



Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture (PARC) Commission
Thursday, October 6, 2011
5:30pm

Cornelius Town Hall Meeting
21445 Catawba Ave
Cornelius, NC 28031
www.corneliuspr.org

Minutes

I. Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture Meeting

- a. Call to order: Chair Trimbur called the meeting to order.
 - 1) Present: PARC Commissioners, Del Arrendale, Chris Jones, Bruce Trimbur, Tedd Duncan, John Bradford (via phone), Nicolle Lewis, Ryan Hager, Recreation Superintendent, Ryan Wertz, Athletic Supervisor and PARC Director Troy Fitzsimmons.
- b. Introductions: none
- c. Public Appearances: none

II. Approval of minutes (attachment)

- a. The minutes from the September 1st meeting were approved as submitted.

III. PARC Commission Issues/Presentations set for a specific time:

5:45 Athletic Programming – Ryan Wertz, Athletic Supervisor: Ryan Wertz gave an overview of the PARC Department's Athletic Programming and included some participation comparisons of this year to years past. Chair Trimbur asked what the capacity was for the programs and if we were reaching it. Superintendent Hager responded that if we are to increase in numbers like we have in the past years, we'll have to do some creative things to work around it. The softball program is maxed out and has been for the last several years. Chair Trimbur responded that if we are at or over capacity for certain programs, that is why we need to look into building out and making more room. Superintendent Hager added that several teams were on the waiting list that we were unable to accommodate. This is why we are bringing our staff to the commission each year to speak about our programs, inform you where we are with our numbers, and see what we may need to do. Commissioner Arrendale asked if we know what percentage of Cornelius residents are participating in our programs. Superintendent Hager replied that yes, we do have that broken down into Cornelius, Huntersville and Davidson for all of our large programs. Superintendent Hager reported that he has sent out an RFP for Lacrosse Programming to form a partnership similar to what we have with soccer, baseball, etc. We will bring the proposals to the October 27th board meeting so that the commission can see what we've received and discuss the possibilities.

6:00 NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Fund – Troy Fitzsimmons: Director Fitzsimmons announced that the Director of the NCDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation took a look at our project for the Caldwell Creek Station Greenway and offered \$2.1 million dollars to complete it. We will have to match by paying for design and right of way acquisition. Director Fitzsimmons presented a preliminary map explaining the project and what sections could be completed under this project. Commissioner Arrendale made a motion to continue exploring this further. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jones and with no further discussion the motion passes. Commissioner Duncan commented that this is phenomenal. Director Fitzsimmons responded that we needed to give credit to John DeKemper, our Park Planner who puts in these projects to get grant money. He is responsible for this. Town Commissioner Travis asked what our estimated matching dollars will be. Director Fitzsimmons responded about 10% of the construction costs to cover our design and permitting. We will fine tune that as we move forward.

IV. PARC Commission Subcommittee Recommendations & Reports

- a. Items to be placed on record – none
- b. Commissioner Reports

1) Commissioner John Bradford – Nothing to report other than his kids love Robbins Park. He invited everyone out to Latta Equestrian Center for the Haunted Hayride. He also congratulated Director Fitzsimmons on the grant. It is fantastic news.

2) Commissioner Karen Tovar – absent

3) Commissioner Chris Jones – Commissioner Jones reported that he and Del are participating on the CIP subcommittee. They went over CIP list for FY13-14 and the list looks good. We did a little bit of re-prioritizing. He is looking forward to upcoming events this month.

4) Commissioner Tedd Duncan – Commissioner Duncan reported that he had been downtown for several late meetings and had passed Smithville Park driving home. He loves the intimacy of that park. He recommended staff to think about that when programming in the evenings. It felt great to drive by and see the activity and see it packed with kids. Commissioner Jones agreed and said the same thing for the new playground at Robbins Park. It is very popular.

5) Board Chair Bruce Trimbur – Chair Trimbur reported that a few commissioners' terms will be expiring in January, so we will need to get those interested renewed. Director Fitzsimmons responded that he will need to know from those by the October 27th or December 1st meeting if they would like to continue to serve on the board. Chair Trimbur also mentioned the Lake Norman Wildlife Festival at the Harbor Café on October 22nd. This is an opportunity to do something as a group if we would like. He attended the Robbins Park Grand Opening and it was a great success. He encouraged everyone to take the trail if they had not yet done so.

6) Commissioner Del Arrendale – nothing to report.

7) Commissioner Nicolle Lewis – Commissioner Lewis reported that she took her kids to Robbins Park on Sunday and it was packed. She is also looking forward to the upcoming park tour. She attended the first marketing subcommittee meeting. We are independently going out and looking at best practices that other parks & recreation groups are using. Commissioner Duncan added in regards to Robbins Park that the playground is one of the most visually effective aspects of the park. It was modified by the PARC Staff and everyone did a fantastic job. Director Fitzsimmons added that Cunningham & Associates, who installed the playground, said that this is the most ideal location to have installed this playground because of the surrounding trees and environment.

8) Commissioner Dan Kelly – absent

9) Commissioner Travis Dancy - absent

c. Town Commissioner Report - Town Commissioner Travis asked what type of role the PARC Department would play in the November 11th dedication ceremony for the Veteran's Monument. Director Fitzsimmons responded that our event coordinator, Rhonda Hollingsworth, was working on this.

Town Commissioner Travis also reported that the DNC is coming to Charlotte and would like the PARC Department and Commission to think about how we can take advantage of having national media in our community. We need to dovetail with some of those events. Now is the time to jump in and be a part of that planning process.

He also reported that there has been information in various newsletters regarding Jetton Road Park. This issue has come before the Town Board before. Town Commissioner Travis reported that the property owners association felt that the Town isn't investing any money in the park and hasn't made any improvements. It appears to them that the Town doesn't treat the park like an asset. This issue will most likely continue to come before the Town Board. Town Commissioner Travis asked the board to think about how can we make this a community asset and do more with it. There will be challenges for that in the coming months. Director Fitzsimmons responded that he would be interested in hearing what the ideas are in terms of what we can do at that park. If we are going to do formal athletic programming we would need more parking, a restroom facility, etc. We do have a playground in the CIP for that park and we improved the trails there this year. Commissioner Travis added that it would be nice to have the facts about what the limitations are, perhaps a summary, that could be given to the Board so that they

are educated about the issues with this park. **Action Items:** create a summary of Jetton Neighborhood Park issues and periodically hold commission meetings in the parks.

d. Standing Committee Reports

1) Director’s Report – Director Troy Fitzsimmons reported that we hosted an opening reception for the Felicia Van Bork exhibit on September 9th with about 60 people in attendance. We also hosted a sailing event for kids with special needs and had over 100 people in attendance. Paddle boarding will be coming soon. We opened Robbins Park with over 200 people in attendance and had a great turn out of County Delegates, Town Board and PARC Commissioners. We hosted Park Days at two parks along with the Police Department and Coca-Cola. Not highly publicized, it is just for neighborhoods. We had over 100 people attending at Glen Oak Green Park and about 50 attending at Walter Henderson Park.

A few upcoming events are: The All American Dog Show on October 8th, the Boo Bash on October 29th, and the Veterans Day Monument Dedication on November 11th.

PARC has a brand new truck. The Chevy Sonoma truck has been replaced.

PARC has an upcoming meeting on October 18th with a consultant hired to take a look at an intermediate term facility based upon the Arts Task Force recommendations.

PARC and Planning are beginning to coordinate planning efforts for bike lanes and sidewalks and how that ties into parks and greenways. We’re also going to be talking about some environmental programming out at Robbins Park. Director Fitzsimmons presented a slide illustrating the parking issues resulting from the widely popular playground at Robbins Park. Residents have expressed their concerns of people parking in front of their homes. Robbins Crescent Drive was developed predominantly with Town funds and was always planned to have parking on both sides of the street. We have talked about adding signage on both sides of the road encouraging people to designated parking for the playground while trying to minimize parking around homes. In total, there are 49 spaces under this scenario which meet county standards and Town needs. We want to be good neighbors out there, but people will be allowed to legally park anywhere along the road. Hopefully this solution will address those issues and bring it to a close.

V. Old Business

Marketing Subcommittee - Commissioner Lewis reported that the marketing subcommittee met about two weeks ago. We have independent goals to accomplish, and we’ll come back together on October 24th. We should be able to report more at the next meeting on October 27th. Commissioner Arrendale stated he liked Town Commissioner Travis’ idea about trying to get some DNC exposure. Commissioner Lewis added that we had some innovative, more costly ideas such as a mobile app to tell you where you are in relation to parks. They are already doing this in California. We will continue to research and explore that idea.

VI. New Business

PARC Logo – Director Fitzsimmons reported that as part of the Navigate Cornelius master plan process, Town management and staff are moving toward a more unified approach in the branding campaign for the Town overall. The Town seal will be incorporated as part of the PARC logo. This would be less confusing for residents and reinforces relationships with other departments. Staff will begin working on developing a couple different concepts. Commissioner Arrendale offered a contact for graphic design if needed. Commissioner Duncan asked if replacing park signage was already included in the CIP. Director Fitzsimmons replied that it was already included.

VII. Adjournment

Chair Trimbur adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting – October 27, 2011, 5:30pm

Upcoming Meeting Dates
Thursday, December 1, 2011
Thursday, January 5, 2012
Thursday, February 2, 2012
Thursday, March 1, 2012
Thursday, April 5, 2012