

Henry County Recreation Board
Tuesday, December 18, 2018

The Henry County Recreation Board held their public meeting on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, 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:

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

Also attending: Tyron Williams (Georgia Elite Youth Football), Chris Murphy (Generals Football), Chris Williams (North Henry Youth Football Association), Coach Brian Fowler (Ga Elite Tackle Football), Alford A. Williams, and Staff: James Martin, John Bailey, Vincent Miller, Rod Gray and Donna Holder.

Motion was made by David Wilkerson to approve the agenda. Jonathan Buck seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion was made by David Wilkerson to approve minutes from last meeting held on **Tuesday, November 20, 2018**. Jonathan Buck seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Requests to serve alcoholic beverages: None

Requests to reduce fees: None

New Business:

Tyron Williams, Georgia Elite Youth Football, addressed the board about starting a County youth football program for safety and security reasons. Rec football traveling is stressful. He stated the traveling football leagues have little oversight. He would like to implement the league in Fall 2019.

Vincent Miller, staff, stated he is pleased with what Tyron brought to the Board. The resolve to that initiative was that some of the things we could not mandate by law. Three major complaints were received this year. Vincent addressed those. The plan is to have a coach's clinic on ethics and morals. The County could take control of the registration and leagues as they do the youth basketball program. Expenses need to be announced upfront.

Rod Gray stated he agrees with much of what Tyron said and the first challenge is creating accountability and a code of conduct. Inappropriate language and social media posts are a problem and need a zero tolerance policy. He would like to set some suspension perimeters. The County would have to add staff to run a football league like youth basketball. Rod stated there is a tremendous amount of value to having associations: the county not having to purchase equipment, uniforms, etc. We need to create some financial accountability and training. Rod suggested the board let him bring something to them next time.

Chris Williams, North Henry Youth Football, addressed the board. It will take a separate meeting for youth football. Relationships and communication are key. The reason North Henry broke off the County Rec League before was due to Georgia Elite decided to undercut fees and the remainder of the league could not agree on fees. The board could not agree on the number of kids to draft and freeze. Families like to play for the same coach for several years. They mentor kids and parents. Safety is a priority. He thinks social media policies need to be put in place. He is completely against anybody trying to force their organization to go to Rec League. It would cause them to lose kids at the park.

James Martin, staff, stated select teams that just try to keep kids together can get blown out in leagues due to performance and ability.

Old Business:

Department Reports:

Jonathan Buck requested the county relocate benches installed at Village Park. He also requested a checklist for paperwork that associations submit to the County.

John Dewberry, Jr. asked Tim for information on contracts and applications for cheerleaders. He also requested 2019 fees that will be charged for all Locust Grove sports.

The Board congratulated Terry Sanders for serving 12 years on the Recreation Board.

Public Comments:

Alford A. Williams (Lighthouse and Community Athletics of Hampton) addressed the board. He tries to offer sports to target ages 15-17. He wanted a SPLOST contact for a gym in Hampton; point of contact for the park in Hampton for USSSA baseball for ages 15-17; and practice location for his Jr. NBA basketball program. He would like to see bleachers for the soccer area in the City of Hampton's McBrayer Park. Wayne Swanson stated he had that information and would meet with Mr. Williams after the meeting.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by David Wilkerson to adjourn the meeting. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Donna Holder, Executive Assistant II

Date of approval