



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

October 16, 2025

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.

County Commissioner/Chairman, Emory “Rowdy” Howard, called the meeting to order at 6:13 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, County Commissioner Mitchell Wills, City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt, and Director Steven Lynn.

Bids: None.

Consent Agenda: Approval of September 23, 2025 Minutes and bills:

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt Seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Awards, Appearances, and Presentations: None

Correspondence: None

Staff Reports:

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA
City Commissioner

Director Lynn informed the board that the Health Department was unable to secure funding for the Felda Playground. He also reported that the Major Field at Forrey has now been completed, and new outlets have been put into the dugouts.

Hearing of the public:

Shandeya Thomas addressed the board to request upgrades to Joe Culver Park, including the addition of more playground equipment. County Commissioner and Chairman Emory “Rowdy” Howard directed Director Steven Lynn and staff to develop a plan outlining possible improvements for the park. Ms. Thomas also expressed concerns about flooding at Davis Pratt Park. In response, County Commissioner Mitchell Wills noted that work has already been underway to improve drainage in that area.

Diane Brown also spoke in support of upgrades to Joe Culver Park, specifically requesting the addition of a sitting area. She further asked if dirt could be brought in to raise the elevation of the frequently flooded areas at Davis Pratt. Commissioner Wills explained that using dirt alone would be costly and could potentially cause flooding in surrounding areas, including the fields.

Sharodra Gregory requested permission for the Ford Sunset Community to use the James Singleton Community Center for their meetings, as they are in the process of obtaining their 501(c)(3) status and can no longer meet at the church. The board approved the use of the facility for their meetings.

Reports and other Business:

Sherri Walker, representing the LaBelle Family Livestock Club, attended the meeting to thank the board and Director Steven Lynn for providing loads of clay for the rodeo grounds arena. She also presented a \$1,400 donation from the LaBelle Family Livestock Club to cover the cost of the clay.

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard brought up an email from Rock regarding hiring an architect for the Forrey Park Concession Building. The question posed was whether the board should go out to bid for an architect or proceed with one passed through Rock. It was decided to table the discussion until the next board meeting pending legal advice from the county attorney.

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills requested that Director Steven Lynn explore alternative funding sources for the Felda Playground. He also asked Director Lynn to consult with Parker to

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determine the amount of dirt needed to raise the area that floods at Davis Pratt Park and to obtain a quote for the drainage pipe necessary to manage water runoff.

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills made a motion to reschedule the next board meeting to November 17th at 6:00 p.m. due to scheduling conflicts. The motion was seconded by City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt.

Agenda Additions: None

ADJOURNMENT

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard adjourned the meeting. The meeting was dismissed at 6:50 p.m.

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