

**Matthews Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resource Advisory Committee
Wednesday, January 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes
6:30pm, Matthews Community Center**

Committee Members Present: Howard Labiner, Ryan Maclatchie, Sandi Lee,
Debbie Chopas, John Gatlin, Scott Rossmeisl, Ryan Maclatchie

Absent: Susan Chambers, Harvey Boyd

Staff Members Present: Corey King, Melissa Johnson, Michelle Santucci

- **Call to Order**
 - Meeting called to order at 6:30pm
- **Roll Call**
- **Public Comment**
 - No Public Comment
- **Division Reports**
 - **Menorah Lighting-**Menorah lighting had a great turn out. There were many residents of Matthews that commented to Melissa that they enjoyed the event and were happy to have the celebration here in Matthews. Staff has not been approached by any groups to create additional holiday celebrations. Staff is also not aware of any groups that have contacted the Cultural Diversity Advisory Committee about other holiday celebrations. Staff welcomes the opportunity to speak with anyone that desires to work with the department to add holiday celebrations.
 - **Cool Vibes Concert Series-** Cool Vibes Concert Series is the new winter 21+ concert series (2 concerts this year) Tickets are available on Eventbrite and at the door.
 - **Cross Walk Grant-**The department has received a grant to have mural art installed on the crosswalk between McDowell Arts center and Matthews Community Center. Goal is to help improve visibility of the crosswalk and make crossing the street safer for people.
- **Directors Report**
 - **January 15th meeting with Windrow neighborhood scheduled-**To discuss and get opinions on the neighborhood connectors outlined in the Stevens Creek Nature Preserve Small Area Plan draft document. Citizens have expressed support as well as concern about the route.
 - **LWCF-Land Water Conservation Fund:** Federal grant program administered by the state of NC. Only funded previous projects are eligible in 2020 - 2021. Matthews could apply for funding to improve Windsor Park since that was a previous project. Funds could be used for improvements in the existing area or purchase of adjacent land. The town must match funds for the grant up to \$500,000. It would be very competitive grant program.

- **Community Garden**-Expansion of the community garden at Purser-Hulsey Park. Staff is beginning to till up the soil, add nutrients, and add fencing to expand the garden. (Adding a Community Garden in Town property near Irvins Creek Greenway / Crown Point Elementary school) Staff will wait until the greenway is constructed on that property and see what space remains available for a garden and discuss at that point.
 - **Irvins Creek Greenway** -in 2017 the town committed \$500,000 toward construction of Irvins Creek Greenway. An agreement committing those dollars will be presented to the Matthews Town Board on Monday.
 - **Where do we need Parks?**-Where is there a void in what is existing parkland and what land is available. Where are the big areas where we do not have anything? The west side of Matthews by Elizabeth Lane Elementary, but there is not any land available to put a park. It could be a possible place for greenway and trails. Staff is evaluating possible land/playground shares with Elizabeth Lane Elementary and Crown Point. School playgrounds would function as parks when schools are not in session.
 - **Murals**-New idea for Murals. Using old pictures from Matthews either a combination of pictures or an artists interpretation of the pictures to make a mural. Melissa and Corey will bring the pictures or copies of pictures to the advisory meeting to narrow it down to maybe the top 10 choices and the present them to the board to pick the top three to put in a mural form. There is no update on the wall poem at this time.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm