

## Matthews Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday July 8, 2009 – 7:00pm

Matthews Community Center

### Minutes

**Committee members present:** Ralph Peppers, Kristen Shaben, Carl Onque, Patty Turner, Howie Labiner, Harvey Boyd, Karen Kasper and Tom Williams.

**Committee members absent:** Greg Folmar, Alan Wells and Ashley Peeler.

**Parks & Recreation and Cultural Resource Staff members present:** Lee Tillery, Jayson Johnston and Jason Petersen. Also present was one of the department's summer interns, Rachael Older. Absent staff members were Colten Marble and Corey King.

**Guests:** John Urban – Chairman of the Town's Tree and Appearance Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. The June minutes were approved – moved by Howie Labiner, seconded by Tom Williams.

#### **Director's Report – Lee Tillery:**

- There will be a focus group meeting on Monday 7/20/09 at Town Hall concentrating on the town's branding campaign. Advisory Board members from all committees that serve the Town are invited to attend.
- The Advisory Board volunteer appreciation cookout will be held Saturday, July 18 from 5:30 – 7:00pm at Stumptown Park. All advisory board members and their families are invited to attend. The last concert of the year will begin at 7:00pm with the band "Cruise Control".
- The Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) have cleaned out Agriculture Building. RFQs (Request for Qualifications) have been sent out for architectural services and there were eight responses. Plans are to use the advisory board to assist in the development of a program plan that will lead to how building is renovated. Plans are now to narrow search and bring on an architect in August with hopes of having that person at our September meeting.
- Four Mile Creek Greenway – The Town and Mecklenburg County have amended the inter local agreement to cover the terms of a new agreement. The town will borrow the needed money for the project (\$1.6 million) and Mecklenburg County will reimburse the Town for costs of the project thirty days after their next bond sale or within 24 months of the agreement. The Town will still be responsible for 15% of the project costs. On a separate note, Jay Higginbotham, project manager with Mecklenburg County will be at our meeting in August to discuss a slight design change in the path. Construction start date is slated for late September, with targeted completion in one year.
- The new budget year began July 31<sup>st</sup>. Lee mentioned again the lower operating monies allotted to the Department this year and mentioned that staff would be look at creative and innovative ways to administer programs to offset these lack of funds. However, all programs and events funded in last year's budget are in this coming year as well.
- The PARTF Grant money is scheduled to be awarded on 7/24, unless the state budget still has not been passed. This is for the Squirrel Lake Park renovation project.

#### **Sub Committee Reports:**

##### **Parks & Rec – Lee Tillery (for Corey King):**

- Camp FUNshine enrollment numbers are down slightly overall. Camp is going well and the new home location at Matthews Elementary School has worked out well.
- Windsor Park improvements are now complete with handicap accessible parking place now constructed as well as a new path to shelter and playground equipment.
- Maintenance issues that have been addressed in the past month include the painting of the stage at Stumptown Park and equipment in Baucom Park.

### **Athletics – Jason Petersen:**

- Camps at the Recreation Center are proceeding well this summer. Of the 36 camps, only three have been cancelled so far due to the low numbers of campers enrolled. Numbers in all camps are lower than last year.
- The Muggsy Bogues camp had 61 campers. Special guests included Bobcat Raymond Felton and Dell and Stephan Curry. There is a possibility of starting a youth basketball league with Muggsy.
- There will be a 2-day Officials clinic on July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Participants will be taught officiating rules and will be evaluated at the end of the clinic.
- The men's age 30 and up basketball league starts on 9/22
- A \$500 grant has been awarded by the NRPA for starting an archery program. The funds will be used for supplies and equipment and must be spent by December.

### **Special Events – Jayson Johnston:**

- The Fun Family Fourth event this year drew the largest crowd in recent years. The band "Too Much Sylvia" again played at Stumptown Park.
- Pre-movie entertainment on July 11<sup>th</sup> will be a presentation by Martha Connerton and Kinetic Works dance troupe. They will also be performing at the Community Center on Friday July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Plans are well underway for 2009 Matthews Alive; still looking for more sponsors.

### **Cultural Resources – Lee Tillery (for Colten Marble):**

- Crestwood is having a Family Fun Day on Saturday July 11<sup>th</sup> at United House of Prayer. This is the kick-off event for the artist residency project. Harvey Boyd is involved in this project.
- The Children's World Museum has opened at the Community Center in room 105 and will be housed here for the next 6-9 months until a permanent location is found.
- Staff is working on activities and programs associated with the Community Center for Matthews Alive!.

### **New Business:**

#### **John Urban – Tree and Appearance Commission**

- John Urban spoke about the loss of trees in Matthews due to development and introduced the Living Legacy Tree Program. The goals of the program are to enhance and protect the town's tree canopy and to recognize the town's oldest, rarest and prettiest trees. Trees with historical relevance can also be nominated. The people working with the Living Legacy Tree Program will be available to answer questions and help homeowners with care instructions for their trees.
- The Tree and Appearance Commission has also been working with several HOAs in Matthews for the last 3 years to plant trees in neighborhoods. The HOA pays a % of the town's cost of the tree; the town provides the labor to plant the tree, and the HOA agrees to water and take care of it for the first year. Specific trees are planted, such as ones that grow to 15-20 feet instead of 30-40 feet. These are planted back from the power lines to avoid having them drastically trimmed or cut down when they grow too tall, such as what happened to the 27 Bradford Pear trees on Matthews Mint-Hill Road.

### **Open Table:**

1. KP Park: Funds have now been released in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) where monies have been earmarked for the development of our first pocket park. As you recall, the Town decided to build this park on Matthews Street adjacent to Town Hall a few years back and last year decided to have this park also be a memorial to Kay Plyler. \$20,000 from last year's CIP is now available as well as an additional \$20,000 in this year's budget to use for the construction of KP Park. The total cost of the park is estimated to be \$40,000 – 50,000. Plans include a pergola, benches, a brick sitting wall and seasonal flowers and other plants and trees. Because of Kay's love of horses, an equestrian theme is planned with possibly sculpture or other art. This will be a small park area that will be very quiet and passive. The first phase of construction should begin next month. Construction should take about 10 months, with dedication targeted for next May. Jayson unveiled the KP Park Memorial Brick Campaign, where people can purchase a brick in memory of Kay or just in support of the new park. Bricks will be offered in 2 sizes and can be inscribed

with text and graphics. A 4"x 8" brick will cost \$50, and an 8"x 8" brick is \$100. The deadline for brick purchase during the first phase of the project will be November 15<sup>th</sup>.

2. Sportsplex Update: Bond sales have been suspended; when they are for sale again, work will start with the oldest projects (from 2004). The design for Phase 1 (% ball fields, concession/restroom building, playground and parking) is ongoing and roughly 75% complete.
3. Plans to build the Erickson retirement community have been cancelled. This means that the 20 acres that the company was to donate to the town for a park will not happen either. The ACTS community development at Trade and Fullwood is still going forward, though.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. Items you would like to have on agenda should be sent to Corey King or Lee Tillery by Friday, August 7. There being no further business, it was moved by Ralph Peppers and seconded by Howie Labiner that the meeting be adjourned. Time of adjournment was 8:15pm.