminded all that it was their responsibly as chair or vice-chair to stay connected with the staff liaison of their councils and to make sure that someone from the PRC is in attendance at these council meetings. The number of annual meetings for each council was confirmed as:

- Aquatics – 4X
- Athletics – 6X
- Central – 6X
- North – 6X
- South – 10X
- Coop. Extension – 6X
- Fees and Charges – As Needed
- Greenway – 11X
- Golf – 4X
- Sr. Citizen – 6X
- SPLRF – As Needed
- Stewardship 10X

Commissioner McMoore was assigned as vice-chair of the Golf Advisory Council.

PRC Meetings and Attendance: Chair Brisley reminded the board that attendance at the PRC meetings was crucial. Out of 10 meetings, only 2 absences are allowed. The BOCC attendance policy states that board members must attend 75%. Excess of 75% will result in removal from the board.

Consent Items

Motion was made by Commissioner Pata to approve all consent items, including the September 9, 2014 PRC minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Bryant and approved unanimously.

PRC Reports and Requests

Chair Brisley: Acknowledged the great work and cooperation of park staff to work alongside of police and fire under difficult circumstances and good.

Commissioner Smith: Thanked the Department for a beautiful park dedication at Lincoln Heights. Deputy Director Michael Kirschman added that Lincoln Heights is the nicest neighborhood park in the system and encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to visit.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m., after which all were invited to attend the BOCC meeting.