

Matthews Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2010 – 7:00pm
Matthews Community Center

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Howie Labiner called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

2. Roll Call

Committee members present: Patty Turner, Howie Labiner, Karen Kasper, Ashley Peeler, Harvey Boyd, Alan Wells and John McClelland (Mecklenburg County South Area Branch Mgr)

Absent: Greg Folmar, Carl Onque, Tom Williams

Staff members present: Lee Tillery, Jayson Johnston, Corey King; Jason Petersen, Colten Marble

Guests in attendance: Bob Evans, Matthews Artist Guild

3. Submission of November 30 minutes

Alan Wells motioned to accept the November 30th minutes. Patty Turner 2nd the motion. Minutes passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

Ongoing Business

5. Director's Report – Lee Tillery

Lee updated the committee on the following projects:

- 4 Mile Creek Greenway- Project is proceeding nicely despite many weather impacted days. Work continues in the area behind Greylock Ridge toward John Street with clearing and man hole cover improvements. Work is also taking place in the back part of Squirrel Lake Park near Privette Road and Squirrel Lake Court. Construction updates are available on our website as well as through a hot line here at the Community Center.
- Ag Building – Town Board is considering a resolution to allow the Town to negotiate via price with and architect/engineer firm. Lee will be working with Town Manager to move this process along and will keep Advisory Board updated.
- Public Restrooms/Bradford Clinic – Lee indicated he is looking at several options for restrooms at Stumptown Park. There is planning money and construction money budgeted in the Town's CIP. Lee indicated that he is exploring an option of utilizing the back side of the Bradford Clinic to serve as restrooms. This may be more cost efficient with the structure and water/sewer availability. The

structure itself will need to be evaluated from a maintenance stand point as well since the building has been empty for over a year.

- Renaming of Squirrel Lake Park – Lee indicated that he sent the recommendation of this Board to not change the name of Squirrel Lake Park to the Town Board. Plans are to establish a naming/renaming policy for the Department and Town.

Lee also informed the committee that there are two committee member openings. If anyone is interested he asked the committee to have them go to www.matthewsnc.com and fill out an application.

6. Sub-Committee Reports

- **Special Events – Jayson Johnston**

Jayson handed out to the committee the 2010 Department wide event, program and meeting calendar/schedule which is updated through July 2011. The Beach Fest schedule is nearing completion with a great venue for the 2nd year of this annual event. This includes the sand sculpture team, exciting bands such as the Tams and Catalinas and the outdoor volleyball tournament. Also, there is a possibility of adding a 5K race in coordination with a local civic group. BeachFest will be held the weekend of April 30 – May 1.

Howie asked if there is a possible BeachFest/MA! Sponsorship package. Jayson indicated that he is looking to diversify sponsorship opportunities and would look into this approach as well. Ashley inquired as to the process for sponsorships. Jayson informed the group as to his approach with sponsorship solicitation for Town events and programs as well as with Matthews Alive. He also addressed how non profits can be involved with events throughout the course of the year. Jayson informed the committee that there will be an online application process within the new website which should go live within the next 3-4 weeks.

- **Cultural Resources – Colten Marble**

Colten updated the committee on upcoming events being held at the Community Center. The Playhouse is producing *The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe* in February and other winter programs continue to run through March. Colten spoke to his recent involvement on the production of the new town website. The hope is for this site to be more user friendly and to continue to provide easy access to all departments of the town. The updated web site should be active in late January/early February. Ashley inquired about signage with the Playhouse and some are updated. Howie indicated this is something the Playhouse should handle.

- **Athletics – Jason Peterson**

Jason Peterson communicated to the committee that the summer programs are moving along for 2010 and they are getting all programs finalized and ready to go. Also, the basketball winter leagues are about to get underway.

- **Parks – Corey King**

Corey informed the committee that all the holiday events went well. Breakfast with Santa was a successful event. Corey indicated that he is working with Public Works to coordinate landscape improvements at Windsor and Sardis Park. There is a meeting on Friday at Stumptown Park to discuss drainage issues with the outdoor volleyball court. The next event they have planned is the Father/Daughter Dance on Saturday, February 13th. At their staff meeting he let the committee know that they discussed a mother/son event around Mother's Day due to many inquiries and the popularity of the Father/Daughter Dance.

Howie asked John McClelland if he any updates for the committee. John mentioned that they are getting ready to start their budget processes. There may be public workshops to discuss what is important in the county related leisure services. He encouraged the committee to come out and to support this.

7. Discussion of Greylock Ridge Greenway Connector

Howie opened the discussion on the concerns regarding the Greylock connector. Howie read Greg Folmar's email regarding the location of the connector. In his email, Greg indicated that he "opposes any changes in the connector plans that are in place." Howie then opened it up to the group for discussion.

Patty Turner informed the committee that she did go down to Greylock and did not see any problem in particular with the connectors. Karen Kasper also went to Greylock to view the connector between lots 33 and 34. She asked the committee whether or not Greylock really needs that many entrances to the Greenway. She sees issues with kids "partying" along there and leaving debris behind.

Howie asked the committee to consider this question; did the developer inform Mr. Roberts of the connector? The group discussed the concept but felt like it was not something they could determine or control in this situation. The Board then inquired as to what staff had found out in reference to their questions from the previous meeting. Lee handed out a plat map for the committee to view dated and filed September 2007 which locates on the plat map the Greenway connector between lots 33 and 34 (Mr. Roberts home is on Lot 33) and the sidewalk connecting to Vinecrest. The information also showed that many homes in Greylock, including Mr. Roberts', were purchased in 2008. The connector was originally lined up between Lots 36 and 37 but the steepness of the slope was a problem. The connector location was then discussed and ultimately approved by the Town Board in August 2007 with the plat map being recorded after that in September 2007. In reviewing past conversations with Mr. Roberts, Lee told the committee that Mr. Roberts knew the Greenway was going in but there was confusion as to where the connector would be located. There were also mixed messages that came from the Town.

Karen Kasper questioned as to why the planning department would allow a barrier to be put up and just leave it. She is concerned with the metal barrier and thinks it's not aesthetically pleasing. Howie reiterated Ms. Szabo's concerns from the last committee

meeting of the slope between Vinecrest & Greylock. She feels that it is too steep. He wanted to know if the committee needs to address this or should this be turned over to public works for them to review. Karen is also concerned about skateboarders, ATVs, etc...and what can be done to prevent these nuisances. She too is concerned about the steepness of the Vinecrest connector.

Alan Wells wanted to know where this connector could be moved to if not between lots 33 & 34. Howie asked the committee, if this connector is moved, will the Greenway ever be complete if we keep moving it? Ashley thinks it is unfortunate that Mr. Roberts' is upset but the data supports the Greenway connector. Ashley resides on Squirrel Lake Court and was informed when she purchased her home about the Greenway. Howie put a vote to the committee as to whether a change or removal of connector between lots 33 & 34 should be addressed.

Alan Wells wanted to know if the realtor had disclosed the conditions of the property prior to the purchase of Mr. Roberts' home. Howie believes that this information should be disclosed by the realtor/developer not the Town. He thinks the Town did their due diligence.

Howie asked the committee if they wanted to vote on a request to change/move the connector. The committee voted unanimously to recommend not moving or eliminating the connector between lots 33 & 34. Howie also asked the board to again consider Ms. Szabo's concerns. Ashley & Patty think she is more concerned with the safety of the Vinecrest connector rather than moving it. Karen thinks that Mr. Roberts & Ms. Szabo are really more concerned with safety issues such as skateboarders, ATVs, etc...as opposed to moving the connectors. Karen also mentioned that Markwell Place Road already connects the two neighborhoods.

Howie asked the committee as to how they want to handle the Vinecrest connector issue. In speaking to the safety of the connector, Howie mentioned that this would be an issue for the Town Engineer and Public Works Department to handle. This committee can simply speak to the connectivity aspect of the connector. Patty indicated that she believed Public Works is handling the safety and risk management of the sidewalk.

Howie asked the committee if anyone is in favor of moving the sidewalk between lots 26 & 27 – connector to Vinecrest. The committee voted unanimously to recommend not moving or eliminating the sidewalk from VineCrest.

New Business

Discussion of Term Limits for Chair and Vice Chair

The committee had an open discussion of term limits and the question of how one serves on this committee was posed.

Patty referred to the Arts & Science Committee which is a 3-4 year term.

Howie thinks a 2 year might be good so there is a continuation of rolling of committee members on and off the committee. Do we table this or make our own way? Harvey would like to see how other committees handle terms of members. Lee indicated he would research how other committees handle this issue. Howie will bring this topic up at the next meeting so an orderly election process will be in place going forward.

9. Open Table Discussion - Miscellaneous

None at this time.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Howie made a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm. Seconded by Alan Wells.

Next meeting – Wednesday, February 10, 2010 – Matthews Community Center