



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

June 18, 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, and Director Steven Lynn.

Bids: None

Consent Agenda: Approval of May 21, 2026, Minutes and bills:

***City Commissioner Jackie Ratica 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:

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:

Director Lynn provided an update on the soccer field project, reporting that the compost has been delivered, grading is expected to be completed by Saturday, and hydroseeding is scheduled to begin next week. Funding for the project was found within the emergency fund.

A recommendation regarding a budget plan was presented; however, the item was tabled to allow board members additional time to review the proposal.

The condition of LaBelle Sports Park was also discussed, as the facility has been deteriorating due to ground settlement issues. While the possibility of closing the park was considered, the board agreed that closure is not a favorable option because the park remains heavily used by the community. Instead, staff was directed to develop a spreadsheet identifying all necessary repairs and safety improvements, along with estimated costs for completing the work.

Hearing of the public:

Jennifer Hubbard of the LaBelle Longhorns addressed the board and reported that black mold has been discovered in the locker room. She also noted that several basic maintenance issues need to be addressed before the upcoming season begins.

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard suggested obtaining a construction trailer to store equipment until the mold issue is resolved. County Commissioner Mitchell Wills stated that once a mold inspection report is completed, all items will need to be removed from the affected area so that the necessary repairs can be made.

Reports and other business:

The loan for the Forrey Park Concession Building was presented to the board again for consideration. Board members requested additional information regarding the amount of funding that would remain available after both loan payments are made.

A special meeting will be scheduled prior to the next regular board meeting to vote on the loan proposal.

BOBBIE SPRATT
City Commissioner

PAUL SAMERDYKE
School Board Member

EMORY “ROWDY” HOWARD
County Commissioner /Chairman

MITCHELL WILLS
County Commissioner

JACKIE RATICA
City Commissioner

Agenda Additions:

The grand opening of Forrey Sports Park was discussed. Board members requested that as many food trucks as possible be invited to participate in the event.

The board also directed staff to prepare a timeline display outlining the history of the park project, including major milestones and the costs associated with each phase of development. In addition, the display should include information showing what the park will look like upon completion.

ADJOURNMENT

County Commissioner Emory “Rowdy” Howard adjourned the meeting. The meeting was dismissed at 7:30 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