



Hendry LaBelle Recreation Board
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July 20, 2023

A regular 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 6:00 PM. Opening Prayer was led by County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills. Members also present were, City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt; Schoolboard Member, Paul Samerdyke; and County Commissioner, Emory “Rowdy” Howard.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion to accept the June 15, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes and the June 28, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes was made by City Commissioner, Daniel Akin, seconded by City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt. All were in favor. Motion was unanimously passed 5-0.

Director, Steven Lynn, was asked to give an update report on Forrey Park. He stated that he had been to Bonita and other recreation offices to gather information on how they operated their facilities which added items to his list to procure for Forrey Park.

Director, Steven Lynn, was asked to give an update on the paving project at the Boat Ramp. He stated that the dates had changed from a two (2) week project down to one week beginning Monday, July 24, 2023 through Friday, July 29, 2023 wherein the boat dock would be closed to the public during that time frame. City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt, asked if the pavement job could be split up as she has a concern for where the boaters were going to park for that week.

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Director, Steven Lynn, replied that it had been advertised on the local news stations and that he himself went there to deliver flyers and notified one of the owners of The Launch Restaurant.

The next item of discussion was the removal of the rental fee and the security deposit fee for “public service” type events for the James Singleton Community Center. Discussion was had as to what “public service” meant... i.e., such as 501(c) (3) entities like churches. Director, Steven Lynn, gave an example of an individual that recently rented the center who held a free seminar for the community educating the participants on topics such as taxes and health care, etc... City Commissioner, Daniel Akin, made a motion to remove all rental fees for 501(c) (3) businesses and public service type events with School Board Member, Paul Samerdyke, agreeing. City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt, seconded, all were in favor, motion passed unanimously. They just have to produce proof of their 501(c) (3) status and a copy of their tax exemption certificate.

The next item on the agenda was whether or not to revise the Agreement for LaBelle Martial Arts as the League Agreement currently in place is not suitable for an event of this type. Director, Steven Lynn, mentioned that he could take it to legal to have it re-written. County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills, stated that the community center is not a gym and asked how much he was paying to rent the building. Director, Steven Lynn, replied with \$350.00 per month. City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt, asked Director, Steven Lynn, if he had met with the owner of LaBelle Martial Arts, Norberto loan, to discuss last month’s Board Meeting issues. Director, Steven Lynn, replied he did reach out to Mr. loan and attempted to schedule a time to meet with him but Mr. loan’s schedule does not permit right now since he is very busy. He further stated that Mr. loan has been notified each time another group has reserved the building so that he can remove his things and be out. School Board Member, Paul Samerdyke, then asked: “Do we give him 30 days to vacate or how do we want to handle that?” Discussion between City Commissioner, Daniel Akin, and County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills, was had about whether or not to ask legal when he should be out. The current contract expires September 8, 2023. City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt, asked the public in attendance not to say anything to Mr. Norberto loan about this until the Board has a chance to sort it all out. They agreed. At this time, Director, Steven Lynn, read Resolution No.: 2018-1. Section 1.3.8: Wherein it states: “No regular events may be held. A regular event is one that is held on a set frequency (daily, weekly, monthly) at the same time. The purpose of this restriction is to prevent monopolization of the facility at particular times by a particular user. Governmental users and non-profit organizations that are open to the public for attendance/participation are exempt from this restriction.”

County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills, made a motion that it’s agreed that Mr. Norberto loan of LaBelle Martial Arts will no longer be able to use the James Singleton Community Center as his

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class location. City Commissioner, Daniel Akin, seconded all else agreed, motion passed unanimously. Director, Steven Lynn, is to notify him of same.

Director, Steven Lynn, stated that the James Singleton Community Center has its own account now so that all funds received go directly to that account toward repair and maintenance of that facility only. County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills, stated that all rental fees go to each building. Director, Steven Lynn, reminded County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills, since he was not at the June Board Meeting that the \$50.00 rental fee for pavilions had been removed with Board approval.

Next item of discussion was about “impact fees.” Director, Steven Lynn, read the email from Jennifer Davis wherein she reached out to Shane Parks about whether or not the impact fees for Hendry County included the Recreation Board. The reply was a no at this time.

Director, Steven Lynn, read his Transfer of Funds Request to have \$4,000.00 removed from Office Supplies and transferred to Repair & Maintenance.

“Hearing of the Public:” Shelly Hunter came to podium to discuss her request for a 140 x 100 open air space to conduct a Circus/Carnival on February 16 – 22, 2024 as a way to kick-off the Swamp Cabbage Festival. Director, Steven Lynn, recommended the south end of Forrey Park because it has a restroom and water hookup but they would need to bring a generator for power. The north area of the property could be blocked off for parking. City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt, asked: “How would they be able to keep the kids off the ball fields?” No one answered. Concerns for other safety issues... the “pump station” was mentioned. Director, Steven Lynn, said he could put up barricades around it. More concerns were expressed by City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt, about the ruts the carnival trucks will make in the ground since those grounds are really soft. Director, Steven Lynn, replied that the grounds are much harder out of rainy season in February. City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt’s, next concern was the noise level for the adjoining community. School Board Member, Paul Samerdyke, wants to know more about the business... is it an LLC? Do they have a website, insurance, law enforcement being used, does this event produce funding for Swamp Cabbage Festival? Event Coordinator, Shelly Hunter, replied that the noise should not be a factor and “no” to funding because it is going to be sponsored and; therefore, no charge to the community for attendance or parking. It’s mainly to draw excitement prior to Swamp Cabbage Festival. County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills, explains that it’s up to the Director’s recommendation. Director, Steven Lynn, said that he would do more research out there. He and Shelly will meet out at Forrey Park on Monday, July 24, 2023 to thoroughly go over the grounds and what is needed to make sure this is a viable

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location for her event. City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt, suggested that the front parking lot at County Commissioner, Mitchell Will's, church be considered for a location. County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills, stated that he didn't think it was large enough for this type of event.

Ms. Dessie Thomas, spokesperson for the Forest & Sunset group, stepped up to the podium to talk about many issues pertaining to the James Singleton Community Center: 1. "Why are bounce houses not allowed in the parks for parties?" Director, Steven Lynn, brought out the Reservation Form and read where it states that: "No alcoholic beverage, Bounce House or inflatable of any kind is allowed on the premises in accordance with HENDRY COUNTY ORDINANCE #81-6 AS AMENDED OR UNLESS OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE DIRECTOR and the CITY OF LABELLE with a special permit and insurance." Therefore, discussion was had by the board members and all agreed that the Recreation Board may now allow Bounce Houses to be erected at the parks. 2. Ms. Thomas went on to state that... "If we (the renter), are expected to clean the building in order to get our security deposit back, then we need access to the cleaning supply closet. There is only a mop but no bucket for us to use." Director, Steven Lynn, stated he would take a bucket and other cleaning supplies out there and we would give them the cleaning closet key whenever they rent the building for an event going forward. 3. She went on to state that they are in need of more tables and chairs. Director, Steven Lynn, directed the public not to store the tables and chairs in the restrooms, just to stack them up against the walls in the main meeting room and that he would be adding more out there. County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills, made a motion that by next month's board meeting, new tables and chairs would have been added to the James Singleton Community Center, City Commissioner, Daniel Akin, seconded, all in favor, motion passed unanimously. 4. Ms. Thomas went on to state that they have requested an ice machine. Director, Steven Lynn, explained about the location of it and that he is working to get one installed out there.

City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt, asked about the status of the tree trimming at Joe Culver Park from last month's meeting. Ms. Diane Brown came to the podium stating that the trees at Joe Culver Park had not yet been cut. Director, Steven Lynn, replied: "Yes they were, I went out there." Ms. Brown went on to state that the pavilions and the basketball courts needed pressure washed and painted. The lights for the ball field in the back are out and lights in the front of the pavilion are out. Director, Steven Lynn, stated that he knew about the basketball court lights but not the pavilion and thanked her for reporting that. City Commissioner, Daniel Akin, also thanked the public for attending and their input. Further stating that "we will do better."

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Shana Thomas came to the podium to report that the lights in both the men's and women's restrooms at Bob Mason park are out.

County Commissioner, Emory "Rowdy" Howard, asked for a status of the audit report. Director, Steven Lynn, replied that the letter was just emailed to Mauldin & Jenkins on Monday, July 17, 2023 with a reply that Daniel Anderson was out of his office until Thursday, July 20, 2023. He will respond as soon as possible.

Motion for meeting to adjourn was made by City Commissioner, Daniel Akin, and seconded by City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

City Commissioner, Daniel Akin, adjourned the meeting. Meeting was dismissed at 7:30 p.m.

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