



Hendry LaBelle Recreation Board
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March 19, 2026

A workshop scheduled meeting of the Hendry LaBelle Recreation Board was held on the above date at 5:00 PM at the Hendry-LaBelle Recreation Office, 310 Cowboy Way, LaBelle, Florida.

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

A discussion was held regarding the condition of the soccer field turf at Civic Park. Director Steven Lynn reported that he had consulted with several grass companies. The estimated cost for sod and compost is approximately \$165,500, while hydroseeding and compost would cost about \$21,300.

Matt Yeomans stated that sod would be the quickest and most reliable option. However, he noted that adding compost could increase the risk of erosion if heavy rain occurs, although it would improve the soil’s organic matter. He also recommended using Celebration Bermuda for the fields.

Additionally, Yeomans suggested purchasing a new pump for the well while keeping the existing one as a backup. He offered to assist in locating resources to support the project.

City Commissioner Jackie Ratica said to bring in a grass specialist for further consultation.

Director Lynn stated that he does not believe the well itself is the issue. Representatives from LYSI indicated that the problem is improper irrigation timing. Director Lynn added that a new irrigation controller has already been purchased.

Chairman Emory “Rowdy” Howard stated that he wants a full understanding of the well, pump, and irrigation system before any turf is purchased. He requested that an irrigation company

evaluate the well and water pressure. LYSI responded that they have a company scheduled to assess the system next week.

Ramon Iglesias recommended consulting turf experts and expressed concern about potential cross-contamination if sod is installed only on the game fields. Director Lynn responded that proper mowing practices could prevent cross-contamination.

Commissioner Howard asked LYSI whether they would oppose hydroseeding if it were the only financially viable option. LYSI responded that they fully support hydroseeding.

LYSI also raised the question of where teams would practice while allowing the fields to recover. Commissioner Wills suggested using the Rodeo Grounds parking lot or Forrey Park as practice locations.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Emory “Rowdy” Howard asked if there were any other concerns and everything had been addressed. Chairman Emory “Rowdy” Howard adjourned the meeting. Meeting was dismissed at 6:00 pm.