

**Henry County Recreation Board**  
**Tuesday, July 18, 2017**

The Henry County Recreation Board held their public meeting on Tuesday, July 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 9:07 a.m.

**Those present were:**

John Dewberry, Jr., District I  
Wayne Swanson, District II  
David Wilkerson, District III, Vice-Chairman  
Terry Sanders, District IV, Chairman

Also attending were: Tyron Williams (Ga Elite Football), Coach KJ (Ga Elite Football), Joyce House (Ga Elite Football Grandparent), Shatanna Faust (Ga Elite Football Parent), and Staff: Tim Coley, Brandi Dailey, and Donna Holder.

Motion was made by David Wilkerson to approve the agenda. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion was made by Wayne Swanson to approve minutes from last meeting held on **Tuesday, June 20, 2017** with the following clarification: **Request to reduce fees for Will McPherson...**The request was not because they could do damage to the park, it was that Wayne Swanson thought we were in position to be sued or in some position to lose monetarily if one group said we treated another group favorably and did not treat them favorably. Wayne stated the genesis of that was how we protect ourselves from some group being disgruntled that they did not get the seventy percent off vs. some other group. He just wanted to make sure we were adequately protected as a county and as a body. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**New Business:**

**Requests to serve alcoholic beverages:**

Cleone Elington request to serve alcoholic beverages at the Locust Grove Event Center on July 29, 2017, for a Wedding. David Wilkerson made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Kisha Irvin request to serve alcoholic beverages at the Locust Grove Event Center on July 15, 2017, for a Wedding Reception. She submitted her request late after the last board meeting. John Dewberry wants an explanation. Ms. Hunt, that books the facility, was to get a vote by proxy and did not but she did have the renters pay the Police and Staff at the event.

Darryl Upchurch request to serve alcoholic beverages at Cotton Fields Pavilion on December 2, 2017, for a Wedding Reception. David Wilkerson made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Teplica White request to serve alcoholic beverages at the Locust Grove Event Center on August 5, 2017, for a Wedding. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the request. David Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Requests to reduce fees:**

### Review Policy Draft for Reduced Fees

Tim Coley stated that the proposal calls for increasing employee discounts on rental fees only from 20% to 30%. Tim received some guidance from the County office. Henry County recognized service organizations or partners with Henry County government like A Friend's House would receive a discount. Henry County schools would get a discount because we have an intergovernmental agreement to use each other's facilities. Other County Departments would receive a discount for County run functions. Service Associations would include our Youth Associations that play on County facilities.

David Wilkerson made a motion to approve the Reduced Rate Request Form. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. Discussion was held. Henry County Government Departments do not pay rental fees.

John Dewberry, Jr. stated all should fill out the form.

List all that are eligible for a discount with a checkmark:

Organization with a 501c3 (Henry County recognized service organizations or a partner with Henry County government)

Henry County Schools

Henry County Board of Commissioners Employee (Must show Henry County Board of Commissioners ID)

Henry County Board of Commissioners Department Function (must pay Facility Attendant Fees)

All requests for reduced rates should be made 60 days prior to the event. They should fill out this form unless it is an emergency.

The motion failed.

Wayne Swanson made a motion to approve the Reduced Rate Form and Policies with the changes noted above.

John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Old Business:**

Tim Coley had a sign company look at the Nash Farm Park sign. The sign is a molded foam type with a sealant. The sign has been damaged and has moss growing on it. The sign cannot be repaired for less than purchasing a new sign. Terry Sanders also looked at the sign and agreed. The sign company stated to repair the sign would cost a minimum of \$2500 and still may not be repairable. Tim also got another quote estimated at \$1200 to take that sign off and install two single sided signs. His recommendation is to spend less money and remove the old sign and install a new sign. Capital funds will be available soon for Nash Farm or we will have to cover the cost in the Parks and Recreation budget because the sign was damaged.

The State will redo Jonesboro Road and this will affect Nash Farm Park but the project is still 2-3 years out. Tim stated that the County was awarded a trails grant several years ago for Nash Farm Park. The trails had to extend to other properties to be eligible. Clayton County Water Authority owns the land behind Nash Farm Park and they want to tie their trail system in with ours. Once the road project is completed, Nash Farm Park will have connectivity to Clayton County Water Authority, Highway 1941 via Jonesboro Road or the road where the water plant is. The long range plan is to tie the trails in with Lovejoy Park. The playground for Nash Farm Park will have to come from capital funding and that has not been released yet.

## **Public Comments:**

Ms. Joyce House had concerns regarding her grandson playing football with Georgia Elite Youth Football at Avalon Park. She paid \$185 which includes his uniform. When she went to get him sized for his uniform, there was a form there for her to purchase additional items and she did not purchase any additional items. She went to a meeting with Tyron Williams and was informed she had to purchase a spirit package that includes an away jersey, bag, two pairs of socks and an option to get a helmet painted for \$150. She had a problem with that because when she signed him up, she did not get a notice of any kind about the extra fees. Mr. Williams stated if she does not pay then her son will not play. She said he was not professional in a public meeting.

Another parent had a house burn down and requested a scholarship for her child that was in DFACS custody. She was told she did not receive a scholarship. Ms. Joyce wanted to know how that parent was supposed to know that and what the requirements were. Ms. Joyce wanted to know how is Tyron Williams in charge and how can she have him removed. Shatanna Faust stated that they did not have to pay extra with Dekalb Trojans Youth Football Program. The team took up money to cover the child that did not receive a scholarship. She said she did not get a notice about a meeting until the last minute. They love Coach Thomas or they would have left.

Tim stated that the McDonough Cougars ran the program last year without any liability insurance on the players for most of the season. They misled the board and said they had it and did not. They missed several deadlines. They borrowed funds from the concession provider to purchase insurance to finish the last three weeks of the season. They were in debt and could not pay some of their bills. The Recreation Board told the McDonough Cougars they are no longer allowed to run the Association at Avalon Park. Georgia Elite had been in the parks for several years running flag football and tackle. The Recreation Board compromised and asked Coach Jackson with the Cougars and Georgia Elite to run the program together. Georgia Elite's Board of Directors would run the flag football and oversee operations and Coach Jackson and the Cougars would run tackle football. There were safety factors leading up to the decision to remove McDonough Cougars from administrative duties with the association. Wayne Swanson stated the Park is in his district and he supported the compromise of Tyron Williams and Georgia Elite overseeing the park with the Cougars running the tackle football. John Dewberry, Jr. stated the communication and presentation needs to be improved. The relationship started off sour. Georgia Elite needs to communicate additional fees upfront.

Tyron Williams stated all fees are on the website and presumably most parents read that information because most of the parents sign up through the website with the exception of a few at registration. Parents sign kids up for football. Then the coach and team mom come together and put together a spirit package. The problem before was that it varied by several hundred dollars. Some coaches take the funds, get in trouble with the money and do not provide the banquet. So Georgia Elite decided to provide one big banquet for the kids to ensure they all have a banquet. Coaches get together and vote on what they want in their spirit packages so each team is the same. At the parent meeting on July 1 at Nash Farm Park Georgia Elite explained everything required from their organization to the parents. The deadline to pay the spirit package is August 1 but parents were told if they have a problem with paying that by the deadline, then Georgia Elite can extend the deadline. They just cannot give out the merchandise before the funds are paid. Tyron stated he had 4 people complain. They have 10 teams and all the complaints have come from Coach Jackson's team. Tyron apologized if he was misinterpreted. He made a comment to one individual after the parents meeting about vacations and it was misconstrued to other parents. Tyron clarified that his kind of people are for an organization that offers more than youth football. Tyron thanked the Board for the facility to provide a health fair for the community.

Coach Jackson should have communicated from meetings as early as March to parents about spirit packages.

### **Department Report:**

Quarterly reports were attached. The Governor's office has mandated signs be placed in all public restrooms regarding human trafficking. The sign proof was handed out to the board. The County is doing a survey and audit of County buildings to meet public ADA auxiliary aids mandates. We are doing several reports for budget, 5 year strategic plan, and operations manual.

John Dewberry, Jr. reminded the Board that they need a calendar showing events. He also asked about a key control to facilities. John Dewberry, Jr. wanted to know if he could meet with Kenny Lee and take a look at the storage facilities at Warren Holder Park.

Commissioner Holmes asked this morning if we charge for clean-up fees for pavilions. We do not charge a deposit on the smaller pavilions and it is a problem with multiple rentals in one day. He would like to see a higher fee for people to rent facilities (pavilions and buildings) in Henry County that are not residents here. Tim will gather more information by the next meeting.

**Park Report:**

Wayne Swanson stated that the kids fundraising on the side of the road is a safety concern. Tim stated the County does not give them permission to do this.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Wayne Swanson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Dewberry, Jr. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

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Donna Holder, Executive Assistant II

Date of approval