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DURHAM DPR Parks & Recreation

RAC 2013 Accomplishments

Durham Parks and Recreation provides opportunities for our community to Play More.

RAC
2013 Mission Statement

The mission of the Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) is to advocate for the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Durham Community.

Recreation Advisory Commission Facts

Board Membership

- The Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) consists of nine members appointed by the Durham City Council.

Meeting Time

- The RAC meets the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 a.m. - 9 a.m. at Durham Parks & Recreation's main office.

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RAC Meetings

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2013 Theme

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THE DURHAM NEWS

SERVING DURHAM

thedurhamnews.com

An unwanted story

My View
Lynden Harris

"ANTIQUE BIKES SWAP MEET AND PRAYER RIDE."

I puzzle over the all-capital-lettered sign at a rural intersection. I love the Harvard comma, but who needs punctuation when its absence is so promising? How can we swap before we meet? Are

Mayor wants to fix parks first

Bell wants city to focus on existing facilities before building new

By Jim Wise
jwise@newsobserver.com

When the talk at last week's City Council work session got around to new parks and recreation facilities, Mayor Bill Bell had a question.

"Who has ownership of the facilities?" he said. "I don't see clear lines of responsibility for maintenance of parks and recreation."

Parker

The question came up after Parks and Recreation Director Rhonda Parker and Assistant Director Beth Timson presented their department's new master plan and asked the council to adopt it. The plan mentioned public interest in new parks and recreation centers in southern Durham, an athletic complex, new trails and swimming pools.

"I am hard pressed to talk about doing anything new when I'm not comfortable with the level of maintenance I'm seeing now," Bell said.

Bell

Timson had already said better upkeep was a priority in the master plan, which updates a plan from 2003.

"It is our goal that when you walk in a park you see nothing broken, nothing neglected, nothing dysfunctional," she said, commenting after several minutes' discussion of park bathrooms.

The plan itself addresses the issue: "The surest and most direct way of improving park maintenance is increasing DPR's general operating budget and staff and establishing clear lines of responsibility for tasks. ... "

"That's what I'm talking about," Bell said. He mentioned being shown one park where grass was growing in a sandbox and swing sets were rusty. "Who owns the equipment?"

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2013 RAC Topics – Top 3

- Accreditation involvement
- Master Plan submission
  - Current topics:
    - Optimizing current facilities and programs
    - Making connections
  - Looking to the future:
    - Improving sustainability
- RAC Community outreach and involvement extension

2013 DPR Challenges

- Department
  - Internally a busy year with accreditation and master plan
- External
  - Optimizing current facilities and programs
    - Park maintenance
    - Vandalism
    - Project delays
  - Making Connections
    - Coordination between community partners
    - Diverse population and needs

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2013 Highlights

Month	Activity
January	• DPR 2012 accomplishments • Deputy city manager attended
February	• DPR Master Plan discussion • Accreditation process overview
March	• ONDP field • Members attended Coffees with Council • Meeting space • Trails • Budget

April	• Master Plan preview
	  • PARCS data
	  • Recommendations

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2013 Highlights

Month	Activity
May	• Accreditation committee visit • RAC volunteer opportunities and community participation • Master plan updates
June	• Summer programs • Budget updates • Park vandalism
August	• Master plan presentation to council overview • Next steps to keep up the momentum
September	• KaBOOM project success at Oakwood park • Gun ordinance • ONDP discussion • DCVB and sport tourism

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2013 Highlights

Month	Activity
October	• Athletic Facility use and allocation policy approved • Recreation and Leisure tourism • Accreditation approval • 501C3 Update
November	• Budget and Parks/Trails funding • DCVB presentation overview of sports marketing
December	• Looking forward to 2014 focus on park maintenance and funding • Continued focus on community involvement and how to continue momentum

2013 Community Engagement

RAC members serve as ambassadors for DPR by fostering and enhancing the relationship between the department and the community. As advocates, the RAC…

- Communicates with neighborhoods and forwards input to DPR.
- Participates in the community through athletic leagues and leadership roles in recreation organizations.
- Approves support for partnerships with local organizations. The partnerships can include allowing access to recreational activities for individuals with limited resources (fee waivers).

2013 Community Involvement

RAC Involvement

- Accreditation events
- Coffees with Council
- Citizens Board Member (CBM) Forum 2013
- Hillandale Golf Course Advisory Committee
- Elmira Park grand opening ceremony
- Staff celebration event celebrating resident satisfaction survey results
- Senior Holiday Party
- ATC Concert series
- Rock the Park
- Outdoor festivals
- PAC meetings
- National Night Out

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Accreditation Involvement

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Meeting with City of Durham CVB

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Community Events Involvement

2014: Looking forward

- RAC community outreach continues and expands
- Park access and safety for diverse interests/groups
- Funding for master plan initiatives especially focused on current facilities
- Accessing sports tourism and events

2013 RAC Commission Statement & Members

The RAC is pleased to serve the City of Durham, Mayor and City Council as advisors on Parks and Recreation.

Umar Muhammad (Chair)
Cheryl Lloyd (Vice Chair)
Omar Beasley (Mayor's Appointee)
Steve Schewel (City Council Liaison)
Ronnie Ferrell
Linwood Webster
Loren Darden
Susan Taylor
Cathy Brennan
Marge Clemons