

**Matthews Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources
Advisory Committee
March 9, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Committee Members Present: Howie Labiner, Harvey Boyd, John Estes, Gretchen Reid, Bob Evans, Sandi Lee, Mary Ciminelli
Committee Members Absent: Tom Williams, Matt Jones
Staff Members Present: Lee Anne Moore, Karla Thornhill, Ashley Warwick
Staff Members Absent: Corey King, Colten Marble, Scott Rawls, Michelle Savago

Chairman Howie Labiner called the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

No public comment.

Cultural Report- Colten Marble

- Programs/Activities
 - Matthews Concert Band performance on Thursday, March 10th at 7:30pm
 - New gallery display: Matthews Artist Guild presents “Angle of View” photography competition. Reception on Thursday, March 10 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm
 - April Show: Clay/Pottery Exhibition by local artist Rick Crowley and some of his students.☒
 - Rick teaches the Arts Delivered clay/pottery classes for youth and adults at the MAC. The programming started with a summer camp last year and has continued to grow with classes and more camps this summer.
 - Matthews Ballet and Dance: Competition Team Silent Auction
 - Raising funds for their upcoming trip to Florida. The team has been invited to perform at Walt Disney World in April to participate in the “Dance the Magic” event. Auction includes sports memorabilia, gift baskets, etc.
 - Sunday, March 20th from 3pm – 5pm
- Public Art
 - The 2-part “Sea Monster” piece on the greenway experienced some vandalism in February. The graffiti has been removed and the artist will touch-up the piece in the coming weeks. Luckily, the integrity of the piece is still in-tact and the artist was actually planning on some touch-ups this spring anyway.
 - Work has begun on the “Hobbit House” piece near the entrance to the greenway connector trail. The artist, Heather Blumenthal, has done a couple pieces on the greenway.

- Roof Renovation
 - The front façade of the MCC has been removed as the renovation continues. Everything is moving along smoothly.
 - Corey to provide any additional update information.
- Comments/Questions:
 - None

Athletics Report- Karla Thornhill

- Activities/Programs
 - Senior Hula Class will be held on Monday's 1-2pm beginning April 18th.
 - Father Daughter Dance was a great success! We used a new photographer this year and he took a lot of action shots.
 - You can view the photos on line at: www.akp.gallery Select "View Photographs" from the home page, Click on the Town of Matthews FD Dance Enter your password: 7124
 - Knockerball soccer will start in May. Video and more details are forthcoming.
 - "Pro Wrestling" is coming to Crews!
 - Save the date- June 25th
 - All other programs are still doing well and increasing in popularity.
- Comments/Questions:
 - None

Parks Report- Scott Rawls

- Programs
 - Couch to 5k, 10-week fitness program finishes this Saturday, 3/12
 - Kids In Nature Day is 4/16. Everything is on track.
 - HAWK is facilitating an "Antler Hike" at the Highway 51 property on 3/19. 1-3pm.
 - Searching for deer antler sheds and other animal activity.
- Parks
 - Public restrooms at Stumptown were re-opened for the season on March 1st.
 - New volleyball poles for Stumptown were delivered last week. Coordinating install with Public Works.
 - Have to replace old ground sleeves because these poles are different diameter.
 - Completed installation of new playground equipment at Windsor: Zipline and 2 climbing structures.
 - New gravel was spread at Stumptown Park on Monday, 2/29.

- Comments/Questions:
 - Gretchen would like to request a replenishment of the Mutt Mitts in the parks & on the greenway.
 - Bob mentioned that Windsor usage has improved and the new equipment has been in great use.
 - Howie asked if there are any plans to upgrade any of the other parks.
 - There is nothing planned at the time.

Special Event Report- Lee Anne Moore

- Lee Anne is in the middle of the hiring process for new Special Event Team members. Several from Providence Key Club have volunteered before. Two others that have volunteered before, and have enthusiastic interest in Matthews and the special events.
- Food Truck Friday has officially begun! March 4th kickoff was a huge success. Lee Anne estimates 800-1000 people attended. Very excited to hear the positive comments from trucks and attendees. She's also excited to have Sarah Kasper assisting with the series. She's done a wonderful job thus far.
- Comments/Questions:
 - Sandi commented on how well the FTF event has been advertised on Facebook. Social media advertising in general has been great.

Director's Report- Corey King

- Corey would like for the Advisory Board to be hands-on with gathering information to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Bike trails to be installed at the Highway 51 Park location within this year.
- NC Trails Grant:
 - The connector will consist of 4,000 feet of trail. The cost to construct this would be roughly \$90,000.00. However, 75% of this would hopefully be funded by this grant.
- Old Business
 - Future Rice Road park
 - Limited number of parking spaces is concerning.
 - Mary stated that since it is a neighborhood park, most people would most likely be walking or biking to and from the park.
 - Contingency plan needed for overflow parking.
 - It would be ideal if the garden area would be moved out of the corner and exposed to the sun.
 - Would there be a possibility of making the play area smaller?
 - Outen Pottery
 - Looking at having the park surrounding the kiln & having the kiln repaired, but not for active use.
 - Howie suggested that pictures be taken of the property and brought in so everyone can get a better visualization of the area.

- Howie asked where we were in the process of the Outen property attainment.
 - Corey said that the Town is committed to purchase.
- Howie asked if there was a possibility for a dog park at the Highway 51 property since there is nothing going on out there right now.
- Corey said that the new community garden will be completed within the next few weeks. There is a lot of open space, yet there is limited access.
- Howie also brought up the idea of the barn being used for event/wedding space. It would be able to generate revenue since it will not be in use for a while.
- New Business
 - There is a section of CMS property for sale at Elizabeth Lane; however, there isn't any real motivation to purchase the property.
 - Howie suggests a possibility of joint use with CMS.
 - There is also CMS property for sale at Crown Point.
 - Mecklenburg County is purchasing and working with this. This will most likely join the greenway.
 - Mayor Jim Taylor asked the Board to investigate land opportunities around Matthews.
 - We are currently working with Butler High School to gain usage of their tennis courts after hours.
 - There is a citizen inquiry about joining the PRCR Advisory Board. Corey will interview and bring the application to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.