



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

March 19, 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 February 19, 2026 Minutes and bills:

***City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt 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

BOBBIE SPRATT  
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE  
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD  
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS  
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA  
City Commissioner

Correspondence:

Staff Reports:

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard reported that he has met with Synovus Bank, provided all required documentation for the loan process, and is currently awaiting a response. He requested that multiple loan options be presented for consideration.

Director Steven Lynn introduced the LaBelle High School Project Graduation 2026 request. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills made a motion to donate \$1,000, which was seconded by School Board Member Paul Samerdyke. The motion passed unanimously.

The board agreed to continue allowing the clogging club to use the office for practice on Mondays.

Director Lynn also presented an invoice from OC Welding & Repairs Corp in the amount of \$5,740.00 for playground labor. He noted that in the past, arrangements have been made with Orlando, the owner, to exchange non-operational trucks for services. The rec board currently has three non-operational trucks available and proposed offering them as payment for the invoice. County Commissioner Wills made a motion to approve, which was seconded by School Board Member Samerdyke. The motion passed unanimously.

Hearing of the public:

Reports and other business:

Director Lynn noted that the previously approved summit conflicts with the April board meeting date. The board agreed to reschedule the meeting to April 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

A discussion was held regarding a grand opening for Forrey Park. Commissioner Howard stated that he would like city commissioners, county commissioners, and the school board to be present on opening day, along with FPL in recognition of their contributions to the park.

Commissioner Wills stated that since Little League did not accept the offer to host the opening, LYSI should be invited to host the event, as it is the largest sports organization.

Commissioner Wills also raised concerns about needed improvements at Singleton, including repainting the floors, installing new lighting, and repairing windows. City Commissioner Bobbie Spratt agreed with these recommendations.

BOBBIE SPRATT  
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE  
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD  
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS  
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA  
City Commissioner

School Board Member Samerdyke spoke with the superintendent about using available school fields for soccer practice. However, concerns were raised that doing so could allow public access to school property.

Agenda Additions: None

## ADJOURNMENT

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard adjourned the meeting. The meeting was dismissed at 6:30 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