



Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture (PARC) Commission
Thursday, February 2, 2012
5:30pm – 7:00pm

Cornelius Arts Center
19725 Oak Street, Unit 1
Cornelius, NC 28031
www.cornelius.org/parc

MINUTES

1) Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Meeting

a) Call to order - Chair Trimbur called the meeting to order at 5:36pm

Commissioners Present: Chairman Bruce Trimbur, Michael Culbreth, Karen Tovar (via phone), Chris Jones, Tedd Duncan, Nicolle Lewis, Dan Kelly, Town Commissioner John Bradford

Staff Present: Director Troy Fitzsimmons, Recreation Superintendent Ryan Hager, Recreation Programs Coordinator Mindi Stoner, Karen Ulmer

b) Introductions – None

c) Public Appearances – None

2) **Approval of minutes (attachment)** – Minutes from the January 5, 2012, meeting were approved as written.

3) **PARC Commission Issues/Presentations set for a specific time** - None

4) PARC Commission Subcommittee Recommendations & Reports

a) Items to be placed on record - None

b) Commissioner Reports

- 1) Commissioner Michael Culbreth – He recently went by Smithville Park on a Saturday and it looked like nearly 200 people out there participating in a lacrosse activity. It seemed that Xtreme Lacrosse was doing a good job. He visited Robbins Park and it was busy also.
- 2) Commissioner Karen Tovar – She has noticed the new PARC logo and thinks it looks great. She has also noticed that Xtreme Lacrosse is up and running their programs.
- 3) Commissioner Chris Jones – No report
- 4) Commissioner Tedd Duncan – He is concerned that all the town is hearing is complaints about Robbins Park but when he drives by the park there are so many people using it and obviously happy with it. Would love to see us set up something like Friends of the Park, maybe on Facebook. Sometimes happy people do not get enough attention and the small number of unhappy people gets a disproportionate amount of attention. Perhaps this would be a way for them to easily let their voices be heard in a positive way. He asked that Commissioner Lewis take the idea to the marketing subcommittee and work on ways to make it so. If some of the parks do not get many fans, maybe it would clue us that we may need to look at our amenities or programs in that park for ways to improve. He wants to build a fan base for our parks and programs.
- 5) Board Chair Bruce Trimbur – The Arts and Science Council is hosting a meeting at Cornelius Town Hall on February 8 from 7:00-8:30pm and it would be great if the commissioners could attend. Mindi Stoner added that ASC is updating their cultural action plan for the Charlotte area and

looking for feedback throughout the county. Troy Fitzsimmons said it was a great opportunity for us to be a part of that process.

- 6) Commissioner Del Arrendale – Absent.
 - 7) Commissioner Nicolle Lewis – The PARC Department now has a new logo and a new URL. They are working on summer camp brochures, which will include those elements. PARC sent an email blast to over 3000 previous attendee email addresses about upcoming summer camp registration and had about a 32% open rate, which is very good. The Town continues to work on new website. No update for DNC other than expected attendance has risen. The Chamber is working on a signature event for this area.
 - 8) Commissioner Dan Kelly –Cornelius youth softball registration is up and running. Their new website is www.corneliusncsoftball.org.
 - 9) Commissioner Travis Dancy - Absent
- c) Town Commissioner Report – Commissioner John Bradford – The Town has a budget retreat coming up in March. If he can support this group in any way he will do so. He suggested using signage in the parks with QR codes that patrons could use connect to connect to our Facebook pages or website.
- d) Standing Committee Reports
- 1) Director’s Report – Director Fitzsimmons reported that Ryan Hager and his staff are continuing the planning for full day camps. They have planned activities for Black History Month in February. The big event will be Celebrate Smithville on February 25 at Cornelius Town Hall. Rhonda Hollingsworth has been working on getting the 2012 Special Events calendar locked in but is still working on securing the date for the Charlotte Symphony. On March 24 and 25 there will be a Revolutionary War Encampment at Legion Park. We finalized the design for the new logo, began its rollout and will continue to move forward with business cards, apparel for staff, etc. The Town is continuing to develop a new website and Karen Ulmer is working hard on that. The Caldwell Station Creek Greenway project is awaiting approval of a grant. John DeKemper submitted a \$300,00 PARTF grant application on Tuesday for Robbins Park for trail improvements, an accessible fishing pier, pond renovation, etc. Total project estimate is \$1.1 million. WAC is awaiting condemnation proceedings for the road widening. At Robbins Park, Boy Scouts Cato and Simonini are still working on their Eagle projects. Once both are completed, there will be a trail from the playground through the woods all the way to the greenway. Bailey Road Park lights around the tennis courts and ballfields have been a problem for awhile; we have a PO to replace all the wire harnesses on these lights. Alwyn Smith’s wife, Marjorie, passed away this past week. He is a former PARC Commissioner. PARC will make a presentation on Monday during the Town Board’s pre-meeting in Room 204 at 6:00pm to promote our request for a Comprehensive Parks and Greenway Master Plan and the FY13 Capital Improvement Plan. Having a CMP improves our position in applying for grants.

5) Old Business

- a) Robbins Park Parking – Director Fitzsimmons reminded the commission that Classica Homes sent a proposal to change the current parking plans. He showed a slide of their proposal. Classica was advised that the PARC Department and PARC Commission were not supportive of any changes. On February 13 there is a Planning Board meeting at 6:30pm at Cornelius Town Hall for a minor variance to a lot near the park and it is possible some of the residents may appear to make their case for parking changes. The Town is still discussing the option of just eliminating parking on the residents’ side of the street. The final decision will be made by the Town Board.
- b) Xtreme Lacrosse partnership – Recreation Superintendent Hager reported that, as of this date, there are 193 players registered for the spring season and 16 are on scholarship. This registration number exceeds the number of participants when we operated our lacrosse program.

6) New Business

- a) April PARC Commission Meeting Date- Director Fitzsimmons noted that the April meeting is currently scheduled for April 5, which is during CMS Spring Break and the evening before the Good Friday holiday. Commissioner Duncan made a motion to change the April meeting to April 12, seconded by Commissioner Culbreth. The motion passed unanimously.
- b) CMP/ Town Board Planning Retreat Update – Director Fitzsimmons said that every year each department submits particular budget goals to the Town. He reviewed the FY12 goals and outcome of the recent Town Board budget meeting (see attached). Commissioner Bradford said these documents just provide a rough sketch. When the Town Board goes to their planning retreat next month, they will make decisions at that time. Commissioner Duncan urged the PARC Board to keep pressing for greenways, sidewalks and park improvements.
- c) Recreation Programs Coordinator’s Annual Report and Arts Center Tour - Mindi Stoner
Superintendent Hager introduced Mindi Stoner, who has been with PARC for 5 ½ years. She showed slides of some of the programs she oversees: Cornelius Arts Center, Lake Norman Bridge, Mobile Art, Special Needs programs and Cocoa with Santa among others.
Special Needs – We have a part-time coordinator, Trina Roeder, who works for us and for Huntersville, providing various programs throughout the year including summer camps. We like to have at least 1:1 ratios and use a lot of volunteers.
Cornelius Arts Center – We serve children 18 months old through seniors. We have three seasons of classes and summer camps. We also offer workshops, gallery exhibits, birthday parties, special events.
General recreation programs – These include violin and keyboard lessons, bridge, sewing (CPCC) and mobile art (grants from Arts & Science Council)
Last year’s recreation revenue was \$19,536 – 4.8% of department revenue.

7) Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.

Next Meeting – **March 1, 2012 5:30pm**

Future Dates: Thursday, April 12, 2012; Thursday, May 3, 2012; Thursday, June 7, 2012