



STEWART

## MEETING NOTES

*Project: Raleigh Skate Park  
#C6044*

*Meeting Date: June 14, 2007*

*Meeting Time: 7:00pm*

*Meeting Location: Millbrook Exchange Park*

*Meeting Attendees: Graham Smith – Stewart Project Manager (GS); Sharon Rhue – Stewart Landscape Designer (SR); David Shouse – Raleigh Parks Design and Development (DS); Venessa Garza – Raleigh Parks and Recreation GIS (VG).  
Community Members: NECAC Chairperson – Bob Mulder; Sam Fanjoy; Ed and Erika Rosenberger; Paul and Christine Brant; Dan Bagley; Candy Fuller.*

*Prepared by: Sharon Rhue*

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There were 11 community members in attendance.

DS briefly discussed the nature of the project and reviewed information from the PowerPoint presentation (skatepk\_CACmtg1.ppt)

- (DS) When voters approve a bond measure money is not appropriated until the next fiscal year. Particular projects are funded over a period of 3 to 5 years. The skate park ... 2006. The City Council chose to not appropriate for the 2003 bond projects until the debt service could be paid for without raising property tax rates.
- Expecting park to open in 2008. It entails around 11,000sf of concrete.
- Proposed operational expectations (users are skate boarders and in-liners; admission is free; site will be fenced, but no budget for lighting; unstaffed, but users must sign waiver (City of Raleigh is working out the details of this and how access will be granted); Special events might be planned, amplified music prohibited.
- Site selection process –Marsh Creek has good visibility and forested buffer, but there's substantial amount of rock on the site. This project was first presented publicly last month. No sites had been selected so instead of going to communities, they broadcast word of the public meeting City wide, and relied on networking within the skater community. There's been good participation from the skater community. The focus of this meeting is getting comments from this community as Marsh Creek is potentially the first choice for siting the project. Carolina Pines is another potential location but the situation there is much different.
- Introduction of design team. Stewart will oversee local processes and site selection; Pillar Design Studios on board for their experience in designing skateparks. Skater community has been engaged to provide input on desired elements.
- Design Process. Parks and Recreation website has information on its website.

GS opened the floor to discussion, questions and comments. The following was discussed (City and design team responses in italics):

- Could you explain the difference between approval and appropriation?  
*Response: (DS) When voters approve a bond measure money is not*



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*assigned to any particular project. It takes time to determine what projects are desired by the public. The skatepark is an example where money was approved by voters in 2003 and appropriated in 2006. The City Council typically won't spend money on a project if it necessitates raising property taxes.*

- *When will the Community Center be complete? (DS)- Almost finished with 30% design. Will be contacting you at 30% (which should be within 30 to 45 days) to receive input. (VG) It is scheduled to open the Spring of '09.*
- *How big is the Community Center? Response: (DS) 25,000sf. About the size of Laurel Hills Community Center. There will be an aquatic facility – a study is in progress to determine what type of facility is needed where... it might be a sprayground, it might be a pool.*
- *What is the capacity? Response: (GS) Designed for 20 to 30 skaters on the skating elements at any one time. This becomes self-regulating by the skaters to large degree. It's 10,000 to 11,000sf of skateable surface area.*
- *How do you handle liability? (DS) The State of NC enacted a general statute several years ago protecting municipalities. If local ordinances are adopted to require helmets, knee and elbow pads and these rules are posted, the City or County is not liable.*
- *Where on the site would the skatepark go? (GS) Looking at the area adjacent to the pre-existing in-line rink, and to the east of there.*
- *With the addition of so much concrete, how does it drain? (GS) It's about ¼ acre of concrete... this is not very significant increase in impervious surface area. There is an existing drainage inlet [near center island of existing parking lot]. It daylights to a stream. This was obviously installed with the prospect of future development in mind.*
- *Will we be losing many trees? (GS) Many of the trees you see in this aerial photo are damaged. Some others will need to be removed, but most are under 8" in diameter.*
- *Will parking be added? (GS) Some parking exists, and there will be some new parking associated with the Community Center. We hope to not have to construct any new parking.*
- *How many acres is Marsh Creek Park? (VG) 110.*
- *Will you be using fencing that's nicer than chain link? (GS) The reason for the perimeter fence is so that people and pets et al, don't enter inadvertently; and so that skateboards don't accidentally come out of the park. Kids like to watch other kids skate, and they come up to the fence and watch. If you add vinyl it increases the cost of the fence by 40%. [looking at one of the PowerPoint images]: That looks nice. (GS) That is a million dollar skatepark in Arizona. They take their skating very seriously there. (DS) We can include nicer fencing as an add alternate and see if there's money left in the budget for it.*
- *What's going on with the BMX community? (GS) The decision was made not to include BMX in this project. The park's skatable surface is small in scale and we want to avoid user conflicts. Plus there is concern from a maintenance standpoint. The bikes can damage concrete. The City has a dirt BMX track at Lions Park.*
- *Is anyone here from the skater community? [2 people raised hands]. (Skater)- We are very excited about this. Currently we skate in an indoor facility. This rink is not close to any houses and it's unlit, so it is low impact for adjacent residents. This is not going to be just a bunch of kids. There are many "older guys" who skate and usually one of us is around to supervise the younger skaters. We skate at [a private skatepark called] Project 58. It's a family-friendly activity, and rated safer than hockey and football. There are skateparks all over the country, so there's plenty of information out there about them... anyone who's interested can find*



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*information on the internet and check out crime statistics (etc). It's a good thing for the City... our kids need things to do and heroes to look up to.*

- *What impacts do skateparks have from a neighborhood perspective? (GS) Kids will find a place to skate, even if it's on a driveway or in the street. It can be done more safely in a place that's designed for it. (DS) City staff will be doing daily visual inspections as advised by the City Attorney.*

The NECAC Chairperson gave positive closing comment about how he appreciates the Skatepark presenters coming to the meeting, and he looks forward to seeing it built. The skatepark presentation concluded and the meeting continued with discussion of other topics.