

CARRBORO RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION –8/4/08

Present – Members: Doris Murrell, Marianne Nicholson, Eric Allman, Kevin Fuerst, Shirlene Parker, and Sarah Sizemore; Board Liaison: Lydia Lavelle and Staff: Dennis Joines, Charles Harrington and Anita Jones-McNair.

Murrell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Murrell called for corrections or questions concerning the minutes of the last meeting, 6/02/08. No corrections or questions were requested; therefore the minutes were accepted as presented.

Communications and/or Speakers from the Floor

Murrell called for communications and/or speakers from the floor. Joines, Recreation Administrator and Harrington, Recreation Supervisor discussed their positions with the Town. Alderman Lavelle asked what did they see as the biggest challenges we face? They mentioned expanding programming options with limited facilities, staying up with leisure trends as well as providing programs that will be used the entire community. Murrell mentioned a program offering in Pine Knolls/Chapel Hill that wants to expand into Carrboro. She asked if the department would be interested? We mentioned that we were open and would like to review the possibilities.

New Business

Murrell called for new business. Jones-McNair shared a concern presented by Buz Lloyd, Carolina Song and Dance Association. He is unhappy about the Film Festival Committee reserving Century Hall for November 19, 2010 for the Annual Film Festival. Staff offered other options, however he did not want to consider another day for his monthly dance reservation. He strongly felt staff or the committee should change that date booked to accommodate his dance group. He also requested the committee members contact information. The commission felt that staff assisted as best as possible within being consistent with the guidelines of the reservation policy. Fuerst and Allman also raised coercing concerns of the committee members.

Next, Murrell requested that Jones-McNair facilitate the election of officers. Murrell and Allman were nominated for Commission chair. Allman received 1 vote and Murrell received 4 votes. She was re-elected as Commission chair. Next Allman was nominated for Vice Chair and received 6 votes. Allman was elected the Vice Chair.

Murrell tabled prioritizing goals and objectives of the Commission for the next meeting. The list is as follows:

- Develop a Recreation and Parks Commission Orientation Manual.
- Request and participate in a joint Recreation and Parks Commission meeting with Chapel Hill and Orange County – Jones-McNair mentioned that she will have a meeting with directors of Chapel Hill and Orange County on June 6th to discuss the next joint meeting.
- Evaluate recreation opportunities for our community – Nicholson mentioned this was done during the master plan update and the department evaluates activities periodically. Jones-McNair mentioned she would develop a list of how services and activities are currently being evaluated and handout at the next meeting for discussion.
- Participate in park facilities tour – this goal was completed prior to the commission's meeting.
- Include in future meetings to meet and learn more department staff – Jones-McNair reminded the commission that they met three staff members during the meeting and staff will attend meetings the rest of the year until all of them have been introduced.
- Revisit the Martin Luther King Jr. Park's master plan and make any recommendations to the Board to consider during their future discussion item – commission discussed this item. Parker asked the history of the park. Alderman Lavelle, Nicholson and Jones-McNair provided the historical background. The commission decided to discuss this item

during the time the Board will review the item. Recommendations can be sent to the Board for consideration.

- Create other community gardens throughout town.
- Identify future gymnasium space and discuss/identify resources and best leverage to obtain for a long term basis – Jones-McNair mentioned that the Intergovernmental Park Work Group is working on a future school/recreation partnership consideration that will go the neighboring jurisdiction for review. Nicholson provided some historical perspective on this item.

Old Business

Murrell called for old business. Jones-McNair shared with the commission evaluation tools the department currently uses within the Program and Facilities Divisions. She also mentioned moving to an online process. Fuerst and Alderman Lavelle confirmed that web based evaluation tools are popular and good to work with such as the Survey Monkey.

Allman shared that the Bicycle Committee met to discuss and review feedback from the community forums. Three hundred responses were sent online. The summary of feedback included safety concerns such as on Estes Rd and biking bottlenecks. The committee discussed how to address concerns and prioritize various road situations. The next meeting is scheduled for August 14th to further evaluate where to go from here. He also shared information from the Greenways Commission. RFQ's are now available for the Bolin and Morgan Creek Projects which were advertised separately. The committee is in the process of reviewing the RFQ's to determine which companies will be interviewed and when.

Jones-McNair shared suggestions for topics at the next Recreation and Parks Commission Joint Meeting from Orange County's Commission. The suggestions included teen programming, co-sponsored activities and leagues and community use of schools. After a brief discussion, the commission agreed the topics were good ones and wanted to add how to expand programs currently available to teens, facilities and potential funding sources, and request a representative from the IPWG and Carrboro provide an update on the community use of schools topic. Chapel Hill did say they could host this meeting possibly sometime in October. The commission asked Jones-McNair to share this information and request the potential date so the commission could decide whether that meeting would be considered as the monthly meeting or an additional meeting.

Report by Chair and Director

Murrell called for the report of the chair and director. Jones-McNair shared the Move It Scholarship Program that includes an additional partnership with Orange County Partnership for Young Children. She also reminded the commission of online registration launching on September 3rd. Emails will go out to current participants and information will be available for new or interested users.

Considerations for next and future meetings

Prioritize goals and objectives
Discuss Martin Luther King Jr. Park
Update of Buz Lloyd's concern
Review Special Events Calendar

Meeting Adjournment

Murrell adjourned the meeting at 8:40p.m.