



MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Park and Recreation Department

MEMORANDUM

SENT ELECTRONICALLY THIS DATE

NO HARDCOPY TO FOLLOW

TO: Michael Cataldo, Associate Planner
Charlotte Mecklenburg Planning Department

FROM: Joyce Figueroa, Park Planner
Capital Planning Services

DATE: February 16, 2010

RE: Rezoning Petition #2010-028 (Friendship Park)
Friendship property (PID #041-051-17, a portion of)

This is the first communication concerning this rezoning petition. We encourage staff and the Planning Commission to consider Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Department's (MCPR) comments. We suggest that these comments be incorporated into the staff review notes and written into the Pre-Hearing Staff Analysis to the fullest extent possible.

The property is located in the North Park Region. The property was part of a rezoning approval in 2000. The rezoned property included a major sports complex as an intricate component of the development. Field and court lighting is imperative to the success and usability of a sports complex. Perhaps as an oversight, the approved rezoned property included a 25' maximum height restriction for all freestanding lighting fixtures. We are requesting an amendment to this restriction to exclude athletic fields and tennis courts to build park amenities as intended and needed by the community.

There is a strong need for this park. For this reason, Friendship Baptist Church with the support of the community partnered with MCPR to build this sports complex. The park has \$2 Million allocated from 2004 Bond funds for Public Private Partnerships for the design and construction of the first phase. Design of the first phase is ~ 90% complete and includes 2 lighted softball fields with a soccer/football field overlay in the outfields and a restroom/concession building.

MCPR fully supports this petition.

If you require additional information, please contact me at your earliest convenience at 704.336.5485.

Copy to: James R. Garges, Director
W. Lee Jones, Division Director, Capital Planning Services
Blaine Gregory, Senior Planner, Capital Planning Services