



CHARLOTTE™

**City Council
Follow-Up Report**

December 13, 2013

December 9, 2013 Dinner Briefing

Background Checks on Contract Employees

Staff Resource: Susana Vang, Engineering & Property Management, 704-336-3633, svang@charlottenc.gov

Council member Lyles asked about the City's process for conducting background checks on contractors/consultants doing business with the City.

Any contractor who is hired to be onsite with access to the City network, or to act in the capacity of an employee, is required to meet the same record checks to which City full-time, part-time, temporary, intern or volunteer applicants are subject.

Background checks and drug testing are required for all employment contracts, including individual contractors. The standard contract language was provided by the City Attorney's Office and Human Resources. The company under contract is required to secure and pay for the prerequisite checks on its employees and to provide results to City staff.

Replacing City Equipment

Staff Resource: Chris Trull, Shared Services, 704-336-2742, cctrull@charlottenc.gov

Council member Smith asked how the City identifies equipment once it reaches the end of its life cycle and the City's policy for replacement.

The City has a well-defined replacement program that uses objective measures in four areas for determining what vehicles and equipment should be replaced. The areas assessed are:

- Usage (mileage, hours, etc.)
- Age (based on date equipment is commissioned and anticipated useful life of the equipment)
- Maintenance Cost (preventive maintenance and unscheduled repairs)
- Condition (general physical condition of the equipment)

The above four areas vary with different classes of equipment, but in all cases "points" are applied to each assessment area. The equipment is prioritized from highest to lowest in point value and then matched to the available replacement budget.

Private Leasing of Park Property

Staff Resource: Tom O'Brien, Engineering & Property Management, 704-336-4139, tobrien@charlottenc.gov

During the December 9 Dinner Presentation on "Amateur Sports Development for Bojangles' Coliseum/Ovens Auditorium Site," Council member Mayfield asked for information about Ramblewood Park and the leasing of park property to a private group, and whether that prevented neighborhood residents from using the park.

Ramblewood Park, located off Nations Ford Road, was formerly a City park that was transferred to Mecklenburg County via a Special Warranty Deed on September 12, 1997. The park is 78.85 acres, with soccer fields covering about 40 acres.

The soccer fields were constructed in the early 1990s and were paid for by Ramblewood Soccer, Inc., a neighborhood athletic association. The fields were then leased to the group on June 30, 1993, with the lease expiring June 30, 2023. The group now pays all field maintenance and utilities costs. According to Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation, this is the only lease they have in a neighborhood park.

Concerning the accessibility issues expressed by neighborhood residents, Mecklenburg County and the soccer association have agreed to remove the private signs and display the current signage package used at other County soccer facilities. One sign will state the fields are reserved for soccer events; another will say the facility is maintained by the soccer association.

All other areas of the park are open to residents. Mecklenburg County also will be making immediate park improvements by installing bike racks, repairing the shelter and cleaning the playground. Long term plans include replacing playground equipment, constructing walking trails and installing a reflection garden.

In January 2014, Mecklenburg County will host a neighborhood public meeting to gather citizen input on other improvements. The County also wants to work with City Neighborhood & Business Services and the Ramblewood Neighborhood Association to gauge interest in coordinating a request for a potential \$25,000 matching grant to improve the park.

Economic Impact of Amateur Sports Development

Staff Resources: Ron Kimble, City Manager's Office, 704-336-4169, rkimble@charlottenc.gov

Brad Richardson, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-336-3857, brichardson@charlottenc.gov

Mayor Cannon asked what the City is losing to other communities regarding economic impact and how the City can compete.

Neither the City nor the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority (CRVA) tracks the "lost" economic impact of amateur sporting events that do not have the potential to come to Charlotte. The CRVA indicates that a new indoor amateur sports facility of the size and scale proposed for the Bojangles Coliseum/Ovens Auditorium site would open up significant sales and marketing opportunities that are not currently available to the city. The CRVA's list of potential new opportunities include tournaments in archery, badminton, basketball, bowling, boxing, cheerleading, fencing, gymnastics, handball, judo, mixed martial arts, powerlifting, table tennis, volleyball, weightlifting and multi-sport events (such as the State Games of N.C.)