



**Hendry LaBelle Recreation Board**  
**P.O. Box 1760**  
**LaBelle, FL. 33935**  
**(863)675-5347 - Office (863)675-0390 – Fax**

January 19, 2023

A regular scheduled meeting of the Hendry LaBelle Recreation Board was held on the above date at 6:00 PM at the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Office, 310 Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida.

City Commissioner Daniel Akin called the meeting to order at 6:00PM. Opening Prayer was led by County Commissioner Rowdy Howard. Members also present were City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt. Absent were Schoolboard Member Amanda Nelson and County Commissioner Mitchell Wills. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to accept December 12, 2022 minutes was made by Rowdy Howard and seconded by City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Interim Director Steven Lynn spoke about his meeting with Randy Martin. They discussed things that should be happening at the Hendry-LaBelle Regional Sports Complex and the possibility to open the gates for public access. Also brought up was the possibility of a fishing pond for use by children under 14 years of age. Interim Director Steven Lynn also stated that he will be meeting with the Clewiston Program Director to see what we might be able to add here in LaBelle.

Discussion was had about the paving of the boat ramp and different scenarios to

get the job completed. The Board suggested that we reach out to Road and Bridge that they do this kind of work and we should get them to give us a quote. Rock Aboujaoude stated that DMI is a company that is also used by the County and we should consider that quote, he also stated that the job should cost around \$5-6,000.00 for the size of the space needing patching. Questions were asked and Interim Director asked that this be tabled until Lilly was able to answer these questions. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt agreed and this subject was tabled.

Rock Aboujaoude explained where we are at with the completion of the Hendry-LaBelle Regional Sports Park. He had a PowerPoint that included the budget that was approved for the project and some of the changes that were made along the way. He explained that we can't move forward with the bids for lighting the other 2 fields and building the concession stand until we finish the phase we are in the process of completing. Rock also requested that we have the funds in our budget before we get started with any bidding process. Rock stated the funds that remain in our budget is to complete what has already been started and stressed that we have funding and a budget before we move forward with any other items for the park. Rock also stressed that there is a twostep process before going to bid and we need to follow this. Lay out a full scope of work and get legal counsel on the project then go out for bids. Rock also brought up the security lighting that was going to be installed from FP&L and the fact that we should not move forward with this project at this time. In his opinion we should put up our own poles and meter so we aren't paying for the time we don't use the lighting.

Chairman Daniel Akin asked to set a time and date for a special workshop meeting. Different days were discussed and Thursday, February 2 at 6:00pm was agreed by everyone.

Interim Director Steven Lynn asked the board about taking his vacation February 13 – 17 so he could do his 4-H hog care at the rodeo grounds for the big sale. Everyone was ok with that.

The Board asked how much money was left in the budget for the Hendry-LaBelle Regional Sports Complex. A few suggestions about how to bring revenue from this new park was discussed. The fact that both the City and the County have possession of this property and that might pose a problem was mentioned. Someone mentioned that with these fields they could be rented out for

tournaments that Little League holds. That most tournaments pay a fee of \$500.00 and we should do this as well. Funding, electrical quotes and legal aspects were brought up about these types of activities. It was suggested that there be an additional workshop once we can find some answers to these questions.

Interim Director Steven Lynn updated the Board about the lighting at Davis-Pratt Park and the issue with the football field lighting. There is a service call in to Musco to resolve this problem.

Interim Director Steven Lynn asked permission to be able to use our equipment to move some rocks at the Moose Lodge and the Board said that is great community service.

Interim Director Steven Lynn asked about joining the FRPA that he would eventually like to become a Certified Playground Inspector and take several courses that this organization has to offer. A motion was made by City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt to apply and seconded by Rowdy Howard. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Interim Director Steven Lynn told the Board about his conversation with Rick Smith who has donated equipment to us for a skate park for us to use as we see fit. The Board is concerned about Insurance and asked that we get all the details before moving forward with this idea.

County Commissioner Rowdy Howard asked about the Civic Park Soccer fields and what the issue was with dirt verses grass in one of the fields. Interim Director Steven Lynn explained that the irrigation pump went out and it took about 3 weeks to fix everything and play continued on that field which killed that existing grass. There are just too many children and not enough fields to accommodate everyone.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Daniel Akin asked if there were any other concerns and everything had been addressed. Chairman Daniel Akin adjourned the meeting. Meeting was dismissed at 7:12 pm.