

City of Charlottesville
Department of Parks and Recreation
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"A World Class City"

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA February 17, 2016

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- ADMIN-1 Advisory Board Member Introductions
- ADMIN-2 Adoption of Minutes – January 20, 2016 Advisory Board Meeting

PRESENTATION

- P-1 Presentation – Murray Van Yahres Memorial Grove

INFORMATION ITEMS

- I-1 Housing Sites Recreational Programming Update
- I-2 Meadow Creek Valley Master Plan Implementation
- I-3 Tonsler Park Master Plan Implementation Update
- I-4 Update on Piedmont Family YMCA
- I-5 Parks and Recreation Maintenance Project Report
- I-6 Ragged Mountain Planning Process Update & Schedule

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

BOARD MATTERS

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

ADJOURNMENT

City of Charlottesville
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Agenda Item
February 17, 2016

ADMINISTRATIVE – 1

Advisory Board Member Introductions

ADMINISTRATIVE – 2

Adoption of Minutes – January 10, 2016 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

ACTION REQUIRED:

Advisory Board adoption of the minutes of the January 20, 2016_meeting.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Minutes of January 20, 2016 meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

December 16, 2015

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. held @ Carver Recreation Center. Members present were: Ruth Barnett, Llezelle Dugger, David Hirschman, Jody Lahendro, Ned Michie, Maurice Walker and Mary Wilson. Members absent: Byron Brown, Anne Hemenway and Scott Morgan

Staff: Brian Daly, Doug Ehman, Vic Garber, Phillip Seay

Minutes – 9/16/15

- Jody Lahendro made a motion to approve September 16th minutes, Llezelle Dugger second, motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes – 10/21/15

- Ned Michie made a motion to approve October 21st minutes, Ruth Barnett second, motion was unanimously approved.

Meadowcreek Valley Master Plan Implementation

- Brian Daly reported that the project was coming along; working on locations for a couple of bridge crossings, Ned Michie has been helping with project.
- Considering reprioritizing some of the work, bridge has been taking some time
- More wetland areas than originally thought
- Plan to meet again, next part of the project will be focused on Hydraulic Road

Tonsler Park Master Plan Implementation Update

- Brian Daly reported that there was a slow stage in implementation
- Trail is complete
- In process of engineering to stairs @ 5th Street
- Preliminary designs for spray grounds – conversation starters, passed around. Will be asking public what kind of features/experiences do they want
- Funds are allocated
- Community meeting in January

Matters of the Public

- Reuben Montoya & Gabriel Rivard gave an overview to the board about Pickle ball Club and how the sport is growing in the community, participants include city area residents and residents of surrounding counties, started with seniors, has now grown to younger participants
- Tough to find places to play indoor – presently play @ Key Center with three courts which is getting overcrowded
- Reported that they have approached the County about using Towe Park.
- County asked if they are organized – recommended getting organized, took this recommendation to heart – got people together, developed an Advisory Committee. October – had elections, represented by all ages. Committee has just begun to get ball rolling how to promote sport in this area
- Approval of one tennis court – can put 4 pickle ball courts on one tennis court; people are excited, when happening – spring

- No lights @ Towe Park, will try to get Board of Supervisors for support of lights
- Want to talk to YMCA about offering pickle ball
- 80 tennis courts in community, none for pickle ball
- Pickle ball community willing to contribute, fundraise
- Indoor – only @Key Center at this point
- Met with Riaan Anthony to talk about options @ Carver Center
- Surveyed pickle ball participants – participants want skill development, league
- Senior Center – on board
- Very diverse group
- City has run tournaments
- Economic impact for pickle ball – participants spend money on hotels, food, entertainment
- Thanked board for city support

Update of Piedmont Family YMCA

- Brian Daly reported on the groundbreaking ceremony for the YMCA in November, well attended.
- Have asked contractors to do two things – connectivity of trail to align & do first; primary entrance road into park is now inside construction zone, need cut in parking lot to continue access to back of park
- Preliminary utility work going on
- Harvested structural steel – will use for rail bridges
- Construction on schedule

Integrated Pest Management Program

- In package copy of Integrated Pest Management plan that City Council has adopted, not extreme in nature; framework on how to make decisions
- Integrated Pest Management Committee will be developed consisting of Parks & Recreation staff, Environmental staff, Tree commission & Advisory Board members
- Starting preliminary work in January
- David Hirschman will be on committee representing the Advisory Board

McIntire Park Master Plan Implementation

- Vic Garber reported that the Skatepark design was wrapping up; few issues with NDS, few ADA concerns, mostly lack of understanding,
- NDS wants to see sewer interceptor line, see how land will be impacted
- Contract documents 99.9% done, looking @ fundraising; CIP – \$1.7 million, need another \$500,000 for project; \$2.6 million – includes sewer
- Jody Lahendro asked who is organizing fundraising, Vic Garber replied that it would fall under him; working with Stantec for opportunities
- Brian Daly stated that they were in the process of getting an aerial easement for the pedestrian bridge over the railroad

- Design review for parking lot – west side of the park
- Grant to assist with trail in the park, healthy grant several \$100,000
- About the receive design documents
- Money in CIP for implementation - \$1 million
- Botanical Garden – sign unveiling @ Melbourne Road stating Future Home of Botanical Garden
- Plantings for spring - Melbourne Road

Learn to Swim Program Partnership

- Philip Seay, Aquatics Manager, reported the following:
 - New initiatives with schools including Buford Learn to swim program – last year good participation, this year not so much, this spring will shift to Walker School
 - Learn to swim program for 5th graders
 - City Schools in partnership with Gordon Hair Learn to Swim program – will pay for instructors and a portion of the program. Will run 2 sessions 4 times a week. Goal to get kids to level 3, able to handle themselves in the water
 - Revamping swim program that Bill Byers ran for years. Lessons will be @ Crow Pool. Will be part of the PE program
 - Boys & Girls Club - pilot program with their southwood branch
 - After school program - lessons @ Smith Aquatic Center
 - Will rewrite grant to see if can get additional funds
 - Doors are open during the summer if they want to continue swimming – passes, scholarships
 - Llezelle Dugger stated that she would like to see elementary school kids involved in program

Board Matters

- Mary Wilson stated that she would like to see list of projects that Doug Ehman mentioned in minutes
- Ned Michie reported that CHS basketball courts outside have not been painted
- David Hirschman stated that the trail north side of Meadowcreek with multi use trails that is tied with Lockland Hills, thinks is falling through. Brian Daly replied that he would check with Chris Gensic

Directors Matters

- Brian Daly reported that in November @ the annual NRPA conference, Parks & Recreation was a recipient of two awards – Best promotional effort – app, which was developed in house – staff w/IT; second was a Public Sector service award with BAMA Works who was a great financial supporter of events – Sunday Sundown, Halloween, Tonsler event. Awards were presented at last City Council meeting, also was presented to BAMA Works
- 2nd reading of FY 15 appropriation - \$375,000 year end surplus – replace softball field lights @ McIntire Park; may be able to do LED solution, hope to have work done in spring
- Submitted FY 17 budget – had budget defense meeting last week; presented budget; met with committee for 2 ½ hours;
- Brian Daly wished Happy Holidays to Advisory Board members

Motion

- Llezelle Dugger made a motion to adjourn, second by Jody Lahendro. Motion unanimously approved.
- Meeting adjourned @ 6:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daly
Secretary to the Advisory Board

City of Charlottesville
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PRESENTATION

Community members supporting the naming of a grove of trees within McIntire Park as the Murray Van Yahres Memorial Grove will be in attendance at the Advisory Board meeting. Information regarding this proposal follows and a presentation will be made.

INFORMATION - 1

Housing Sites Recreational Programming Update

Parks and Recreation provides after-school recreational and enrichment programming at four housing locations across the City: Westhaven, South First Street, Friendship Court and Greenstone on 5th. An after-school meals program is also provided and staff from the Recreation Division will outline the Department's programs and outreach efforts.

INFORMATION - 2

Meadow Creek Valley Master Plan Implementation

Staff will provide an update of the ongoing efforts to implement the Master Plan for the Meadow Creek Valley.

INFORMATION - 3

Tonsler Park Master Plan Implementation

Staff will provide an update of the ongoing efforts to implement the Master Plan for Tonsler Park. The first public meeting for planning of the new spray ground features is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 6pm at Tonsler Center.

INFORMATION - 4

Update on Piedmont Family YMCA Construction

Staff will provide an update of the construction progress of the new YMCA facility in McIntire Park.

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INFORMATION - 5

Parks and Recreation Maintenance Project Report

Staff have developed a reporting structure for ongoing maintenance and renovation projects at Parks and Recreation facilities. The actual report will be provided and outlined at the Board meeting. Staff intends to include this item as a standing Agenda Item in all future meetings.

INFORMATION - 6

Ragged Mountain Planning Process Update & Schedule

Staff will provide an update of the planning process for Ragged Mountain. The first public planning meeting is scheduled for 6pm Monday, February 29, 2016 at Trinity Church off Fontaine Avenue.



Murray - Van Yahres Memorial Grove

Overall Goal: To preserve the historic Oaks at the top of the hill in McIntire Park east and to provide a gathering spot, a stone patio, under the Oaks - all privately funded.

Objectives:

- To design a stone patio that fits naturally into the landscape with a low, stone sitting wall and benches for people to gather, picnic and watch their family and friends play on the lawn under the trees.
- To honor three Paul Goodloe McIntire Award winners, long-time conservationists and dedicated community servants - Mitch Van Yahres, Jim and Bunny Murray.
- To preserve the 100-year-old plus Oaks through the efforts of Van Yahres Tree Company and an endowment to perpetuate their care.
- To collaborate with the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce to incorporate recognition of all the past and future award winners through tree planting and signage.
- To establish a fund at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation to accept donations for the Memorial, with a goal of at least \$300,000.
- To hire a local landscape architectural firm, Water Street Studio, to design the Memorial. (Warren Byrd, recently retired from the nationally recognized firm of Nelson Byrd Woltz, along with his wife Sue Nelson, will contribute as design critics.)
- To complete the Memorial so that it is open by spring or summer 2017.





Mitchell Van Yahres

It was said that Mitch tended trees for a living and people for a lifetime. Because of these commitments and his long service to the community, he was the first recipient of the Paul Goodloe McIntire award in 1975.

Mitch's abiding interest in the welfare of his community led him, successfully, to seek election in 1968 as a member of Charlottesville City Council and he so remained until 1976. From 1970 to 1972, he was Mayor of Charlottesville, when he led the initiative to close East Main Street to automobile traffic and convert the city's business district into the Downtown Mall.

Subsequently, after receiving the Democratic Party nomination for election to the House of Delegates, he prevailed in 1981 and steadily rose in seniority, at one point serving as chairman of the Agriculture Committee. He also served on the Chesapeake Bay and Natural Resources and Education committees. He retired from active political involvement in 2005.

In short, Mitch completed a notable political career, if only measured merely by electoral success. More distinguishing, his public life was informed by an impulse to stand up for the underdog and draw attention to social and economic injustice.

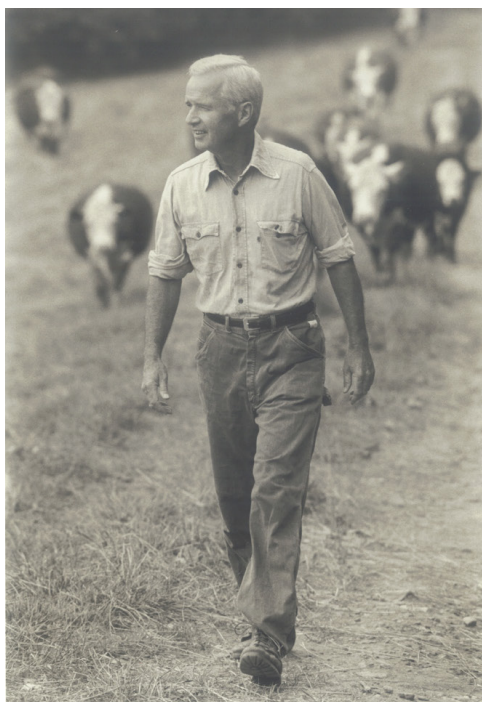
Although aspects of Mitch's political career sometimes veered toward the legislatively undoable, his disposition, diligence and native intelligence convinced others of his sincerity, a characteristic in public office-holders not always encountered by citizenry. A proud Democrat, he counted Republican moderates among his close friends, too. You might disagree with Mitch, but it was next-near-to-impossible to dislike him.

Seldom in public life does an individual so completely meld with a community. Mitch loved Charlottesville and the residents of the city, in the main, requited. There were some tricky moments. His commitment to open housing, a stance taken early in his political career, conflicted with less than open-minded thinking on racial arrangements.

Mitch also loved things that grew, literally. A certified arborist, he established a tree care business when he moved to Charlottesville in 1949. It didn't take much to inspire Mitch to commentary on the proper techniques of tree preservation. His public career involved numerous unheralded but seriously animated encounters with state and public utility officials over what trees should be cut, when and how. Dispossessed greenery had a champion in Mitch, too.

Mitch was born on October 21, 1926 in Long Island, NY. After service in the U.S. Army Air Force, he enrolled at Cornell University. Mitch and his wife, Betty, married in 1948 and raised five children, all of whom attended the Charlottesville public schools. Mitch died February 8, 2008.

** Taken from G. C. Morse's obituary*



James Brady Murray

An ardent hunter, fisherman, hiker, organic gardener, astronomer, and ornithologist, he educated his family and community about the natural world. Because of this achievement and the many charitable organizations upon which he served, he and his wife, Bunny, received the Paul Goodloe McIntire award in 1991.

Jim was born in Allenhurst, New Jersey, on the Fourth of July, 1920. He was one of the 11 children of Thomas and Marie Brady Murray, and grandson of the famed electrical inventor, Thomas E. Murray. After graduating from college, he became a lieutenant in the Navy in WWII, where he met and married Jean “Bunny” Brundred, a WAVES lieutenant, j.g. After the war, the couple moved to Long Island where Jim became President of Murray Manufacturing, the electric equipment manufacturing business founded by his grandfather.

Disenchanted with suburban life, in 1953 Jim and Bunny departed for Virginia to form Panorama Farms. Here, Jim began his lifelong career as a farmer and conservationist, using organic methods long before they were in fashion. He taught at the UVA McIntire School of Commerce and built then managed a Murray Manufacturing branch in Earlysville. By 1961, their family had grown to eight sons.

From 1974 to 1982, Jim represented the Albemarle County area in the Virginia House of Delegates. There, he was most proud to have sponsored legislation designating the Rivanna as the first Wild and Scenic River in Virginia; establishing Piedmont Virginia Community College, where he later served as the first Board Chair.

Locally, his career in public service continued as chairman of the Albemarle County Electoral Board for 15 years, on the board of the Monticello Area Community Action Agency for 25 years, as well as on the boards of the Charlottesville Free Clinic, Albemarle County Board of Assessors, Offender Aid and Restoration, Virginia Health Planning, The Rodale Institute, and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), where he also volunteered as an advocate at age 80. He donated the land for the formation of the original Earlysville Volunteer Fire Department and for Camp Faith, a nature camp for the underprivileged. Jim was a director for United Virginia Bank of Charlottesville and the Charlottesville Regional Chamber of Commerce. In 1991, he and Bunny received the Chamber’s Paul Goodloe McIntire Citizenship Award for their many civic contributions.

Jim received the Virginia Conservationist of the Year award from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation in 1991. He presided over the Virginia Water Project, and served on both the Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council and on the Virginia Nature Conservancy Board. On Panorama Farms, he championed the development of nature camps, cross-country running, mountain biking, a game preserve, grain milling, and commercial composting in an effort to balance economic activity with sustainable land use.

He was known for his intellectual curiosity, progressive politics, love of the forced play at second, Catholic faith and his ability to recite long stanzas of poetry from memory. He died on January 2nd, 2015.



Jean “Bunny” Brundred Murray

When reflecting on her time on earth, Bunny concluded that it was “a wonder.” In 1991, when along with her husband, Jim, she received the Paul Goodloe McIntire award, the community agreed that Bunny was a wonder, too.

As an officer in the WAVES during World War II, a Virginia cattle farmer, a conservationist, a community volunteer and a wife for 67 years to James B. Murray, Bunny flourished on all terrain.

During the war, Bunny met and married Jim. When the war was over and the newlyweds were discharged, they moved first to New York City and then to Long Island. Having always shared an interest in agriculture, in 1953 Bunny and Jim relocated their young family to Panorama Farms in Earlysville, Virginia. Raising sheep, cattle, and—above all—eight boys, Bunny played an active role in all essential farm operations: serving as midwife to the herd of sheep, diverting the Herefords from her flower beds, and functioning as resident barber to a household of boys.

In addition to presiding over her land and her family, Bunny made her mark in the larger Charlottesville community. Bunny served on the boards of the Martha Jefferson House and of the Hospice of the Piedmont. She was an active member of the University of Virginia’s Human Investigation Committee. Many worthy institutions benefited from Bunny’s volunteering, including Meals on Wheels, the American Red Cross, and Trousdale Home for Boys.

As a conservationist on the state and national level, she served as a board member for the Piedmont Environmental Council, as a member of the Rivanna River Basin Roundtable, and as a trustee of the Environmental Defense Fund. For her contributions to “the protection and enhancement of Virginia’s environment,” Bunny received the Mighty Oak Award from the Virginia Conservation Network in 2005. She also served terms both as conservation chair of the Garden Club of Virginia and as president of the Albemarle Garden Club.

From 1974 to 1982, Bunny was very much involved in her husband’s career in the Virginia House of Delegates. For their civic contributions, she and Jim mutually received the Paul Goodloe McIntire Award from the Charlottesville Chamber of Commerce in 1991.

Bunny Murray lived her life fully and rapturously, through joy and pain. She considered herself blessed. Her lasting legacy consists of her faith, her values, her industry, her humor, her gardens, her love of beauty, and—cherished beyond measure—her eight boys. Born on June 10, 1920, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, she died on May 19, 2012, in Charlottesville, Virginia. She was 91.