



Hendry LaBelle Recreation Board
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February 2, 2023

A workshop 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 Mitchell Wills. Members also present were County Commissioner Emory "Rowdy" Howard, City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt and Schoolboard Member Amanda Nelson. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The FP&L was discussed. The Board requested additional information on the Civic Park, Davis Pratt Park and Rodeo Grounds, wanting to know what the demand fee for these parks are.

The budget was discussed and County Commissioner Mitchell Wills and County Commissioner Rowdy Howard have contacted the county to establish what the funds are currently and where we are going with these funds. Interim Director was told from Ian that the BOCC holds \$179,503.00 for the Hendry-LaBelle Regional Sports Park. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills stated that the BOCC is setting up the accounting where the Recreation Board will be able to see the funds in the account. Gary Hull from the City stated that the city would be willing to give additional funding for Lilly to check with Gracie about this.

Interim Director Steven Lynn told the board about the donation from Rick Smith for the skate board park. The board questioned the insurance and if we would be covered and what we would need to do. The board suggested that we first find out about the insurance before we move forward with this project. Discussion continued but everything will depend on the insurance. Some of the Board thinks that a skate park will not be used and this might be a waste of funds and space.

Rock Aboujaoude gave an update on the existing work to complete the 3 fields that were started and recommended what the Board needs to do to be able to move forward after this portion is completed. Rock explained that all the files he got over the last two years he has on a thumb drive and will share with everyone. Rock stated that Phase 1 needs to be completed before moving forward and that the budget for this is approximately \$300,000.00. We still need to pull wire and hook up the electrical for the pumps. This should be less than \$70,000.00. This is the order that think they need to be done. Irrigation from Juniper or Site One is \$25,000.00. Craig Hampton said he will donate the leveling of the fields. We will need clay and sod. Perimeter fencing also needs to be completed. Dug outs and scorekeeper booth need to be completed. Water hook up to the restrooms needs to be hooked up by the City. Phase 2 will be the next portion of the building. Rock stated that you need to do these items in order. You need to have a budget for these items. This is when we should complete the other 2 fields. All prices need to be updated. We will also need perimeter fencing for these 2 fields, bleachers, dugouts and scorekeeper booth. A time clock was mentioned but not sure what that is for. FP&L LED security lighting was discussed. It is the opinion of Rock that we should not precede to have lighting on if the park is closed. FP&L gave us the option to cancel the contract. Spend the money and add a meter and just pay for the usage of the power. Phase 3 is putting all the final touches in the park, picnic area, disc golf, mini golf, skate park and concession building. The concession building we must use what we have because the electrical building is built off of these plans. The basketball field, soccer fields and other items need to be discussed. Here is a presentation from Mike Newell, someone that wanted to add to the park. It would be a public-private partnership. Rock suggested that the Board consider this option. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills requested what happen to the money of 5 years ago the dollars from BOCC of \$786,000.00. He wants to know what happen to that money. He requested that we ask for an update from Ian and to explain what happen to that money. A motion was made for this to be tabled until the money was found by County Commissioner Mitchell

Wills and seconded by City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt questioned \$780,000.00 to build the concession stand. Rock tried to explain that this is different construction because it's a commercial building for public use. County Commissioner Rowdy Howard asked if this concession stand is equipped for that price? The answer from Rock is "NO".

Discussion continued about the budget and getting the figure from Ian and see what the City has to offer for the construction of the park.

Gary Hull was asked about supplying the water to the restrooms out at the Hendry-LaBelle Regional Sports Park. Gary said that this needs to be brought up at the City Council meeting to discuss if they will waive the fee and how to move forward for this to happen.

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 7:02 pm.