



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

January 22, 2026

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 December 18, 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

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA
City Commissioner

Correspondence:

Director Lynn brought up the league's security deposits. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills requested that staff review security deposit amounts charged by similarly sized counties. The discussion will be tabled until the next meeting, pending that information.

Staff Reports:

Director Lynn informed the board that Johnsons Engineering has begun its survey at Forrey Park. He also reported that new locks have been installed for Pop Warner to prevent unauthorized copies from being made.

LaBelle Little League recently held tryouts at the Forrey Park baseball fields. Following discussion, County Commissioner Mitchell Wills requested that staff review options to improve the field layout for the appearance.

Hearing of the public:

Amber Bass of LaBelle Little League requested permission from the board to use Forrey Park for games and practices. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills made a motion to approve the request once staff completes the field layout changes. The motion was seconded by City Commissioner Jackie Ratica, and all were in favor.

Sherri Walker of LaBelle Family Livestock thanked Director Lynn for promptly resolving the sprinkler issue. She also noted that Director Lynn will be meeting with members of LaBelle Family Livestock to develop a list of improvements for the Rodeo Grounds.

County Commissioner Mitchell Wills requested that staff ensure all safety preparations are in place for the Swamp Cabbage event.

Dessie Thomas of the Fordson Sunset Community requested a bench behind home plate at Kid Jones Baseball Field, repairs to the basketball goals, and fixes to the lights at the basketball courts. She also asked that the edges of the Alton Kid Jones sign be painted to cover the old signage. Director Lynn stated that he would look into placing benches, replacing or painting the basketball goals, addressing the lighting issues, and repainting the sign.

Reports and other Business:

The formal opening of Forrey Park was discussed. City Commissioner Jackie Ratica suggested hosting a large opening event. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills proposed opening the park by

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hosting three LaBelle Little League games, and Amber Bass stated she would look at LaBelle Little Leagues schedule. County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard suggested holding a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Agenda Additions: None

ADJOURNMENT

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard adjourned the meeting. The meeting was dismissed at 7:00 p.m.

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