

Henry County Recreation Board
Tuesday, July 20, 2021

The Henry County Recreation Board held their public meeting on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. The media was notified of this meeting. Notice was posted on the bulletin board of the Heritage Park Recreation Office. David Wilkerson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Those present were:

Bridgette Foresyth, Chair Appointee
John Dewberry, Jr., District I Appointee, Vice-Chairman
Alford Williams, District II Appointee
David Wilkerson, District III Appointee, Chairman
Brenda Winston, District IV Appointee
Jonathan F. Buck, District V Appointee

Also attending: Tyron Williams (Georgia Elite Fotoball), Lenard Harris (The Generals Football), Ronel Salters (North Henry Football), Rita Bailey, N. Ola Baseball: Tom Hyde, Bobby McRae, Johnny Powell, Lee Sherrod, Jackie Hyde, Gaelen Moron and Staff: Jonathon Penn, Kenny R. Morris, James Martin, John Bailey, Brandi Dailey, and Donna Holder.

Jonathan F. Buck made a motion to approve the agenda. Alford Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Brenda Winston made the motion to approve minutes from last meeting held on **Tuesday, June 15, 2021**. Alford Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Requests to serve alcoholic beverages:

Katie Maeberry request to serve alcohol on 10-3-2021 for a Wedding Reception at the Locust Grove Event Center. Jonathan Buck made a motion to approve the request. Alford Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cory Davis request to serve alcohol on 8-21-2021 for a Wedding Reception at the Locust Grove Event Center. Jonathan Buck made a motion to approve the request. Alford Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Cyntra Brown request to serve alcohol on 7-24-2021 for a Wedding Reception at the Locust Grove Event Center. Alford Williams made a motion to approve the request. Brenda Winston seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Requests to reduce fees:

Joanie Whitson, Henry County Cancer Service Inc., request reduced rates on 12-5-2021 for the Joy of the Season Gala fundraiser at the Locust Grove Event Center. Brenda Winston made a motion to approve the request. Jonathan Buck seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mark Fordham, Locust Grove Middle School, request reduced rates on Friday, 5-13-2022, for the Locust Grove Middle School Formal Dance at the Locust Grove Event Center. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the request. Alford Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Vivian Thomas, Women Igniting Social Change, request reduced rates on 7-24-2021 for the 4 a Better Me Expo at the J P Moseley Park Football Field. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the request. Discussion was held. Alford Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

The Board welcomed Ms. Bridgette Foresyth, Chair County-at-Large appointee.

Senate Bill 22 passed and it gives the Chair of the Henry County Board of Commissioners the right to appoint someone to the Recreation Board. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to amend the Recreation Board Bylaws:

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS

Section 4. Four (4) members shall constitute a quorum at any regular or special meeting. (Changed from 3 members to 4 members 7-20-2021).

Brenda Winston seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Alford Williams asked if any fields are being planned for West side of Henry County. Jonathon Penn stated there are no fields planned at this time. Jonathon Penn requested a Park Master Plan concept to the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Commissioners did not want to pursue it at this time.

Crystal York withdrew her request to do a presentation to the Board.

Ms. Bridgette Foresyth addressed the Board regarding her son's Ellenwood Football Vikings team. The program changed to Ellenwood Raiders. Now the program is the Dolphins. Her son made the program but she did not like how other County residents had to try out for the team. She claimed a Dekalb County based team displaced a Henry County team at Village Park. Jonathan Penn and James Martin had a meeting with the Raiders for transitioning the Raiders and Dolphins to combine their programs. Due to time constraints, the Board advised for the group to meet with Jonathan Penn after the meeting regarding Rec and Elite Football Teams at Ellenwood.

John Dewberry, Jr. requested the underbrush in the front of Sandy Ridge Park be cut back by 8' on the right of way. He likes the hard work that has been put into the park.

Old Business:

Jonathan F. Buck wants to know when new fees go into effect. Jonathon Penn will present the fees on the BOC Agenda for 7-20-2021 later tonight. Mr. Buck stated he had issues with a first come, first serve, group not obeying the rules of No Charcoal Grills. James Martin said he is working with staff and the Police Department. Mr. Buck wants the park signage updated: tents, extra tables and chairs outside the pavilion area, bounce houses, etc.

Alford Williams inquired about people using athletic fields at N. Mt. Carmel and Avalon. Staff advised Mr. Alford to send people requesting use of fields to the Recreation Department. The fields are locked at some parks for various reasons: to protect the fields, vandalism, apply chemical applications, weather and field saturation, etc. JP advised the parks are public but our programs and maintenance take precedence.

Mr. Williams inquired about the County's plan per 10,000 people. JP stated he brought a Comprehensive Master Plan concept to the Board of Commissioners and they decided not to pursue it at that time. The Commissioners allocate funds for what they want to happen. Currently for District II the main focus is a Recreation Center at N. Mt. Carmel Park and developing Nash Farm Park. Mr. Williams inquired about football/soccer fields in District II. There are no plans for additional fields in District II at this time. The Board advised he speak to his Commissioner.

Department Reports:

Cotton Fields Golf Course is closed for improvements (bunkers and greens) during this time. It is set to open August 2, 2021.

Reports were emailed to the Board. 2020 Annual Reports were emailed to the new Board members.

Public Comments:

Tom Hyde, Ola Baseball, has issues with the election procedures last month. He claims nominations were not allowed. Requirements for office were not posted. By-laws may have been changed incorrectly and are not in the board meeting minutes. He claims parents were not advised of elections. Umpires have issues at the park. No financials are provided to the Association. Gaelon Moran addressed the Board and he stated the By-laws were correct when he was on the Ola Board. Discussion was held. Members contacted Brandi Dailey with concerns and she spoke to both sides. Brandi Dailey advised the group come to the Recreation Board because they can remove Associations using the park or use other measures. Jonathon Penn is making changes to the youth association agreements and will have more enforcement on the Associations. He will look into this situation and advise.

Tyron Williams, Georgia Elite, addressed the Board. He gave a presentation about the many accomplishments of the Association. Georgia Elite does more than sports: Summer Reading Program, African American Museum Trip, Space Museum Trip, Summer Series, Academics, Scholarships, Toy Drives, and Community Service. He serves on the NFL Flag Board and his 17 year old girls team won the opportunity to compete in LA at the 2022 Superbowl. Boys went to Birmingham and won as well. 2 teams will represent Henry County at the Superbowl.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by John Dewberry, Jr. to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan F. Buck seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Donna Holder, Administrative Coordinator

Date of approval