

**Henry County Recreation Board**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2017**

The Henry County Recreation Board held their public meeting on Tuesday, February 21, 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 9:03 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  
Eugene Edwards, District V

Also attending were: Tyron Williams (Ga Elite Football), students for observation and Staff: Tim Coley, Brandi Dailey, Vince Miller and Donna Holder.

Motion was made by David Wilkerson to approve the agenda. Eugene Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Motion was made by Eugene Edwards to approve minutes from last meeting held on **Tuesday, January 17, 2017**. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**New Business:**

**Requests to serve alcoholic beverages:**

**Requests to reduce fees:**

Meredith Kelley, of Southern Grace Hospice, request reduced rates for the Jason T. Harper Event Center for a butterfly release on 06-10-2017. David Wilkerson made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Glenda Harris, Communities in Schools, request reduced rates for the Jason T. Harper Event Center for a Parent Expo – School Supply Giveaway on 07-22-2017. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the request. David Wilkerson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Marjorie Lacy, Haven House, request reduced rates for the Locust Grove Event Center for a Fall Fundraiser on 10-21-2017. David Wilkerson made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nancy Craig, The Ladies Republican Party, request reduced rates for the Nash Farm Park Carriage House for a Charity Event Fashion Show that benefits scholarships on 05-27-2017. David Wilkerson made a motion to approve the request. Eugene Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Russell Peters, Community Christian School, request reduced rates for Nash Farm Park Cross Country Meet on 09-01-2017 to 09-02-2017. Wayne Swanson made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Lynn Bourn, Humane Society, request reduced rates for Jason T. Harper Event Center for a Howl-O-Ween Hoopla fundraiser on 10-21-2017. Eugene Edwards made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Nan Jenkins, A Friend's House, request reduced rates for Jason T. Harper Event Center for the Taste of Henry fundraiser on 04-21-2017. Eugene Edwards made a motion to approve the request. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Melissa Cox, March of Dimes, request reduced rates for Jason T. Harper Event Center for the March 4 Babies fundraiser on 05-12-2017. David Wilkerson made a motion to approve the request. Eugene Edwards seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Terry Whitaker, Boy Scouts, request reduced rates for the Nash Farm Park Camping Area for the Boy Scout Camporee on March 24-26, 2017. Wayne Swanson made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Youth Football League:**

Vince Miller, Youth Football Liaison, requests to re-implement the HCYFL (Henry County Youth Football League). Three years ago associations withdrew from HCYFL. Vince Miller proposed doing a study that could justify a mandate for recreation youth football to be under HCYFL in 2018. They may need a football director for rec and a football director for travel ball. Travel times have increased and created a hardship on parents with multiple children playing youth football rec leagues. Dual age groups could be added. Coaches threatened to leave the leagues when they do not get their way. Twelve year old leagues vary due to the school teams forming. Maybe only mandate the lower age groups. Every association would have equal representation. Chris Williams could be appointed to oversee. He would like to begin in 2018.

Clayton County and Gwinnett County mandates what leagues are available and ensure a recreation league is available with less travel time. Newton County runs their leagues. Tim stated the Rec leagues need to be protected for the newer players. We need to ensure the locations are safe and that the leagues are following the rules. By-laws need to be reviewed. Tryouts would be needed for higher select teams. The mandate could ensure each association have 1 team in rec football from their association if they are able to fill two teams. The associations would still be ran by volunteers with a staff person overseeing it. The number of freezes varied from year to year. Drafting procedures varied from year to year. A mandate could address a coach jumping around to each association. Tim reported HCYFL in the past was 501c3 because they oversaw financials. Now the associations pay their own officials bills.

A motion was made by David Wilkerson that the County implement a study of HCYFL and for a possible 2018 mandate. John Dewberry seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Naming a field at North Ola Park:**

Naming the 11-12 ballfield at North Ola Park. David Wilkerson made a motion to name the field at North Ola Park Frank Craig Field for his efforts to build fields for the Association, coaching a number of years and being an umpire for a number of years. John Dewberry seconded the motion. Discussion was held. The motion passed.

## **North Henry Youth Baseball:**

Henry County Parks and Recreation has ran the North Henry Youth Baseball after one of their volunteers passed away. Tim Coley recommends the Board appoint Hoover Sirmans as Baseball Director of North Henry Baseball for two years or until they feel they are ready to hold an election and set up a Board. Eugene Edwards made a motion to appoint Hoover Sirmans as Baseball Director of North Henry Baseball for two years or until the Recreation Board feels they are ready to hold an election and set up a Board. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **Old Business:**

Some board members responded to an email from a concerned parent about McDonough Cougars league.

Tim reported The Gone with the Wind museum was not feasible and is not being pursued at this time.

## **Comments:**

Tyron was advised to submit the tournament request form to Parks and Rec staff for the proposed May 20<sup>th</sup> Tournament at Avalon Park through the Falcons organization.

## **Department Report:**

A ribbon cutting invitation for the new Fairview Park will be sent out to the Board for March 16, 2017.

## **Park Report:**

Kenny R. Morris reported the lights are up at Cochran Park. Georgia Power is making their final connections to the transformers today. The contractor has to do the light test and they will be ready to go. Mr. Edwards asked about improving the rock entrance area. Tim stated when the final cost is determined they upgrade the appearance of the park: scoreboards, buildings and landscaping.

Wayne Swanson thanked Tim for his advice and assistance at Nash Farm. They will be adding an equestrian club and the bee club is returning to the park. At the next meeting the board needs to address designating the park for equestrian and determine that area. Nash Farm Park was used as a battlefield briefly and the majority of the time it was used as a farm. Tim has a lot of farm pieces that were used at Heritage Park before the barn became the military museum. He would like to renovate the livestock barn and make it an agricultural museum for tours. Nash Farm Park will have a Farmer's Market first Sunday each month beginning in April and they may have an acre to show animals. The Friends of Nash Farm needs to remove the hay and firewood before the items can be transported to the park. Zachery House will be demolished soon after the old wood is removed if there is no asbestos.

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made by David Wilkerson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Dewberry, Jr. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:23 a.m.