

**Matthews Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources  
Advisory Committee  
April, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

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

Chairman Howie Labiner called the meeting to order at 6:38pm. March minutes were unanimously approved.

**Public Comment**

- Dianne Baker, Elizabeth McCollom, Katherine Hall- Members of the Matthews Monroe Road Advocates
  - They are interested in preserving a piece of land that is located at the corner of Monroe Road and Galleria Boulevard, and turning it into a park. As of right now, this piece of land is proposed to become a location for an apartment complex.
  - This piece of land contains Roseland Cemetery, a final resting place for emancipated slaves that date back to the 1800s.
  - A few factors that make purchasing the property difficult would be the initial cost and the priority of the space among other properties and projects.

**Cultural Report- Colten Marble**

- Programs/Activities
  - New gallery display: The exhibit will feature clay works by Rick Crowley and paintings by Pam Wingard. The exhibit will be the first to feature clay/pottery to this extent at the McDowell Arts Center. Reception on Friday, March 10 from 6:30pm – 8:30pm
    - May Show: Matthews Artists Guild Member Competition
  - Matthews Ballet and Dance: Season drawing to a close with the recital in May. The recital is not a publicly advertised/ticketed event.
  - Summer Camps: Camp FUNshine registration is open, staff was awaiting approval from CMS for the Elizabeth Lane Location (Matthews Elementary, the normal home, will be under renovation for the summer). Two of the seven weeks sold out in less than 12 hours.

- Matthews Playhouse: Upcoming School of Theater productions
  - Pirates of Penzance (April 15 & 16)
  - The Tempest (April 16 and 17)
  - The Little Mermaid (April 22 and 23)
  - Alice in Wonderland (April 23 and 24)
  - Next Mainstage Production: Oklahoma (June 10 – 26)
- Public Art
  - The “Hobbit House” piece near the entrance to the greenway connector trail is complete.
  - We are approximately a month out from the install of the “Book Mural” behind the library (Preview available digitally). We are working with the same company that installed the other murals in Town. This image contains approximately 25-30 books in a row, creating the look of a bookshelf in the parking lot. We worked with the library to pull the “most read” books in Matthews by pulling their list of the books most often checked-out.
- Roof Renovation
  - The renovation continues. Everything is moving along smoothly. HVAC units will be operational on the top floor within a few weeks. Expected completion date is July 2016.

### **Athletics Report- Karla Thornhill**

- Activities/Programs
  - A luau was held to promote the upcoming hula classes. There were about 25 seniors in attendance and Plantation Estates brought a small bus of 10 participants. Senior Hula Class will be held on Mondays 1-2pm beginning April 18th.
  - The incident that occurred where the AED machine had to be utilized prompted an interest in learning CPR therefore we are holding a free CPR/First Aid class on April 23rd from 12-3pm.
  - There have been many inquiries about knocker ball soccer, so open knockerball sessions will be held on Wednesday nights from 7-9pm beginning April 20th for individuals to try them out.
  - We are developing a birthday party package for kids. Packages will include such things as: corn hole, dodgeballs, whiffle ball equipment, basketballs, knocker balls etc. Prices will vary according to the amount of equipment requested.
  - Anna Neubert (Recreation Programmer) will shift focus from Crews Recreation Center to working with Special Events. An additional Recreation Programmer will be hired soon.
  - All of the other programs are still doing well and increasing in popularity.

### **Parks Report- Scott Rawls**

- Kids In Nature Day will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- HAWK workday at Squirrel Lake Park will be held on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. This will include trash cleanup, landscaping, and invasive plant removal.
- The Earth Day event will be held in Stumptown Park on Saturday, April 23.
- Phillips Road Community Garden Ribbon Cutting on April 23.
  - Contact Scott Rawls about plot rentals – [srawls@matthewsnc.gov](mailto:srawls@matthewsnc.gov) – 704-708-1288

### **Special Event Report- Lee Anne Moore**

- Anna Neubert (Recreation Programmer mentioned above): FTF and the BeachFest Craft pavilion will be two of her main priorities.
- New Special Event Team chosen for the year. They will begin work this Spring at events.
- Food Truck Friday still going strong. Only one affected by bad weather so far. The series has been very successful and well attended; the trucks have been happy with the level of communication and the Town's handling of the event. Attendees seem very pleased as well
- Easter Eggstravaganza
  - Another huge crowd for this event, No problems or issues noted for next year.
- BeachFest happening in almost 4 weeks. Car Show applicants, new crafters (and 12 more) this year, and a great beach band lineup on the way.

### **Director's Report- Corey King**

- Old Business
  - The Town received a grant through CDBG for construction of the Heritage Trail (\$145,000- Cost of entire project).
    - This trail will extend from the Caboose at Town Hall to Crestdale Drive, ultimately connecting to the Sportsplex.
    - Where there is not existing sidewalk, a dirt way will be used.
    - This project will begin in October 2016.
  - The trail grant for the Butler Connector was not awarded. The proposed trail project did not rank highly among other projects, longer in distance. The department plans to re-apply for the grant next year.
  - The Country Place pocket park land is twice as large as originally thought.
    - A lot of work on this will be done in-house.
    - A task force will be meeting to look at the next steps for development.
      - Meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.
    - The plan at this point is for the kiln to serve more as an artifact, not serving any operational purpose.
  - Phase two of the Sportsplex on pace for completion in Fall 2016

- New Business
  - Corey will email the three maps of the underserved areas of Matthews to the committee members. The committee will review next meeting.
  - Mayor Jim Taylor mentioned doing another bond issue for parks during the joint meeting of advisory committees and the elected officials; this prospect is exciting for staff and the committee
  - The committee reviewed a new-member application from Corey Villas.
    - A motion was presented to remove Tom Williams from the advisory committee and add Corey V. as an advisory committee member. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.