

Matthews Parks, Recreation and Cultural Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday August 12, 2009

Minutes

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

Committee members absent: Alan Wells

Parks & Recreation and Cultural Resource Staff members present: Lee Tillery, Jayson Johnston, Colten Marble, Corey King and Jason Petersen. Also present were Department interns Rachael Older and Jared Mull.

Guests: John McClelland (Mecklenburg County – South Parks District) and Jay Higginbotham (Real Estate Services – Mecklenburg County)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. The July minutes were approved – moved by Tom Williams and seconded by Carl Onque.

Public Comment: None

Update on Four Mile Creek Greenway – Jay Higginbotham, Mecklenburg County

The design of the greenway was finished in late 2008. Bids were received in January but the project was put on hold due to the economy and the County's decision to temporarily suspend bond sales. The Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners approved the construction contract in early August 2009. The contract was awarded to Onsite Development Corporation. The plan is now for construction to begin in October and be completed in 10-12 months. Jay then discussed a portion of the trail that has been re-designed due to information recently obtained concerning flooding. The area of redesign is just south of the Old Public Works areas along the creek. Mecklenburg County originally studied flooding impacts in the FEMA regulated floodplains. They were later required to study all flood plains regardless of the FEMA designation. This area of the trail is not in the FEMA regulated areas so it was analyzed in the past few months. The County found there were negative flood impacts that could affect structures; therefore a redesign was put into place to alleviate this problem. The County estimates cost to remain close to the original price. The net number of trees that will need to be removed during construction will also remain the same. Jay then answered a variety of questions concerning the redesign, construction schedule, public notification. Lee notified everyone that Jay will be making this same presentation to the Matthews Town Board on August 24th.

Director's Report – Lee Tillery:

- Architectural Firms are being evaluated by the Town for renovation of the Agriculture Building. 15 RFQs (quotation requests) were sent out to architects; there were 8 responses, and 5 have been interviewed. A meeting is scheduled for next Monday with the 2 finalist candidates. Lee indicated a hope to have chosen firm at our September meeting to discuss the project. The Town Board will discuss moving forward into negotiations with selected firm and there is hope that a firm will come under contract in September. The contract must be approved by the Town Board.
- The state budget has been passed. The PARTF Grant money is to be awarded on Friday August 21st in Raleigh. Lee will attend meeting. As you recall, the Town moved forward with a grant application for close to \$500,000 for renovations and improvements to Squirrel Lake Park.
- The KP Park brick campaign is underway – some have already been purchased. This will continue through December 15th.
- Matthews and the Community Center will host a meeting of NC Recreation & Park Association (NCRPA) Region 7 on August 19th.

Sub Committee Reports:

Parks & Rec – Corey King:

- Summer camps are winding down for 2009. It has been a good season, but less participation than in previous years because of the economy
- Parks have been recently inspected and no major problems have been noted..
- Rachael Older will be working on a project to ID the walking trails in the Matthews parks. This system will identify trails and lengths in all parks.

Athletics – Jason Petersen:

- The summer camps at the Rec Center had great staff involvement and everything ran smoothly.
- The Men's summer basketball league play-offs are going on this week.
- The Referee's clinic took place on July 31st and August 2nd. Participants officiated for 11 games, which included several "teaching moments".
- A girls' middle school volleyball league for ages 11-15 will begin in mid-September and run through November.
- Jason is working to initiate a youth basketball program this winter. Youth basketball for 6-8 will take place starting in November and a league for 9-11 year olds starting in January.

Special Events – Jayson Johnston:

- Matthews Alive:
 1. Marketing and local advertising are in full swing as the festival approaches through television, radio and print media.
 2. The wristband price has under gone an increase from \$12 to \$15. This year's event, however, includes additional rides. Additionally, the event added a "Tween" are to accommodate the 10-14 year old demographic in which we have not targeted in the past.
 3. Sponsorships are down about 40% this year.
 4. 26 non-profit groups will receive funds this year.
- "Bedtime Stories" will be the back-to-school movie at Stumptown Park on August 22nd.
- The Optimist Club will be holding a bowling event at Carolina Lanes. The Department is assisting by loaning the event some games.
- There is a possibility that Matthews could host the Harley owners state Hog Rally next June.

Cultural Resources – Colten Marble:

- There were a total of 900 kids registered in all camps this summer.
- This fall there will be 30 ballet and dance classes offered each week.
- Video interviews were taped and pictures were taken at Crestdale's Family Fun Day last month. Workshops have begun for the artist residency project. Also, on August 22nd there will be a "Lunch and Learn" at the Community Center to learn more about the Montagnard community in Crestdale; the event is sponsored by ASC and the Light Factory. The completed Crestdale documentary will be debuted at the Community Center in November, and the quilt project will be put on display.
- Matthews Playhouse: upcoming plays include "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Charlotte's Web".
- The Children's World Museum will be housed at the Community Center for the next 6-9 months in Room 105. Plans are to move the Museum to the Clark House when renovations are complete.

New Business:

John McClelland – Mecklenburg County

- There will be a Hummingbird Festival on August 22nd from 10 am to 4 pm at Reedy Creek Park
- Festival in the Park will be September 24th – 27th at Freedom Park.

Open Table / Miscellaneous:

1. In November 2009, at least 2 positions on the P&R Advisory Board will need to be filled.

The next meeting will be September 9th. There being no further business, it was moved by Ralph Peppers and seconded by Greg Folmar that the meeting be adjourned. Time of adjournment was 8:20pm.