

Henry County Recreation Board
Tuesday, April 18, 2017

The Henry County Recreation Board held their public meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at Heritage Park. The media was notified of this meeting. Notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Heritage Park Recreation Office. Terry Sanders called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Those present were:

Wayne Swanson, District II
David Wilkerson, District III, Vice-Chairman
Terry Sanders, District IV, Chairman
Eugene Edwards, District V

Also attending were: Tyron Williams (Ga Elite Football), Chris Williams (North Henry Football), John and Rita Bailey (Village Park), and Staff: Tim Coley, Kenny R. Morris, Brandi Dailey, Vincent Miller and Donna Holder.

Motion was made by David Wilkerson to approve the agenda. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion was made by Eugene Edwards to approve minutes from last meeting held on **Tuesday, March 21, 2017**. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

Requests to serve alcoholic beverages:

1. Jessica Jenkins requested to serve alcoholic beverages at a Wedding on June 24, 2017, at the Nash Farm Park Activity Barn. Eugene Edwards made a motion to approve the request. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed.
2. Lori Lynn Robinson requested to serve alcoholic beverages at a Wedding on May 13, 2017 at the Nash Farm Park. David Wilkerson made a motion to approve the request. Eugene Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Requests to reduce fees:

1. Dutchtown High School Band request reduced fees for a banquet on Monday, May 15, 2017 at the Nash Farm Park Carriage House. Eugene Edwards made a motion to approve the request with staff recommendations. David Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Membership Reinstatement Request from Donnell German, Sr.

Tim advised the board about the incident that took place. The video was turned over to the Police. The Police investigated and no charges were filed. He came in and met with Tim after the incident and apologized. David Wilkerson made a motion to reinstate Donnell German, Sr. membership with a one year probation. Eugene Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Therapy dogs in Village Park

People were not keeping some dogs on a leash or cleaning up behind them. County Ordinance says the animals must be on a leash 6' or less, they cannot be at an event, and they cannot be on athletic fields. Commissioner Holmes and the Board of Commissioners amended the County Ordinance to say No Dogs Allowed at the Village Park. Since then we received requests to have therapy dogs at the Village Park.

We discussed that Federal Laws protect certain legal rights of Service Dogs, Working Dogs, Therapeutic Dogs and Emotional Support Dogs. These rights are addressed in the ADA Laws and the Code of Federal Regulations as well as the Fair Housing Amendment Act and the Air Carrier Access Act.

We discussed our code and the Exemptions we have listed below in Sec. 3-13-3. The Board agreed to get more information and look at amending our county code to meet the standards of the ADA Laws and Code of Federal Regulations. We are also seeking more information from our state and national recreation organizations GRPA and NRPA. In the meantime, we cannot keep dogs out that are wearing a certified vest and have certified papers stating they are a service dog.

Henry County Code Sec. 3-13-3. - Same—Exemptions.

[The following are exempted from section 3-13-2:]

- (1) Certain events that, by their nature, require the presence of animals are exempt, such as rodeo events, horse shows, dog shows and farm exhibitions; and
- (2) Seeing eye dogs. This probably needs to be amended to --**Service Animal** Defined by Title II and Title III of the ADA. A **service animal** means any **dog** that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.

Old Business:

Comments:

John Bailey (Staff Attendant at The Village Park) addressed the Board about trash cans needed for the restrooms. Kenny thought they were already delivered and will take care of it. The opening day was moved up and opened early with a temporary certificate of occupancy. Tim will order Mr. Bailey some shirts. A vehicle will be delivered for the park trash to be transported. He will lock the restrooms at night. Charging to get into an event for regular pay is not allowed. If Associations or Organizations want to charge to get into a special event, then the Department has to approve that request. This is not for individuals, only Organizations. Mrs. Bailey stated that signs need to be installed at the walking entrance near Anvil Block Road. Kenny will have the signs installed. He advised they want to hold Juneteenth at the Village Park. Tim stated they need to send in the request for approval. Donna will send the information to the Board members regarding inflatables for events.

Tyron Williams (Georgia Elite Football) addressed the Board regarding an Atlanta Falcon tournament and handed out flyers. Avalon Park is full nearly every day of the week. They have nearly 30 flag football teams. Commissioner Dee Clemmons will recognize some of the players at the Commissioner's meeting.

Chris Williams is working on a flyer for the Heads Up Football Training with Buddy Curry at AMS on Saturday, July 8, 2017. CHOA will be there. Kids and Pros clinic will be conducted that day as well.

Department Report:

Wayne Swanson updated the Board about the Farmer's Market at Nash Farm Park. 150-200 people attended the Market. The Farmer's Market flyer was placed in the Board Member's packets. Marketing efforts included interviews and commercials. Tim stated he would have a banner placed at the Park for the event. May 7, 2017 is the next date for the event.

Eugene Edwards thanked the Department for cleaning up Hidden Valley Park and asked Kenny about sealing two manhole covers at the lower concession stand.

Financial and quarterly reports are included in the Board Member's packets.

Park Report:

Tim reported that the County did \$48,000 in March and \$37,000 this month at Cotton Fields. They had 120 golfers Friday and 140 on Saturday.

Tim stated that outside ball organizations pay a rental fee for travel ball tournaments. Tournaments pay for all maintenance. Heritage, Red Hawk and Moseley are booked almost every weekend. Our fees are in line with surrounding counties. The tourism is the main benefit from tournaments. They hire workers. Patrons shop, eat and stay in our hotels.

If football coaches are on the fields during the six weeks the Recreation Department is trying to grow grass, then fields will not be in good condition for the fall season. This is very important for the middle of the fields.

The County has an agreement with Coca-Cola for scoreboards. The City of McDonough set up a different agreement for Avalon Park and used different scoreboards. The scoreboard is very expensive to service and needs to be replaced. The City also did not use commercial parts and fixtures for the facility. The landscaping was not done correctly. Tim stated the County is working to budget some of the improvements needed at Avalon Park. The new budget starts July 1, 2017.

Cochran Park entrance needs to be renovated. The rocks are dated. The County replaced four scoreboards last year and will replace some this year. After the bills are paid for Georgia Power and SPLOST can give us an amount that can be used for more scoreboards and further renovation improvements.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Wayne Swanson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by David Wilkerson. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.