



## **Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes May 21st, 2025**

### **Call to order:**

The recent Park Advisory Board Meeting was held on May 21st, 2025, at the Belle Johnston Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm by Kris McVey.

### **Attendees**

Matthew Jakubowski (Staff)

Randy Brantley

Kris McVey (Vice Chair)

Shi Cain (Staff)

Lorraine Haynes

Stacy Shatterly

Christine Turner (Chair)

Ivette Isaacs

Amy Smith

### **Public Comment: None**

### **New Business**

#### **Approval of minutes:**

- i. Lorraine made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 19th, 2025, meeting. Motion approved and seconded by Caylene Brown; all favor by all.

#### **Director Updates:**

- i. Arts in the Park: There was a storm that quickly approached us while escorting the vendors into their spots. With the impact of the storm, it began to be very windy causing materials and items to blow everywhere. We had some great volunteers Christine and Amy that helped with vendors and parking. We reviewed Arts in the Park during our staff meeting and Jordan had mention that, this year seem to have a smaller attendance due to the weather. However, later in the day the weather began to clear up with gusty winds causing vendors to leave early. Overall, positive feedback on the event.
- ii. Music on Main: This event went very well! We decided to move this event off the summer months because of the intense temperatures. It has brought in crowds of around 30-40 attendees. The social district and pushing this event have really helped bring in the crowds. Matthew and Ryan spoke together on this event stating, "this event is not supposed to have 1000 people. It's supposed to be intimate". We will continue Music on Main starting in the fall. Overall, we had excellent crowds and looked forward to the fall.
- iii. McCullough Greenway Update: Starting in about a week or two weeks they will begin the boardwalk. Expected completion is mid-July we are looking right at two months of completion. The contractors came out to start clearing out some of the gravel and the boardwalk is to be delivered June 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>ish and start constructing that. Once the boardwalk gets started the bridge will be formally done. Hopefully by July 15<sup>th</sup> Greenway

will be completed. We should see no delays unless there is unexpected weather. The Greenway is a little inlet to the entrance of Jack Hughes. Updates on the damages, Ryan is still debating if we are going to charge them for damages of the expected completion a year passed due. The company is looking at \$900 a day in those damages. This situation will go through council to see if they want to pursue charging for the damages.

Furthermore, Matthew, Ryan, and Riley will corporate together for a ribbon cutting at the new greenway. We will have Kris McVey as the liaison for her board member to appear for the ribbon cutting as well.

- iv. Outdoor Pickleball Courts: We are still in the process of getting the Pickleball Court permit. We ran into a few bumps, so hopefully in the next 30 days we can officially permit the courts, which Kimberly Horne is going to help with. Matthew states, there are color designs for the pickleball courts, and he will send those designs out to Park Board members and vote based on what the members like the most. The location of the pickleball courts will be on the left side of the Jack Hughes ball fields. These fields are funded by the ARPA funds (last COVID-19 relief funds). Ivetta asked, will the pickleball courts be first come first serve? Matthew stated he is going to start leagues and investigate how Mecklenburg County runs their pickleball courts. A possibility of having first come and first serve and along with renting a court as well. Our goal is to have a multitude of everything for those courts: free time, rentals, and leagues. James asked if there would be a logo on the courts and Matthew did not think about this cool design and something to investigate.
- v. Summer Camp: Summer Camp starts June 16th and ends August 15th. It is a 9-week camp with 50 kids per week. We have a few days the center/camp will be closed for Holidays. Shi has awesome crafts, activities, and field trips planned for camp. We have started back with our junior counselor program (starting at age 13). Our goal for our junior counselors is a feeder system. This will help these young adults grow into potential summer counselors. The main challenge of summer camp is the hiring process for summer camp counselors because they become hit or miss and have great interviews but can be different upon arrival to camp. Overall, we have a neat program and look forward to this summer.
- vi. Budget- New Playground: Matthew asked for maintenance equipment and some other items that we needed such as a new roof over at Jack Hughes Concessions. We have re-paved the Hut Parking lot and this year we are going to re-pave the lower parking lots at Lake Park this year. One of the most important items Matthew put in for is a new playground to replace the oldest playground. June 11<sup>th</sup> will be the official approval of the council for the new playground. Matthew has multiple playground designs with three different quotes. This playground ages from ages 5–12-year-olds and there will be pour and play instead of mulch. Matthew wanted this playground to be more accessible. Such as having wheelchair accessibility because he wants children to be able to come up and play even with mechanical devices. Furthermore, Matthew is going to present 3 to 4 designs and let the Park Board vote on which playground they like the best as a

team. Ivette suggestion having benches placed around the playground for parents and Matthew stated that is a great idea, and he will look into it. The timeline will be June 12<sup>th</sup>. When it passes officially from council. Overall, Matthew is taking step by step to eventually update or replace all the playgrounds in Lake Park.

- vii. Athletic Review: We have wrapped up soccer with 350 kids. We had our first ever girls' volleyball, which was incredible! We had about 95 kids. Amy Smith spoke in the girls' volleyball league; she was a coach and both of her daughters played as well. As a coach she saw large amounts of improvement from the start of season all the way to the end. These kids had a large amount of fun, that after the season was over parents and children were asking when this starts again. Randy asked what the age groups were, which are 12-14 years old and 9-11 years old. Erin and Matthew spoke about the possibility of having a smaller league in the fall and the only problem is school volleyball. However, Matthew and Erin are going to work on having the league on Saturday's and with the possibility of having an open gym volleyball night. The program has become very successful. We also have our Adult Basketball that started as well.
- viii. Jack Hughes Expansion: Matthew is working on a MOU (Memo of Understanding) to see if Mecklenburg County will help with the expansion. We are seeing an initial cost of 14 million for the expansion. Matthew will be meeting with the Town Manager to receive/speak on a game plan on how to approach the county with this expansion. Matthew is working to try for a joint use agreement. There is nothing set in stone for this expansion, but there is a continuous of working on this matter.
- ix. Athletic Recap:
  - Youth Volleyball: Total of 95 kids.
  - Youth Soccer: Total of 350 kids.
  - Adult Basketball: 5 teams registered.

### **PPRAB Vacancies and Appointments:**

- i. The PPRAB currently has 9 of 9 positions filled! The board is currently in full membership.

### **PPRAB Member Reports**

- i. Community Engagements:
- ii. Resident concerns/suggestions: Stacy mentions, "The no guest policy" and could there be a possibility of looking into visitor passes for members to bring a guest. Matthew states, he will investigate that idea.

### **Park and Recreation Department: Upcoming Events/Programs**

- i. Rock'n & Reel'n: Starting June 13<sup>th</sup> – August 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ii. Pineville Summer Camp: June 16<sup>th</sup> – August 15<sup>th</sup>
- iii. Summer Concerts: Starting June 13<sup>th</sup>- August 8<sup>th</sup>
- iv. Charlotte Symphony & Fireworks: June 26<sup>th</sup>

### **Open Discussion/Suggestions/Future Initiatives**

- Providing more picnic tables for the concerts and fall fest, so people can have more seating to eat.
- In the future we are looking to form/build a haunted trail for the community off the McCollough Greenway during the month of October.

**Schedule of Upcoming PPRAB Meetings:** 2025 Meetings: February 19<sup>th</sup>, May 21<sup>st</sup>, August 20<sup>th</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup>

**Adjourn** – Kris McVey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.