

Harris County Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2022

Board Members Present: Mike Fuson, Sonja Williamson, Thomas Vowell, Wade Pirkle, Steve Felt, Lee Starling, Rob Grant,

Others Present: Stephen Waskey– Recreation Director, Ashley Marston – Assistant Recreation Director

Board Members Absent: Sondra Moss – unable to attend due to MS Basketball game;
Brad Johnson – unable to attend due to close contact protocols (COVID)
Garnett Ray - no notice for absence provided

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Harris County Recreation Board was called to order at 7:14 PM on January 26, 2022 at the Harris County Community Center by Board Chair, Mike Fuson.

II. ELECTION OF BOARD POSITIONS:

The Board elected the following to Board Positions:

CHAIR – Mike Fuson

Two nominations for Chair - Mike Fuson and Steve Felt

(S. Felt moved to accept/close nominations, L. Starling seconded, passed unanimously)

(Mike Fuson elected Chair – 4 votes for Mike Fuson (L. Starling, W. Pirkle, T. Vowell, S.

Williamson; 1 vote for Steve Felt – S. Felt)

VICE-CHAIR – Lee Starling

SECRETARY – Sondra Moss

TREASURER – Ashley Marston

(L. Starling moved to accept nominations for Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, W.

Pirkle seconded, motion passed unanimously)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the October 27, 2021 minutes - Motion made to approve by S. Felt, 2nd by S. Williamson, unanimously approved.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair, M. Fuson shared thoughts on Presidents Meetings held back in December with YSA/Sports Board Presidents, Director – S. Waskey, Asst. Director – A. Marston and Recreation Board Chair – M. Fuson

- i. Stated his main concern was getting feedback on how the Recreation Board was doing – how was communication between Recreation Board and communities
- ii. Was at the meetings as a sounding board for the Recreation Board
- iii. S. Felt asked how the topic of out of county got on the BOC agenda in December 2021 – no answer provided due to brief delay in meeting

V. TREASURER'S REPORT

a. A. Marston provided Treasurer's Report

i. Balance of \$14,529.06 – see attached report

ii. T. Vowell made a motion to approve the report, L. Starling seconded and the report was approved unanimously.

VI. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- i. T&F – Timers needed for upcoming meets – A. Marston to get meet dates from B. Johnson and report back to Recreation Board
- ii. L. Starling asked if Recreation Board meetings could be recorded; A. Marston to find out and report back on
- iii. Presidents Meetings – T. Vowell would like to see a bigger meeting with all YSA/Sports Board Presidents together
- iv. Soccer – T. Vowell asked where we stood with the requests/concerns submitted by the Soccer Board to S. Waskey during Presidents Meetings. S. Waskey reported the following:
 1. S. Waskey has passed concerns on to Jamie Webb with Facility Maintenance; S. Waskey will talk with Jamie this Thursday (1-27-22)
 2. Regarding AC unit in concessions – S. Waskey reported that Jamie Webb has said no to putting a hole in the wall of concessions to drain ac unit – S. Waskey to talk with County Manager about this
 3. Ice Machine – has been fixed
 4. Park Tech for Moultrie/Soccer - still in process of trying to hire someone
 5. Timer on Soccer Lights – lights/timer is being left in “remote” mode – needs to be left in “off” position; S. Waskey has talked with Brent Widener re: this; discussed possibility of someone may be going out to soccer complex and messing with lights/turning them on??; S. Waskey trying to get copies of lights keys made, but having difficulty finding someone who can make them; S. Waskey looking into putting money into next FY budget for an app-based timer system.
 6. Fertilization Plan – meeting with the company Rec Dept purchases fertilizer, etc. from to help come up with a fertilization plan for fields
 7. Soccer Bridge – R. Grant asked for update on bridge – what was wrong with it? S. Waskey explained there was a hole in the bridge
 8. S. Waskey – going to put out chicken wire that was donated to keep balls from rolling into other fields
- v. Football Field Issues – discussion on what to do when Rec Dept loses use of Middle School football field (porta johns at old MS Field, using field beside Community Center; using Pate Park football field/parking issues)
- vi. President's Meeting – S. Waskey looking at holding one in February
- vii. Basketball – S. Waskey brought up situations where kids are playing in one community without being released by their home community
- viii. A lot has happened since Recreation Board last met!
 1. Atlanta Braves won World Series
 2. University of Georgia won the National College Football Championship beating AL 33 -18
- ix. Breakfast with Santa – 350 people attended
- x. Ellerslie Park – discussion on
 1. Explanation of what a passive park is
 2. Lake Survey Results
 - a. The two lakes at the park are not in good shape – not very many fish – not good quality fish
 - b. Suggestion is to fertilized the lakes and re-stock
 3. S. Waskey shared ideas of what people want to see at Ellerslie Park
 - a. Community garden
 - b. Observation tower
- xi. S. Waskey gave each Rec Board member a copy of the Harris County Recreation Board By-Laws

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Background Checks
 - i. S. Waskey needs a little more time to continue researching possible options
 - ii. Wants to talk to other background check companies
 - iii. Assistant County Manager is retiring in February – it is in question as to how background checks will be handled in the future as the County Manager will most likely not handle background checks

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Waivers/Release:** S. Felt brought up concerns with parents asking for their children/families to be released from one community to another.
 - 1. Wants releases to be done away with.
 - 2. Wants to allow kids to play wherever they want with no need to request a release
 - 3. No restrictions on releases – feels this would make parents happy and not mad at volunteers enforcing releases protocol

S. Waskey asked if this would hurt communities like Pine Mountain when kids leave and there are not enough kids left to form teams?

S. Felt made the motion “to do away with waivers and releases so that Harris County residents can play wherever they want for community-based sports”
W. Pirkle seconded the motion.

Discussion – T. Vowell concerned – would like to get the opinion of what the communities want to do/what do they think about this?

Discussion continued re: pro’s/con’s of going county-wide with all sports and also about going to 4 communities/possibly using school boundaries

Motion was tabled to the February 23, 2022 meeting.

IX. OTHER

- a. The possibility of videotaping Rec Board meetings was brought up. Rec Board members are to think about it and discuss at the February meeting
- b. S. Waskey announced the passing of Clint Williamson, HC Recreation volunteer, on January 17th. T. Vowell made the motion to “donate \$500 to the Williamson Family in memory of Clint Williamson. S. Felt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. R. Grant reminded the Board about the Daddy/Daughter Dance on February 12th.

X. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 7:00 PM @ HC Community Center.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Chair, M. Fuson at 9:26pm

M. Fuson, Chair

Attest:

A. Marston, Assistant Director

Harris County Recreation Department