



Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Board
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November 17, 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 6:00 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, County Commissioner Mitchell Wills, City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt, City Commissioner Jackie Ratica, Schoolboard Member Paul Samerdyke, and Director Steven Lynn.

Bids: None.

Consent Agenda: Approval of October 16, 2025 Minutes and bills:

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Schoolboard 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

Staff Reports:

Director Lynn reported concerns at the rodeo grounds regarding larger rodeo events tying their horses in front of the facility. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt made a motion to establish a policy stating that no livestock is permitted outside the gate at the rodeo grounds. Additionally, all pets must be kept on a leash. The motion was seconded by City Commissioner Jackie Ratica, and all were in favor.

Director Lynn also discussed purchasing a barn kit to create batting cages at the Forrey Sports Complex. City Commissioner Jackie Ratica made a motion to proceed with the purchase once funds become available, seconded by School Board Member Paul Samerdyke.

Director Lynn shared that his meeting with Little League at the Forrey Sports Complex went well, and reported that Rotary Fun Day was a success. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills suggested Rotary obtain approval from either the City or County and secure proper insurance next year due to the event's growth.

Director Lynn further raised the possibility of allowing employees to conceal carry for protection. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills stated he would consult with the attorney regarding this matter.

Hearing of the public: None

Reports and other Business:

Rock Aboujaoudé presented an amendment to the previous agreement, changing the project from design-build to design-bid-build. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills made a motion to approve the amendment as presented. City Commissioner Jackie Ratica seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills then made a motion to approve Johnson Engineering to survey Forrey Park for the FRDAP grant. The motion was seconded by City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt, and all were in favor.

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY "ROWDY" HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA
City Commissioner

Brandon Lynn with L3 Environmental inspected the soccer fields at Civic Park and reported that the grass appears to be lacking nutrients. County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard noted that parents had contacted him with concerns about dirt patches on the fields. Mr. Lynn stated that the soil contained water. Commissioner Howard directed staff to increase watering until the soil test results are received.

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills commented that if there is excessive traffic on the fields, there may be limited options for improvement.

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills raised the idea of charging larger groups for damage they cause or for failing to clean up after themselves, such as unfilled holes.

Director Lynn addressed ongoing bathroom issues at Civic Park during soccer games. Commissioner Wills stated that the soccer league should be responsible for renting portable restrooms and cleaning the existing bathrooms themselves.

Agenda Additions: None

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

ADJOURNMENT

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard adjourned the meeting. The meeting was dismissed at 7:20 p.m.

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA
City Commissioner