

**RESOLUTION RESTRUCTURING THE  
MECKLENBURG COUNTY PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**ARTICLE I: RECREATION, GENERAL**

- Sec. 1. Preamble
- Sec. 2. Definition of Recreation Activities
- Sec. 3. Definition of Recreation Areas; Structures; Unit; Governing Body; Manager
- Sec. 4. Powers, General

**ARTICLE II: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

- Sec. 5. Creation; Name; Number of Members
- Sec. 6. Commission; Power and Duties
- Sec. 7. Appointment and Reappointment of the Commission
- Sec. 8. Composition
- Sec. 9. Length of Appointment
- Sec. 10. Meetings
- Sec. 11. Attendance of Members
- Sec. 12. Compensation
- Sec. 13. Officers
- Sec. 14. Officers: Duties
- Sec. 15. Committees
- Sec. 16. By-Laws

**ARTICLE III: PLANNING**

- Sec. 17. Planning

**ARTICLE IV: ADVISORY COUNCILS**

- Sec. 18. Community Recreation Advisory Councils

**ARTICLE I: RECREATION, GENERAL**

**SECTION I: PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, the North Carolina General Assembly has indicated: that the lack of an adequate recreation program and facilities is a menace to the morals, happiness and welfare of the people of this State in time of peace as well as in times of war; that making available recreation opportunities for citizens of all ages is a subject of general interest and concern, and that recreation is a function requiring appropriate action by the governing bodies of the several political subdivisions of the State;

WHEREAS, professional membership organizations of local government officials and other authorities in government have indicated that public recreation is recognized as a function and a reasonable concern of government, and that the creation and maintenance of recreation areas and facilities and the operation of the recreation program is a communal duty; and

WHEREAS, if life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are the ends for which governments are created and if the opportunity to use leisure time to prolong life and to plan in order to better understand the rights of others and to do both so that children and adults may enjoy greater happiness, then planned recreation lies well within the province of government; and

WHEREAS, in fact, in law, and in the public opinion the need for planned recreation causes it to be recognized as a suitable and essential function of city and county government because:

1. It affords a large percentage of people their only opportunity for a choice as to wholesome recreation and is of great personal and social importance to all
2. It is only through government that adequate recreation lands can be acquired and recreation structures developed.
3. Planned (organized) recreation is inclusive, and within it are some of the brightest hopes for a continuation, and refinement, of our democratic way of life.
4. In planned recreation, per units of participation and in breadth and depth of choice, the cost is relatively low.
5. The local government unit gives permanency and continuity to recreation.
6. The local government unit cannot afford not to provide recreation, for money spent for recreation is, in reality, invested in citizens' health and happiness, as well as in increased and longer retained real estate values, is a resource to which industry is increasingly drawn, and which gives important help in securing and in holding business, tourists and other industry in the County.
7. The non-revenue producing, as well as the self-supporting recreation activities, are an actual economy for they bring about a directly traceable reduction in cost of policing, crime prevention, operation of emergency and mental health wards (in hospitals) and contribute to other economic facets of the unit's health and welfare administration.

NOW, THEREFORE, MECKLENBURG COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS authorizes the Park and Recreation Commission to serve as an advisory body to the Board of Commissioners on recreation activities and programs of county government.

## SECTION 2: DEFINITION OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES

For the purpose of this resolution, recreation is defined to mean those activities which fall within the general classification of: the arts; drama; crafts; athletics; sports and games; dance; hobbies; music; nature and outings; reading; writing; linguistics; social recreation; special community events and special activities; recreation; travel and volunteer services.

## SECTION 3: DEFINITION OF RECREATION AREAS AND STRUCTURE; BOARD

For the purpose of the Resolution, recreation areas and structures are defined to mean the outdoor and indoor areas and structures on or in which people derive to mean the outdoor and

indoor areas and structures on or in which people derive their opportunity for the pursuit of happiness through recreation, which are owned, leased, borrowed, controlled, or operated by Mecklenburg County.

Board, for the purpose of this Resolution, means the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners.

**SECTION 4: POWERS**

(a) Powers, General: It is the basic function of the Park and Recreation Commission to promote recreation for residents of Mecklenburg County and serve as an advisory body to the Board on recreation facilities, programs and activities.

**ARTICLE II: PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**SECTION 5: CREATION; NAME; NUMBER OF MEMBERS**

There is hereby created an advisory board composed of thirteen (13) residents of the County to be known as the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Commission.

**SECTION 6: COMMISSION: POWERS AND DUTIES**

The Park and Recreation Commission will serve as the recreation advisory body for the Board. The Park and Recreation Commission will propose recreation regulations, which in its judgment are necessary to support and protect the assigned responsibilities as defined in this resolution. The Commission will serve as a liaison between the Board and the residents of the County. The Commission will consult with and advise said Board in all matters affecting recreation programs, and in the acquisition and disposal of lands and properties related to all aspects of the County recreation program, and to its long-range, projected programs for recreation.

**SECTION 7: APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Members to the Commission will be appointed by the Board in JUNE of each year. Terms will begin in JULY and expire JUNE of the year of the appointed expired/unexpired term. Nominations are received and considered by the Board at the Board meeting in JUNE.

Nominations must be submitted to the Clerk to the Board by the first day of May or as otherwise established by the Board. Upon receipt from the clerk the Park and Recreation Department will then prepare a map identifying the address of each Park and Recreation Commission member as well as the address of each of the nominees.

Each Commission member will be appointed by the Board to serve one (1) three (3) year term and will be eligible, with reappointment, to serve only one (1) additional, consecutive three (3) year term.

## **SECTION 8: COMPOSITION**

Commission member representation will be as follows:

- a. Three (3) members representing each of the three park regions (Central, North and South), provided that such members shall reside in different geographical areas of the respective park regions as plotted on a map by GIS and identified as North 1, 2 and 3; South 1, 2 and 3 and Central 1, 2 and 3 for a total of nine (9) members of the Commission;
- b. Two (2) members representing the County at large;
- c. One (1) member representing the Northern towns of Cornelius, Davidson and Huntersville; and
- d. One (1) member representing the Southern towns of Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville.

## **SECTION 9: LENGTH OF APPOINTMENT, MID-TERM APPOINTMENTS**

Each member will be appointed for a three (3) year term. Initial appointments will be arranged so that three (3) of the terms will expire each year. Vacancies occurring on the Commission by death, resignation, or otherwise, will be filled by the Board for the unexpired terms. These appointments will be eligible for two (2) consecutive three (3) year reappointment or consecutive six (6) years after serving initial unexpired terms.

## **SECTION 10: MEETINGS**

Commission meetings will be held on a monthly basis unless when determined otherwise by the Commission. The Chairman of the Commission, or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chairman, may call a Special Meeting of the Commission, by giving each member a 48-hour notice. Special Meetings will be scheduled upon the request of seven (7) or more Commission members. A quorum of the Commission will be in attendance before action of an official nature can be taken. A quorum is seven (7) of the thirteen (13) appointed members (or at least one (1) more than the number absent).

## **SECTION 11: ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS**

Members not meeting attendance policies established by the Board will be removed from office as specified in the policies.

## **SECTION 12: COMPENSATION**

Commission members will serve without monetary compensation. Members will be reimbursed for travel and subsistence to professional recreation meetings, conferences, workshops and for other expenses occurring while representing the County as a Park and Recreation Commissioner, with such reimbursement being made in compliance with the general policies of the County.

## **SECTION 13: OFFICERS**

There will be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Executive Secretary of the Commission. An annual election of these officers will be held by the Commission members and will occur at the regular

monthly meeting in JUNE. Officers will serve for one (1) year from election with eligibility for re-election. New officers will take office at the subsequent regular meeting in JULY. In the event an officer's appointment to the Commission is terminated, a replacement to the office will be elected by the Commissioners, from its membership, at the meeting following the termination.

#### **SECTION 14: OFFICERS: DUTIES**

The Commission Chairman will preside at all meetings and sign all documents relative to action taken by the Commission. The Chairman will appoint all committees including a Nominating Committee composed of at least two (2) Commission members. A Nominating Committee will be appointed at least thirty (30) days prior to the JUNE meeting and will prepare a single slate of nominees for the offices of the Commission.

When the Chairman is absent, the Vice-Chairman will perform the duties of the Chairman. When both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are absent, a temporary Chairman will be selected by those members who are present.

The Executive Secretary will coordinator staff mailing to all members copies of official reports and official minute of all regular and special meetings prior to the next scheduled meeting.

#### **SECTION 15: COMMITTEES**

The Executive Committee will consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Executive Secretary.

The Commission Chairman is authorized to appoint such committees as, in the opinion of the Commission, are needed.

#### **SECTION 16: BY-LAWS**

Additional operational policies and procedures may be incorporated into a set of By-Laws as develop and approved by the Commission in line with this resolution and the policies of the County.

### **ARTICLE III: PLANNING**

#### **SECTION 17: PLANNING**

The Park and Recreation Commission will take the necessary steps to coordinate with the County and the Department to create and keep up-to-date scientifically developed long-range Capital Needs Assessment (CNA) plan for the proper and adequate acquisition of recreation areas and the development of recreation facilities, structures and programs for the present and future needs of the residents of the County. In such a process, the recreation wishes and needs of all residents will be taken into account. Existing publically owned areas and facilities will be studies from the standpoint of their best potential uses for recreation purposes and every effort will be made to realize their full value as recreation resources, but the economic values and functional efficiency of the recreation developed, owned and operated areas and facilities will not be lost sight of.

The master, long-range, local recreation plan will be so developed that it will include much more than a survey of existing areas and facilities and of future needs in these categories. It will also, recognize the values of a broad, basic recreation program, of competent leadership, or a constant process of analysis of needs and opportunities for recreation services, and of a continuous refinement and revision of details of the long-range plan up-to-date where such is found to be in the interest of the Commission and the residents of the County.

The Park and Recreation Commission will be responsible for giving active assistance in the development of a priority schedule of recreation land and water area acquisition, structure and program development, and for a proper and effective meshing of the recreation plan and action with that of other aspects of community development and the County's governmental growth and expansion.

**ARTICLE IV: ADVISORY COUNCILS**

**SECTION 18: COMMUNITY RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCIL(S)**

The Commission shall have three advisory councils, one for each of the park regions, and may form one or more additional advisory councils. The members of the advisory councils shall be appointed by the Commission and shall serve for three-year terms (provided, however, that no advisory council member may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms). Such councils will be set up in a manner that it will include representation from civic, social, service, religious, education and other groups; will include representation for all recognized recreation activity groupings and for all relevant geographical areas of the County. The councils will meet at times which, in the opinion of the Park and Recreation Commission, are desirable and which will be most helpful. The Councils will act in an advisory and liaison capacity with the Commission and the Department, and the residents of the County.

The advisory councils will report on items of concern for such council, will accept study and action projects given to it by the Park and Recreation Commission and will also develop their own suggestions, which may be passed on to the Park and Recreation Commission for its consideration, analysis, interpretation, and, when found feasible by the Commission, for its action.

A member of the Park and Recreation Commission will chair each of the advisory councils, with the members of the Commission representing one of the three park regions acting as co-chairs of the respective park region advisory councils. If a member of the Commission is unavailable to attend and chair a meeting of an advisory council and has not designated a member of the advisory council to chair such meeting, then the staff liaison from the Park and Recreation Department shall chair the meeting.

Revised: 04/14/80  
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