

Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resource Advisory Committee

Department Division Updates: MAY 2019

CULTURAL RECREATION UPDATE

Programs/Activities

- May gallery display: Students from Crown Point Elementary and MAG members display their work during the month, with their show titled “Young at Art.” Join us on Thursday, May 16, 5pm-7pm to show your support for these students and professional artists. The reception is free and open to the public!
- Art display at Town Hall; these installments will rotate every 60-90 days.
 - Current show: Local artist Melissa Herriott’s collection of alcohol ink prints scheduled to be installed Friday, May 3.
- Public art update:
 - Ballroom building mural: Artist is currently updating the draft that had been submitted and is applying changes discussed at the last meeting.
 - Wall Poems: Waiting on a design update from the artist; will submit as soon as we get it.
 - Veteran sculpture is set to be installed by May. Waiting on an update from the artist; scheduled to be revealed during Memorial Day Celebration at Stumptown Park on Monday, May 27 at 11am.
 - In contact with the Property Manager of the Zab’s Place building, and she is in touch with the owners about the possibility of adding public art somewhere on that building. She will send an update when she speaks to the owners and presents some possibilities to them.
- Maintenance Update:
 - Gutters were cleaned and repaired back in March, and further issues of drainage at the base of the gutters was addressed in April.
 - The elevator at the MAC is being repaired due to the mother boards going out during a lightning storm
 - Several areas of sidewalk are on the radar of Public Works and will be repaired in the upcoming months.
- Staffing
 - Recently interviewed for Recreation Leader (summer camp counselor for Camp Funshine) and Cultural Attendant positions and sent recommendations to HR; hoping new part time staff will be starting by the first of June. Camp staff will only work Camp Funshine in the summer.
- Matthews Playhouse:
 - Upcoming Mainstage Production: *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Food Truck Fridays: First two events were affected by storms or lots of wind, but participants still came out when the sun came out and as soon as the winds died down. All has been good with the events so far, and the addition of wine seems to be a hit. Taking a break for BeachFest for one week, then the series is back May 24th with Terrence Young and some nice jazz.
- Staff will be setting up BeachFest at the time of this meeting; all exhibitors are sold out (and more wanted to come), craft spaces are full, food vendors are full and Health Department meeting has been successfully held. Entertainment and production folks are ready, and town departments have met one last time and are prepared. Hope to see you there!
- The Great Easter Expedition: Staff feels this new trial event was fairly well-received; the compliments at least outweighed the complaints. SO much to change for next year:
 - Do away with small egg hunts altogether. There was leftover litter and lots of “one person taking many eggs” so others did not get a chance to hunt.
 - Do more golden eggs and hide them all over town, not just in parks, all at once, for the masses.
 - While the masses hunt for golden eggs, consider an Easter egg hunt day in the park for persons with disabilities only. Would like to consider serving three different populations, from say, 11am-2pm on a Saturday before April, and make Matthews ‘THE destination’ such an activity—reaching out to various organizations in the metro area.
- Once BeachFest is over, staff focus will return to Matthews Alive; it is in a good place at the moment, and on schedule per checklists.
- Event staff will also be coordinating Symphony Night (June 7) and July 4th events, during the month of May. We are scheduled to have the opening act at 7pm and Symphony at 8:10pm that evening in June. July 4th will again have the People’s Parade from Town Hall, and a concert by “Tow Much Sylvia” at Stumptown Park.



CREWS RECREATION CENTER

- Programs/Activities
 - Date Night Drop-Off
 - Registration for Date Night Drop-Off scheduled for May 10th is currently ongoing. The April 12th Date Night Drop-Off reach capacity (30 youth participants).
 - Programming
 - Open Gym – On three (3) Fridays during the month of May open gym hours have been extended until 7:30pm.
 - Employee Engagement Event – The event was cancelled by the Town Manager due to injury and worker compensation concerns. Staff plans to consider alternate recreational employee engagement options for the Fall.
 - Senior Games – Crews Recreation Center will be hosting the Mecklenburg County Pickleball Senior Games tournament on May 18th and 19th.
 - Crews Recreation Center will be offering a one-day Babysitter Certification Course on Saturday, May 18th. There are currently 12 youth signed up to participate. Staff is considering offering this type of program on a quarterly basis.
 - Crews Recreation Center will no longer offer a Tuesday night Zumba class. Staff is considering adding a “Bootcamp” fitness class in the future.
 - A 4-week Pickleball Clinic will be offered August 7th-28th for those interested in learning the basics of Pickleball (i.e. techniques, strategy, court positioning and etc.). Registration will begin June 1st.
 - Summer Programming
 - Registration is currently ongoing for summer camps. Continuous marketing and advertising efforts are being made to increase summer camp registration.
 - Staffing
 - It is expected that staff will need to fill two (2) Recreation Leaders positions prior to the summer and the Recreation Programmer position mid-summer. A job listing for the Recreation Leader positions will be posted once the postings for the Matthews Community Center have been closed.

PARKS/OUTDOOR RECREATION

- Yoga in the Park – Stumptown Park: Fridays, 9:30am, May 3, 17, 31
- Storytime in the Park – Squirrel Lake Park Shelter A: 11am Thursdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 - Bring your whole family out to Squirrel Lake Park to enjoy stories, songs, and movement activities. You will be supporting early literacy skill development and helping to foster a love of books and reading in your child. Stories are geared towards children up to five years old. In partnership with the Matthews Branch Library.

- Purser-Hulsey Park
 - The “Wash House” improvements have been completed.
 - Supplies were delivered to the trail so a boardwalk can be built through a swampy section. Volunteers with Tarheel Trailblazers will complete the work.
- Windsor Park
 - Zipline cable is broken. Equipment distributor has been contacted for a repair solution.
- Baucom Park
 - New playground equipment is scheduled for installation this month. Public Works is working to expand play area and pour new curb.