



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

April 17, 2025

A regular meeting of the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Board was held on the above date at 4:00 PM at the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Office, 310 Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida.

County Commissioner/Chairman, Emory “Rowdy” Howard, called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Opening Prayer was led by County Commissioner Mitchell Wills.

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Bids: None.

Consent Agenda: Approval of March 20, 2025 Minutes and bills:

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. School Board Member Paul Samerdyke Seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Awards, Appearances, and Presentations: None

Correspondence: None

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA
City Commissioner

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Staff Reports: Director Lynn proposed attending the annual FRPA conference. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt made a motion to approve the trip, which was seconded by School Board Member Paul Samerdyke. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Lynn also suggested switching the security cameras at Forrey to Ring in order to reduce costs. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt moved to approve the change, with a second from City Commissioner Jackie Ratica. The motion carried unanimously.

City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt made a motion to appoint County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard as Chairman of the Board. School Board Member Paul Samerdyke seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

City Commissioner Jackie Ratica motioned to appoint School Board Member Paul Samerdyke as Vice Chairman of the Board. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills seconded, and all were in favor.

Hearing of the public: Cynthia Cerda, President of LaBelle Youth Soccer Inc., expressed concerns about maintaining the fields now that the game fields are open to the public. After discussion, County Commissioner Mitchell Wills made a motion to obtain a bid for a chain-link fence to create an additional field. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Amber Bass, speaking on behalf of the LaBelle Longhorns, stated the league’s need for a pole barn and a new scoreboard. She noted their willingness to raise funds to help with the construction of the pole barn. School Board Member Paul Samerdyke made a motion to grant permission for the fundraising efforts, which was seconded by City Commissioner Jackie Ratica. The motion carried unanimously.

Beatrice Hernandez, President of the LaBelle Longhorns, brought up several issues regarding the football field and concession stand, noting that upgrades are needed.

Raymond Marroguin Jr. highlighted the heavy workload being handled by the Director and emphasized the need for additional support and greater accountability from others involved.

Reports and other Business: County Commissioner Mitchell Wills made a motion to change the board meeting time from 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM. City Commissioner Jackie Ratica seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
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Director Lynn addressed ongoing vandalism and destruction occurring in the public restrooms. After discussion, it was agreed that locking the bathrooms on weekends would be the best course of action to help prevent further damage.

Agenda Additions: None

Motion for meeting to adjourn was made by School Board Member Paul Samerdyke, and seconded by City Commissioner Jackie Ratica. All in favor, motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard adjourned the meeting. Meeting was dismissed at 6:00 p.m.

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City Commissioner

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