Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture
(PARC) Commission
September 5, 2019
5:30 PM

Cornelius Town Hall
www.cornelius.org/parc

AGENDA

PARC COMMISSION - 5:30 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   - A. **August 2019 Draft Minutes**
4. **PUBLIC APPEARANCES - CITIZEN CONCERNS/COMMENTS**
5. **PRESENTATIONS**
   - A. **Bailey Road Park Master Plan Update**
6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
   - A. **August 2019 Director's Report**
7. **PARC COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS**
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
   - A. **Cain Center for the Arts**
   - B. **PARC Commission Goals & Committees**
   - C. **Meckleburg County Sales Tax Referendum**
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
   - A. **2020 PARC Commission Meeting Calendar**
   - B. **Cain Center Operations Task Force Appointment**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**
11. **NEXT MEETING**

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

Print

Date of Meeting: September 5, 2019

To: PARC Commissioners

From: Troy Fitzsimmons, PARC Director

Action Requested:

Manager's Recommendation:

ATTACHMENTS:		
Name:	Description:	Type:
2019.8.1.Minutes.pdf	August 2019 Draft Minutes	Backup Material

Parks, Arts, Recreation & Culture (PARC) Commission
Thursday, August 1, 2019
5:30 – 7:00 pm

Cornelius Town Hall
21445 Catawba Avenue
Cornelius, NC 28031
www.cornelius.org/parc

AGENDA

1) **Call to Order** – Chair Higgins called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

2) **Determination of Quorum** - A quorum was reached with 8 commissioners in attendance.
Commissioners present: Rob McCloskey, Trey Fouche, Meghan Stamper, Carol Livingston, Chris Kolkhorst, Dave Rusk, Travis Dancy, Chair Scott Higgins, and Town Commissioner Denis Bilodeau
Commissioners absent: Andrew Heywood
Staff present: Director Troy Fitzsimmons, Recreation Superintendent Chad Cauble, Karen Ulmer

3) **Approval of Minutes (July)** – Commissioner Rusk made a motion to accept the minutes from the July 11, 2019, meeting as written. Commissioner Dancy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

4) **Public Appearances – Citizen Concerns/Comments –** None

5) **Presentations** – None

6) **Director's Report**
Director Fitzsimmons gave a presentation [see attached] highlighting items from his July report. Commissioner Kolkhorst expressed concern about the crossings at Westmoreland Road between the existing McDowell Creek Greenway and Phase II, and between the proposed Alexander Farm development and Westmoreland Athletic Complex. Town Commissioner Bilodeau said he wants to have any Alexander Farm development frontage be resort-like and tree-lined similar to the way Robbins Park fronts Catawba Avenue, instead of just a line of buildings. Director Fitzsimmons said he would be in favor of that also, as long as it does not count against the parkland acreage that is required by the development plan.

7) **PARC Commissioner Recommendations & Reports**
   a) Items to be placed on record
   b) Commissioner Reports
      1) Commissioner Rob McCloskey – He volunteered at Park in the Dark and was impressed by the number of children at the event, nearly half of the 35 participants. The Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation volunteer was exceptional. The Robbins Park community's Facebook page is very active regarding the proposed Robbins Park Master Plan update and he hopes we will get better participation at the public meeting on August 6.
      2) Commissioner Trey Fouche – He has received blast emails from the local USTA group excited about the new tennis courts planned for Robbins and Bailey Road Park.
      3) Commissioner Meghan Stamper – She heard about the new courts, also, from a friend who lives in Highland Creek, so the word is spreading. Her children attended tennis and basketball camps and they had a terrific time. She has had feedback from other parents about offerings for middle-aged children and about coordinated programming between morning and afternoon half-day camps.
      4) Commissioner Carol Livingston – She noted the bubbler in one of the Robbins Park ponds does not seem to be working. Director Fitzsimmons will have staff inspect.

DRAFT

5) Commissioner Chris Kolkhorst – He has enjoyed going to the Pre-Development Committee meetings, a good group.
6) Commissioner Andrew Heywood – Absent
7) Commissioner Dave Rusk – He has reached out to the volleyball community for them to attend the master plan meetings in support of more volleyball courts. He ran two sand volleyball camps for PARC at Blythe Landing in June and they went well, with participation numbers increased from last year.
8) Commissioner Travis Dancy –His daughters attended the Pixie Party camp at the Cornelius Arts Center in June and enjoyed it. The Powerade State Games were held in the Charlotte region in June, and Cornelius hosted rugby at Bailey Road Park with 16 teams and youth baseball at Westmoreland Athletic Complex with 14 teams. On August 18, a large cycling event called Lake Norman Fondo will be held in Davidson.
9) Chair Scott Higgins – No report

c) Town Commissioner Report – Commissioner Denis Bilodeau – He appreciates that the PARC Commissioners are out in the community talking to people, and then bringing more opinions than just their own to our discussions.

8) Old Business

a) Cain Center for the Arts
Town Commissioner Bilodeau said they have raised roughly $15 million towards their $25 million goal, which includes funds for capital and some operating expenses. A number of board members will be holding fundraising activities at their homes throughout this month.

b) PARC Commission Goals & Committees
No reports.

9) New Business

a) AED Donation from Operation Sweet Tooth
Superintendent Cauble gave a presentation [see attached] regarding a proposed donation of three AEDs to PARC. After a discussion, Commissioner Fouche made a motion authorizing the PARC Director to finalize planning and then recommend acceptance of the AED donation to the Town Board. Commissioner Dancy seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

b) County Sales Tax Referendum
Director Fitzsimmons said the PARC Commissioners were provided with a link to documents [https://mecklenburg.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3999394&GUID=051DC780-2D75-4C17-BD48-F3DC4B3036CE] that had been presented at the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners' July 2 meeting. He shared a presentation [see attached] outlining their Advisory Referendum Resolution for the BOCC's Statement of Intent Regarding Appropriation of Potential Proceeds from the quarter-cent sales tax proposed on the November 2019 ballot, which showed that Cornelius may be in line to receive a percentage, estimated at $598,207 annually. Chair Higgins said the PARC Commission needs to speak up on the front end regarding how that money would be used. Town Commissioner Bilodeau said the ballot will not spell out these potential benefits and there are many people opposed because it is a new tax, especially on top of the recent revaluations. A discussion followed regarding what the County may or may not do with funds collected, and what the Town may or may not do with funds received from the County. Commissioner Fouche made a motion that staff put together a proposal prioritizing how PARC would spend the potential funds Cornelius could receive from this new tax, for the PARC Commission to consider. Commissioner Livingston seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10) Adjournment – Chair Higgins adjourned the meeting at 7:18 pm.

Next Meetings – Thursday, September 5, 2019
Future Dates – Thursday, October 3, 2019; Thursday, November 7, 2019; Thursday, December 5, 2019

DRAFT

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2019.8.31.August_Director_Report.pdf	August 2019 Director's Report	Backup Material

PARC Director's Report

August 2019

PROGRAMMING

Recreation Centers

- Completed weeks 7 and 8 of Summer Day Camps with 181 participants. (2019 – 176)
- Concluded fitness class sessions: 6 weeks of Senior Fit concluded August 21 with 4 participants. (2018 – 3); 6 weeks of SKWOD Fit Camp concluded on August 1 with 9 participants; and 8 weeks of Tai Chi concluded on August 17 with 4 classes and 21 total participants. (2018 – 16)
- Cardio Funk at Bailey Road Recreation Center had 142 participants in July. (2018 – 150)
- Lake Norman Bridge had 787 participants in July. (2018 – 909)
- Lake Norman Teen Council Executive Board members attended the school open houses for Bailey Middle and Hough High to recruit future member for the 2019 – 2020 school year.
- Upcoming Outdoor Adventure Hikes: Sunday, September 8, at Fisher Farm and Sunday, November 10, at Ramsey Creek Park. Hikes are 2:00-4:00 pm.

Arts Center

- Completed Weeks 7-10 of Summer Arts & Recreation Camps registration with 176 participants and 57 on waiting lists, with 2 camps cancelled. (165 last year, with 75 on waiting lists and 3 camps cancelled)
- Completed the Adult Summer B Session with 8 of 9 classes with 57 participants and 2 on waiting lists (6 of 7 classes with 49 participants and 2 on waiting lists in 2018. Also 5 workshops were offered in 2018 but 4 of those were cancelled). Fall A registration is underway, with classes beginning the week of September 9. Fall B Registration opens Monday, September 30.
- Completed collecting pieces for the *Home Grown: Sprouts* exhibition, featuring 250 mixed media works from campers ages 4-16. A closing reception was held on August 22 with 100 attendees. (60 in 2018)
- Up next in the gallery: *Mud at the Mill*, a juried ceramics show, September 20 - November 2. An opening reception will be held on Friday, September 20, 6:30-8:30 pm.
- Upcoming events: Art in the Park on Wednesday, October 9, 1:00-3:00 pm at Robbins Park and Preschool Halloween Party on Thursday, October 17, 10:00 am-12:00 pm.

Athletics

- Completed Weeks 7-10 of Summer Sports Camps registration with 481 participants and 13 on waiting lists (436 last year and 11 on waiting lists).
- Youth Flag Football skills nights were held on August 13 and 15. The draft was held on August 21. There are 194 players (234 in 2018). Registration for the Instructional Division will remain open until September 6.
- Held the 2019 Gaga Ball tournament on August 10 at Robbins Park with 33 registrants. (23 in 2018)
- Managed 196 total hours of facility use in July. (475 hours in 2018. The large difference of hours is attributed to there being only one tournament at WAC in the month of July 2019. Two tournaments were cancelled due to weather and one of them was supposed to be a large, three-day tournament.)
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Special Events

- Held National Night Out with Cornelius Police Department at Bailey Park on August 6, with approximately 550 in attendance (500 in 2018).
- Held Back-2-School Bash and Outdoor Movie Night on August 31 (rain reschedule from August 24) at Robbins Park with approximately 300 participants (300 in 2018)
- Final 2019 Cornelius Outdoor Cinema Series: Family activities start at 6:30 pm and the movies around 8:30 pm. *Hotel Transylvania 3: Summer Vacation* on Saturday, September 21, at Smithville Park.
- Upcoming events: 'Tawba Walk on Saturday, September 28, 2:00-8:00 pm in Downtown Cornelius; All American Dog Show on Saturday, October 5, 3:00-6:00 pm at Robbins Park; Laketoberfest on Saturday, October 12, 5:00-9:00 pm at Bailey Road Park; Fall Hooked on Cornelius fishing event on Saturday, October 19. 10:00 am-12:00 pm at Robbins Park Northern Pond; Veterans Day Program on Monday, November 11, 11:00 am at Town Hall; Santa Paws in the Park on Saturday, November 16, 12:00-2:00 pm at Robbins Park; and Light Up Cornelius on Saturday, November 30, 4:00-7:00 pm at Town Hall.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

Under Design

- **Smithville-to-JV Washam Greenway** – Staff and consultant are in the process of securing right-of-way authorization from NCDOT.
- **Robbins Park Master Plan** – Consultant has a new draft of the master plan update, based on the Parks and Greenways Master Plan, a public workshop and survey responses. The updated draft plan was presented at a second public workshop at Town Hall on Tuesday, August 6, 6:30-8:00 pm. The plan and a new, brief survey were posted online for additional input opportunities. The survey closed on August 22, with 103 participants. Overall, there was strong community support.
- **Bailey Road Park Master Plan** – The proposed conceptual plan includes 12 lighted tennis courts, 4 POP tennis courts, 10 pickleball courts, restaurant, restroom building, viewing area, and additional parking. A public workshop was held at Town Hall on Wednesday, August 21, 6:30-8:00 pm. An online survey is posted on the Town website for additional input opportunities. The survey closed on August 22, with 128 participants. Overall, there was strong community support.

Out to Bid

- **McDowell Creek Greenway** – The Notice to Bid will be released September 3 and construction should start in the spring of 2020.

Under Construction

- **Antiquity (South Rocky River) Greenway** – The project is 90% complete. The boardwalk installation is nearing completion. The estimated completion is September 27, weather permitting. A grand opening is being planned for Saturday, September 28, at 9:00 am.
- **JV Washam Gym Divider Curtain** – The Maintenance Team (TMT) completed the installation of the curtain.
- **Plum Creek (South Bailey Road) Greenway** – The contract was awarded by the County to JD Goodrum and construction is scheduled to start in the fall.

OPERATIONS

- **Athletic Fields** – All fields are open and the turf looks great. The infields at Bailey 1, Legion and Torrence Chapel 1 and 2 were laser graded and infield mix and Turface was added where needed.
- **Irrigation** – Repairs and adjustments were completed at WAC, TCP and Smithville Park.
- **Robbins Park Pond** – The southern pond had an algae bloom that was treated with copper sulfate and Nano Bubble Technology. The algae have begun to die but are still present. Signs were erected at all park ponds alerting visitors to keep out when in doubt of the water quality, because some algae can become toxic to both humans and animals.

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