

Henry County Recreation Board
Tuesday, July 18, 2017

The Henry County Recreation Board held their public meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 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 9:04 a.m.

Those present were:

John Dewberry, Jr., District I
Wayne Swanson, District II
Terry Sanders, District IV, Chairman

Also attending were: Tyron Williams (Ga Elite Football), Jonathon F. Buck, John K. Bailey (NAACP), Rodney Gooden (NAACP), John Heathy (YUSA LLC), Kim Funte (Henry County Tennis Association), Amy Mynatt (Henry County Tennis Association), Larry Graham (Henry County Tennis Association), Chris Williams (North Henry Youth Football Association) Darryl Heflin (Coach), and Staff: Tim Coley, Kenny R. Morris, 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, August 15, 2017** with the following clarification: A brief discussion was held for concerned parents from Georgia Elite Football and Tyron Williams immediately following the regular meeting. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

Mr. Eugene Edwards is no longer on the Recreation Board and a replacement will be appointed hopefully tonight at the Board of Commissioners meeting. David Wilkerson is out of town.

Requests to serve alcoholic beverages:

Takisha Brown request to serve alcoholic beverages at the Locust Grove Event Center on 9-9-17 for a reception. Wayne Swanson made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Kai-Lin Viohl request to serve alcoholic beverages at the Locust Grove Event Center on 9-23-17 for a wedding. Wayne Swanson made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Requests to reduce fees:

Warren Holder request reduced fees at the Locust Grove Event Center on 4-21-18 for a Class of 1968 50th Year Class Reunion. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the request. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Crystal Long request reduced fees at the Village Park Pavilion 1 on 4-14-18 for a kid's marathon wellness event for schools. Tim stated they have held this event before. Students are requested to run so much each week and

the last of the marathon is held at the park. Proof of insurance was submitted. Wayne Swanson made a motion to approve the request. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the request. The motion passed.

Gail Dover request County employee reduced fees at Cotton Fields Golf Pavilion on 10-7-17 for a birthday party. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the request. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2018 Henry County Fireworks

Michelle Amarra made a presentation to the Board for the 2018 Henry County Fireworks on the Fourth of July. The previous owner had moved the fireworks show from Nash Farm to Richard Craig Park. Information was included in the Board packets. The previous owner, Sam Davis, decided not to hold the show any longer so four business owners have come together to incorporate a LLC and make a collaborative effort to keep the event going. They have rented Nash Farm Park for a festival. They may apply for an alcohol permit at a later date. They are looking for approval to have fireworks at the event later from the Board of Commissioners.

Wayne Swanson inquired about vendor fees which will start around \$100 but it depends on the size of the space. Food vendors will be more. He wanted to know if they were interested in partnering with people who are vested in the neighborhood. There were a couple of groups he was referring to: A Nash Farm Park citizen advisory board that is in its infancy stage and the Nash Farm Park Farmers Market. He wanted to know if they could combine the two events. Wayne Swanson wanted a clarification if any of the people in their group were affiliated with Friends of Nash Farm due to the commotion that has gone on at the park. Ms. Amarra stated she was not aware of any and stated they did not want to have any political standing. She stated this was about the Community and have a family fun event. They will have a fun filled day with zip lining, water slides, etc.

Tim Coley explained that the way it works is that before they can go to the Planning and Zoning Board to get approval for the Special Event Permit (includes meeting with Police and Fire Department representatives, etc.), they have to be approved by the Recreation Board. This is a private event that will be available to the community and they are paying regular rental fees. They will provide insurance and the fireworks provider will provide insurance as required by Planning and Zoning. They need the date of the event approved by the Recreation Board before they can proceed to Planning and Zoning. Wayne Swanson had a couple of requests he would like to see. He was interested in a sack race or dunking booth, etc. to challenge different youth sports organizations from different parks and a commitment to have someone sit on their Fourth of July Committee. Tim Coley clarified that Henry County Fireworks can invite someone to sit in on a meeting from this Board or one of the organizations mentioned and be a part of the meeting but Henry County Fireworks is paying a full private rental and we cannot mandate that they have to do that. It could be beneficial and they could ask those people to pay a reduced fee, etc. to have more people in the park.

John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the date of July 4, 2018, and July 7, 2018, as a rain date for Fireworks Show and HC Fireworks is committed to setting up a meeting after this to find out how they can collaborate with the Recreation Department and have some type of presence there and send out special invitations to recreation groups. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

By-laws

The County Clerk's office contacted us regarding our By-laws that reflect board members serve for a term of two years but they show four years. They have requested we change our By-laws. Wayne Swanson made a motion to change the By-laws (Article III, Membership, Section I):

The membership of the Board shall be five (5) members. They shall be appointed by the Henry County Board of Commissioners for a term of ~~two~~ **four** years. They shall hold office until their successors are approved. Terms run from January 1 until December 31, unless serving out mid-term, and then the term of office is restricted to the unexpired term of office. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pavilions Rental and Refundable Deposits

People are not cleaning up the pavilions after their rentals. Commissioner Holmes has requested the board review out of county rental and deposit fees. We do not have them in place because it is difficult to police with the current level of staff. Tim's preference would be to have park rangers but that is not in the budget. Mr. Bailey stated Clayton and Dekalb Counties have slightly higher prices on their picnic shelters.

John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to double the non-resident pavilion rental fee. Wayne Swanson seconded the motion. Discussion was held. The motion passed.

Wayne Swanson made a motion to double the pavilion refundable deposits from \$25 to \$50 for residents and non-residents. John Dewberry, Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Public Comments:

Mr. Jonathon F. Buck introduced himself. He is waiting to be confirmed as the next District V Recreation Board representative at the Commissioners meeting this evening.

Mr. John Bailey introduced Mr. Rodney Gooden with the NAACP. They will hold an African American Cultural Festival at Village Park on September 2, 2017. Tim asked how many people are expected to attend. They are expecting 200 to 600 people. Tim stated that events like this are supposed to go before the Planning and Zoning for Special Events and they address police, traffic control, etc. Sometimes people pay maintenance staff to clean up at events.

Mr. John Heathy (Year Round Sports USA) addressed the Board concerning a Back to School 3 on 3 Event on August 26, 2017, at South Point Mall that he is marketing. He gave out flyers for the event.

Kim Funte, Amy Mynatt and Larry Graham of Henry County Tennis Association addressed the Board. They feel Henry County is behind on providing a quality tennis facility. Sixteen courts have many maintenance issues: nets that are not at the right height, cracked tennis courts, tennis courts that are sloped the wrong way and lights that are inappropriate for Tennis. Surrounding counties have much better facilities. Tennis has a large following in Henry County and the Atlanta area. ALTA has condemned four of the sixteen courts and removed them from the eligible play list of facilities. They considered condemning 10 of the courts. This will result in a loss of revenue to the County.

Tennis is a benefit to citizens from children to senior citizens. Strong Rock, Community Christian, and ELCA private schools utilize the facility. Twelve to sixteen women's teams use the facility on Sunday afternoons. Men's and Senior's teams play during the weeks. The seasons run year long. Tim stated that he has not had capital funds since 2008. He put together a capital projects list for the County that included the tennis center facility. They did not raise the millage rate and there was no capital funds set aside. SPLOST funds have to be voted on by the citizens and Richard Craig Park was not included on the last SPLOST Program. Tim hopes in the next SPLOST in 2 years to construct a tennis center not in the middle of a ball park but a separate location. Tim has met with the City of McDonough. The grading has failed on the last four courts that they constructed. It is a significant amount of money and would take \$125,000 to begin. USTA does have matching grants and technical guidance. The Annual Wheelchair Tournament can't play on some courts because of the 12 degree slope instead of a 6 degree slope. The Park is in District I.

The tennis court restrooms were left open and were vandalized Friday evening prior to the Jac Roth Tennis Event on Saturday. A police report was done on Friday night. They were concerned that they need to be repaired by this weekend for a tournament that benefits the Cure for Cancer. They are also concerned about the homeless people that try to stay in the restrooms at night. The police stated that they cannot do anything. Kenny stated that work orders have been submitted for the repairs and they should notify us if they can't get to it. The County would then get a private contractor to do the repairs. The stalls that were vandalized were blocked off and the facility was cleaned for usage for the event. Alta requires restrooms not port-a-johns. Tim will check with Kathy Hunt the Program Coordinator and see why the restrooms were not being locked every night. Funds were added for additional cleaning on the weekends and to lock and unlock the restrooms. This weekend was the first complaint we have received regarding the restrooms not being locked. Kenny stated that standard procedure for vandalism is to investigate, get a police report when necessary, place work orders for repairs, and arrange clean up. If Facilities Maintenance cannot get to it or have to wait for a part to arrive, they let us know so we can make accommodations. We have never canceled an event to repair a facility. Tim will advise the baseball program that they may need a port-a-john because the restrooms will be locked.

Jeremy York introduce himself and stated he could save the County funds with utility energy conservation savings.

Tyron Williams (Georgia Elite) stated that their tournament went well and they appreciate all the work done at Avalon Park. Wayne Swanson stated he and his wife attended the event and saw around 2,000 people at the park. He stated there is a hole at the front of the field. The fencing was in poor condition and there was mud. Tim stated that we are building new facilities with SPLOST but the County is not providing funds to maintain aging athletic facilities. The fencing along with many other items were built by the City and was residential not commercial.

Mr. Darryl Heflin officiates youth football at Avalon Park. He has a no contact order with a person that coaches from Avalon Park. He has a restraining order that expired in February 2017. That coach asked Mr. Heflin to leave Avalon Park. She is a coach and Assistant Football Director at Avalon Park. Mr. Heflin may be on probation. Tyron Williams stated that Darryl Heflin needed to leave the park and not return. Tyron only saw an adult woman with Darryl Heflin. Tyron did not ask anyone else to leave the park. Tim has not banned anyone from Avalon Park. The DA stated we cannot change the paperwork. The Assistant Football Director should not have had contact with Darryl Heflin, she should have asked Tyron or someone else to confront him. Tyron Williams needs to send Darryl Heflin a certified letter that he is banned from the Park.

Department Report:

Tim handed out information about the Eclipse and stated County workers are to be indoors during the Eclipse.

Park Report:

The County is addressing drainage issues at Village Park that were created by the County by changing the location of a playground and building it on a drainage pad.

The millage rate was not raised so there are no capital funds. The Board of Commissioners may pursue a bond for capital projects that will aide in the maintenance of aging facilities.

Adjournment

A motion was made by John Dewberry, Jr. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Wayne Swanson. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

