

**Matthews Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources
Advisory Committee
October 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

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

Chairman Howie Labiner called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Attendance was taken and August minutes were unanimously approved.

Cultural Report- Colten Marble

- Programs/Activities
 - As the holiday season draws near, the Community Center is preparing to once again host Holiday events:
 - The Nutcracker, presented by Matthews Ballet and Dance
 - Saturday and Sunday, 11/28, 11/29, 12/5, 12/6
 - Sugar Plum Parties on 11/29 and 12/6
 - Breakfast with Santa on 12/12 and 12/19
 - Tickets for holiday events go on-sale Saturday, November 7th
 - Matthews Playhouse will present Scrooge The Musical, 12/4 - 12/20
 - Community Center Roof Renovation: Corey to update status.
 - Department is being awarded the Arts & Humanities Award from the NCRPA at the upcoming Annual Conference for our Public Arts initiative, specifically the Mural Project.

Athletics Report- Karla Thornhill

- Activities
 - Considering the inclement weather, there was a pretty good turnout for the First Friday event. The next movie will be "Back to the Future" shown on November 6.
 - "Rocky Horror Picture Show" was a great success! 70+ participants with over half dressed up and 75% that all played along
 - Date night drop off maxed out this month. Has become very popular!
 - Spoke to Matthews Elementary PTO on October 5- 95% of people there had heard of and been to Crews! The word about this program is getting out.

- Starting a youth wrestling program in November for ages 6-13. All skill levels are welcome and all will have the opportunity to compete in weekend tournaments.
- Pickleball numbers have doubled so offering that is now being offered on Tuesday nights 6-9pm as well as Saturday mornings.
- All other programs are doing well with increasing participant numbers.
- Getting ready to start our busy season with our programs, Grace Academy practices and games, and rentals picking up for the holiday season.

Parks Report- Scott Rawls

- Kids in Nature Day (KIND) has been rescheduled due to weather. Date changed to April 16, 2016.
- Haunted Trail starts this weekend (October 16, 17, 23, 24) New location - connector trail behind Community Center.
- Free Guided Bird Walk this Saturday, Oct. 17th at 9:00am at Squirrel Lake Park. Scott has partnered with Backyard Birds for this event.
 - Advertised through Facebook, and with flyers.
 - Sandi suggested advertising through Matthews-Mint Hill Weekly.
- NCRPA Annual Conference next week.
- Community Garden Fall Workday - Saturday, Oct. 24th.
- The Couch to 5k Program is set to return after the New Year begins.

Special Event Report- Lee Anne Moore

- Matthews Alive
 - Great weather = great crowds; most likely means great monetary give-backs to the area non-profits
 - Ticket sales were quite a bit higher this year
 - spent more on logistics
 - Another banner year anticipated
 - Processes worked well
 - New additions and entertainment seemed well-received
 - Board is very pleased so far
 - Matthews Alive Board will meet next week to determine the non-profit payouts
 - Presenting the total check at the Oct 26th Town Council meeting

- Other Events
 - Not-So-Spooky Halloween family event is ready and staged at our Bradford office
 - More candy, face painters, an obstacle course, and more carnival games this year
 - Oct 24, 11am-2pm
 - Pawsitively Matthews--In final stages of preparation
 - New this year: Human Hamster Races, Pet-Owner Look-Alike contest, and a coffee bar added to the beer/wine tent
 - Hoping for warmer weather this year
 - Looking forward to all the wagging tails!
 - Food Truck Friday ends Oct 30 for the season.
 - Would love to get Advisory Board's feedback on this event?
 - Sandi pointed out that she loves this event. Can't wait for its return next year.
 - Howie suggested partnering with Playhouse next year. Maybe some picnic areas at the MAC?
 - Anything negative?
 - Traffic congestion
 - Christmas tree has been ordered and will arrive Monday Nov 23rd
 - Tree Lighting to be Dec 5th at the Town Green.

Director's Report- Corey King

- Community Center Roof Repair
 - There were no bid submissions at the last bid opening
 - It has been advertised once more and next bid opening will be on October 23.
 - Hopeful that contractors will submit bids this time
- Town Council gave the Town approval to become "landowners" of the Levine Senior Center.
 - No programming will change at the Senior Center.
- Matthews was recognized as an "age friendly" community by AARP.
 - We are the first town in North Carolina to be recognized through AARP.
- Town Council also approved the location for the community garden location at the future Highway 51 Park.
- Corey presented the committee with a map of possible surplus properties that CMS plans to sell. The property is near Elizabeth Lane Elementary. Potential use could be greenway connection
- Corey stated that the November meeting will serve as the public meeting for the Rice Road property.
- Tourism Grants
 - Interviews for the 2015-2016 Tourism Grant was held on October 7 & 8.
 - After much discussion, the committee unanimously voted to disperse the Tourism funds as follows:

Applicant	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
Matthews Historical Association	\$1,050.00	\$500.00
Matthews Women's Club	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.00
Charlotte City Ballet	\$3,690.00	\$1,000.00
Matthews Farmers Market	\$11,200.00	\$1,500.00
Charlotte United Futbol Club	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00
Matthews Athletic Recreation Assc.	\$58,000.00	\$10,000.00
NC Youth Rugby Union	\$9,750.00	\$3,500.00
Matthews Chamber of Commerce	\$14,000.00	\$10,500.00
Matthews Playhouse	\$40,000.00	\$30,000.00

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.