



Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Board
P.O. Box 1760
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March 21, 2024

A regular meeting of the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Board was held on the above date at 5:30 PM at the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Office, 310 Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida.

City Commissioner/Chairman, Daniel Akin, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Opening Prayer was led by County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were City Commissioner, Bobbie Spratt; School Board Member, Paul Samerdyke; City Commissioner/Chairman, Daniel Akin; County Commissioner, Emory “Rowdy” Howard; County Commissioner, Mitchell Wills; and Director, Steven Lynn.

Chairman Akin began with:

Bids: None.

Consent Agenda: Approval of the Minutes of February 15, 2024 and the bills.

Commissioner Howard made a Motion to approve the February 14, 2024 Minutes and the bills. Commissioner Spratt seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

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Schoolboard Member

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County Commissioner

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Awards, Appearances and Presentations: None.

Correspondence (FYI): None.

Staff Reports: a. Director Lynn stated that the stolen truck had been recovered within one week by the Sheriff's Department. It was found in Immokalee. He advised the Board that he had purchased hard wired GPS tracking devices for all Rec Board vehicles and that the initial annual investment of \$,1400.00 was money well spent.

b. The email from a resident of Country Village regarding the noise level of the Southern Swamp Gala was discussed. The coordinator for the event, Stephanie Sposato, was in attendance and stated that they did and will in the future adjust the stage/speakers away from that area. Director Lynn did reach out to law enforcement and assured everyone that would not be an issue further stating that the Sheriff's department could be called upon to perform a decibel check. School Board Member Samerdyke asked if we needed to respond to the woman who wrote the email and Director Lynn stated that it was resolved. Commissioner Wills mentioned that Ms. Sposato was in attendance to report on this issue but that the woman from Country Village was not. He further stated that he would get Ms. Sposato a copy of the noise ordinance since this is considered a "permanent" event. Commissioner Spratt thanked Ms. Sposato for the hard work she and her teams does each year in providing this event for the community. Commissioner Howard and Director Lynn were also thanked.

c. Director Lynn read the "Yearly Events" form out loud. A couple of corrections were made and a couple of additions. Commissioner Wills stated that there will be a Summer Camp this year with the YMCA and he would be providing that information to Kim the following week. Director Lynn reiterated what Rec Board was supplying for Earth Week in April. Board members confirmed that there is to be no "rental fee" nor a "security deposit" charged for "community events" such as Black Heritage Festival as outlined in the Facility Use Policy of Resolution No., 2023-01, 2.9 b.

Hearing of the Public: The president of LaBelle Youth Soccer Association (LYSA), Cynthia Cerda, approached the podium to thank the Rec Board for the new soccer lights and to state that she had 500 kids playing soccer this past season. She went on to state that the condition of the fields are rocky and unlevel and advised that her Board had received and agreed to pay an estimate from Fort Myers Sod, Inc., to replace the old sod, level out the ground and install new sod, for \$29,232.00. However, before they have this done, they want a commitment from the Rec Board that the new sod will be maintained properly. She mentioned that the hydro seeding

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she had discussed with Director Lynn previously was not an option due to the fact that the “grass” man with Fort Myers Sod told her that seed would take up to 8 months to grow putting them past soccer season so they want to go with the sod instead.

Commissioner Wills made a motion to approve the quote. Commissioner Spratt seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Cerda will contact the vendor and let Director Lynn know when they will start the project so that he can flag all of the irrigation sprinkler heads. Ms. Cerda went on to state that her Board was again willing to help pay for the next phase of lighting at the soccer field and would like to know what the quote amount is from Taylor Electric is once we receive it.

Ms. Cerda also asked to have the goals anchored down. Director Lynn stated that they were anchored down. People come along and pull them up.

Then, Ms. Sherry Walker of LaBelle Family Livestock Club, took the podium to speak about the maintenance at the Rodeo Grounds specifically the dirt on the arena floor. She reminded the Rec Board about the fact that her club had paid for three (3) loads of dirt previously. She continued that she is still concerned with the safety issues in the arena when the dirt washes away when it rains since there is no border around the arena to hold it in. Director Lynn stated that he is working on a plan to keep the dirt inside the arena. There have been discussions between them also about clay; however, as she explained, “rodeo clay” is slick when wet. Director Lynn reported he is meeting with a roofing company next week to get a quote on installing a steel roof over the arena. Director Lynn also added that he has a meeting next week pertaining to the TDC funds and possibly more grant money to help pay for these additional improvements.

Commissioner Wills made a Motion to have Director Lynn and Chairman Akin meet and approve a plan pertaining to the dirt for the arena at the Rodeo Grounds. Commissioner Spratt seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Another concern Ms. Walker has is the water. She explained that when the water quit working, her husband volunteered to fix the pump. She further explained that some of the 4-H kids had turned on all the faucets which shorted out the pump further stating that they need a new water pump out there as soon as possible. The pump is very old. Commissioner Wills and Director Lynn are going to meet out there to discuss all of this.

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Ms. Walker also mentioned that she wanted clarification on the “chain of command” out at the Rodeo Grounds. Commissioner Wills answered, “Tommy Vaughan of East Rec and his team handle the event schedule and Director Lynn and his team at West Rec handle all of the maintenance. Then, if it’s a legal matter, contact the Sheriff’s Department.”

Ms. Walker stated that the sprinklers were not wetting the middle of the arena suggesting that there needs to be bigger heads on them. Director Lynn interjected that those huge sprinkler heads are around \$800 - \$900 each.

The next topic Ms. Walker mentioned was about the safety issues the use of “segways” in or around the arena was causing with the animals. Director Lynn suggested that they have “Rules & Regulations” typed up to go with their membership/application form(s). Chairman Akin believes the same goes for skateboards as well as any other type of motorized vehicles. There was discussion about posting signs up stating: “No Segway Scooters, Skateboards or Golf Carts on the Rodeo Grounds.” Otherwise, the event will be closed down.

School Board Member Samerdyke made a Motion to have these signs made. Commissioner Spratt seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Kim is going to order the signs.

Commissioner Howard suggested that Director Lynn and Sherry Walker have a meeting to further discuss all of this.

Commissioner Spratt asked if they were willing to pay for the dirt and Ms. Walker replied that they are.

Next, Commissioner, Hugo Vargas, took the podium to state that he was there to speak on behalf of Seth Howard and others who want to request that the driving range behind the Rodeo Grounds has a “putting green” or a “sand trap.” That would be considered in next year’s budget. Commissioner Wills suggested that Director Lynn contact Paul Hart with regard to maintaining the greens.

Next, President of LaBelle Heat (the travel soccer team), Jevany Jimenez, stood up to ask if his team could practice on the Civic Park soccer practice field and also gave the following home game dates that he wants to use the game field for: April 4th; April 14 @ 4PM; April 20th at Noon; and May 4th at Noon. Director Lynn gave him permission to paint the lines on the practice field.

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Reports & Other Business: None.

Agenda Additions: 1. Director Lynn stated that he lost the use of one of the John Deere mowers and presented three new quotes from WescoTurf to either purchase a new Ventrac 4520P Kawasaki 31 HP mower outright for \$59,005.00; or lease it for \$1,451.44 per month or lease with the option to buy for \$1,230.77 per month. All include a full two (2) year warranty and there is no penalty for early payoff. Each of the latter two will total \$59,001.62 which is close to the same price of purchasing it outright. Commissioner Spratt asked if we have the funds in the budget. Director Lynn replied, "Yes, in the Forrey Park budget."

2. Kim announced that the Certified Public Accounts, Mauldin & Jenkins, had completed their audit and submitted a "draft" of the Financial Report and the Auditors Discussion and Analysis Summary for the Board's approval. She will be emailing it to each board member tomorrow.

A couple more items were mentioned. Commissioner Howard mentioned that Charlotte Miller of FPL had mailed in their donation check and would be making a presentation of same at the April board meeting.

Commissioner Wills stated that there will be a Summer Camp this year. He will report the location, registration information and final numbers to Kim next week.

Commissioner Wills also mentioned that he received a complaint from a resident behind Civic Park about the overgrowth on the fence. Director Lynn will take care of it.

Chairman Akin asked how the numbers were coming along for the joint meeting. Director Lynn replied that he is still waiting on the suppliers to give him the numbers he has asked for.

Commissioner Spratt made a Motion for meeting to adjourn. School Board Member Samerdyke seconded. All were favor. Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Akin adjourned the meeting. Meeting was dismissed at 6:58 p.m.

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