

Henry County Recreation Board
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

The Henry County Recreation Board held their public meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at Heritage Park. 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 9:03 a.m.

Those present were:

John Dewberry, Jr., District I
Wayne Swanson, District II Vice-Chairman
David Wilkerson, District III, Chairman
Tyrone C. Anderson, Sr., District IV
Jonathan F. Buck, District V

Also attending: Don Wills (OGSA- Ola Girls Softball), Dawn Williams (OGSA), Gary Tatum (OGSA), Paul Bryant (OGSA), Tyron Williams (GA Elite Football), Staff: Jonathon Penn, Vince Miller, Kenny R. Morris, Tim Coley, Brandi Dailey and Donna Holder.

John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the agenda. Jonathan Buck seconded the motion. The motion passed.

John Dewberry, Jr. made the motion to approve minutes from last meeting held on **Tuesday, December 17, 2019**. Tyrone Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Requests to serve alcoholic beverages:

Allison Nesbitt request to serve alcohol at Locust Grove Event Center on 2-01-2020 for a Wedding Reception. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the request. Jonathan Buck seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Requests to reduce fees:

Yasna Grainger, Southern Grace Hospice, request reduced rates for the Jason T. Harper Event Center on 6-6-2020 for Annual Butterfly Release Memorial Event. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to approve the request. Jonathan Buck seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Business:

Brandi Dailey explained that Don Wills was coaching for OGSA (Ola Girls Softball Association) in Fall 2019 and the previous season. There was an incident at Sandy Ridge Park that resulted in OGSA suspending him from coaching. Tim Coley stated per the County by-laws when a coach is suspended from coaching at one association, then it goes county wide and they may not coach for another association in the County. A coach may appeal the suspension to the Recreation Board to ensure no personality conflicts, etc. The Board may uphold the suspension, reject the suspension or allow him to coach under probation for a certain timeline with conditions stated. Mr. Wills is requesting to appeal the suspension ruling so he can coach softball at MYA (McDonough Youth Association). Discussion was held.

Gary Tatum (OGSA President), stated Don Wills was given a two-game suspension after a second incident occurred. The first incident involved Don's team accusing an opposing team's player of using profanity in the high five line at the end of the game. The coach's wife addressed this by taking the opposing team's player by the arm and walking her to the umpire. The parents then became upset. Before the next game, Don was handed a two-game suspension and allowed to remain in the park to watch the game. Don appeared to become upset toward the end of that game about some questionable calls and a player ejection and charged after someone. Gary was in the hospital and was not there but did see it on video. Paul Bryant (OGSA Vice-President) addressed the board. OGSA did notify the Recreation Department about the suspension. OGSA has a Code of Conduct. Don did have a lot of support and was a good coach until that day. There was a verbal altercation with no fist cuff situation. OGSA now understands they should have made the coach leave the park upon being ejected or suspended.

The opposing team involved is coached by Gary Tatum (OGSA President). Don Wills addressed the board. John Dewberry, Jr. made a motion to lift the suspension and allow Don Wills to coach with full rights and privileges with one year of probation. Any ejections or incidents during that year of probation will lead to an indefinite suspension. Jonathan Buck seconded the motion. The motion passed. Parks and Recreation will send a letter to Don Wills stating the Board's decision.

Old Business:

Tim introduced Jonathon Penn, the new Leisure Services Cluster Leader for Parks and Recreation, Senior Services and the Extension Service. He is the former Director of East Point Parks and Recreation. He is very involved in GRPA and NRPA. The Board welcomed Jonathon Penn to Henry County.

The Board welcomed Tim Coley back to work.

Department Reports:

Kenny Morris met with Claud Spinks to address the concerns for the Cross Country meets at Nash Farm Park. The County added a gate to address their needs. Kenny will contact Claud Spinks.

Public Comments:

Tyron Williams (GA Elite Football) addressed the Board about the accomplishments of Ga Elite. They served 900 kids and marched in the MLK Parade yesterday. High School girls flag football was voted in.

Adjournment:

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

Donna Holder, Administrative Coordinator

Date of approval