

**Hart County Recreation Department
Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
May 16, 2023**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman, Lonnie Robinson

Present: Steve Wehunt, Erin Gaines, Kay Ankerich, and Bryan Wise

Staff Present: Jim Owens, Recreation Director

Approval of the agenda: Mr. Wehunt motion to approve. A second was given by Mr. Wise. Vote: 5-0.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was given to approve the minutes from 4/18/23 by Mr. Wise. A second was given by Mrs. Ankerich. Vote: 4-0. Mr. Robinson abstained.

Guest: None

Chairman's Report: None

Board Member Reports: Mr. Robinson voiced his disappointment in the HC Board of Commissioners with regards to the request from the RAB to submit a LWCF grant request for \$500,000 to go towards funding a Recreation Community Center. Mr. Wehunt voiced his disappointment with the BOC for the same matter. Mr. Wehunt said he is tired of the BOC kicking the can down the road on this matter. Mrs. Gaines voiced her disappointment and that "at some point the BOC needs to recognize the importance of recreation in Hart County. She said our community expects it and we need to provide recreational opportunities for Hart County just as other surrounding counties do for their citizens. Mrs. Ankerich said she had reached out to three of the commissioners the night of their last meeting to voice her opinion. Mrs. Ankerich also said she was disappointed with their decision. Mr. Wise also voiced his disappointment with the BOC's decision to deny our LWCF application for the grant. Mr. Robinson informed the Board about the addition of 6U tackle Football being added in the 2024 season. Director Owens said 6 year olds will have the option to play Flag Football or Tackle football.

Director's Report: Director Owens said the feedback on the new outdoor basketball court has been all positive and is being used a lot by the community. Director Owens updated the Board on the park projects that staff has been completing. Director Owens informed the Board that staff with the help of county inmates, install new plants around the Vietnam Memorial at the Courthouse. We also spread 900 bags of mulch around the beds at the Courthouse.

Old Business: The RAB, by unanimous common consent, recommends that the BOC revisit the LWCF Grant to go for a Recreation Center.

New Business: The RAB discussed the Facility Use Fees for all pavilions, community room, monthly rentals, courts, and ballfields. Director Owens informed the board that rental fees have not been adjusted in many years. Director Owens also mentioned an increase in program fees. The board as a whole was not in favor of increasing program fees in light of the recent increase. This discussion was tabled by a motion by Mr. Wise and a second by Mr. Wehunt. Vote: 5-0.

A motion to table the Basketball Fee discussion until the 6/20/23 meeting by Mrs. Gaines and a second by Mrs. Ankerich. Vote: 5-0.

Youth Tackle Football Coaches appointment for 2023. A motion from Mr. Wise to appoint Justin Berelc to be the Head Coach for the 7U Tackle Football Team. A second was given by Mr. Wehunt. Vote: 5-0. A motion was given by Mrs. Gaines to appoint Chad Martin for the second team if it materializes. A second was given by Mr. Wehunt. Vote: 5-0. A motion was made to appoint Bryan Wise as head coach for the 8U team by Mrs. Gaines. A second was given by Mr. Wehunt. Vote: 4-0. Mr. Wise abstained. A motion was made to appoint Rusty Thornton as the second coach if needed in the 8U age group by Mrs. Gaines. A second was given by Mrs. Ankerich. Vote: 5-0. A motion was given by Mr. Wise to appoint Bradrick Teasley as 9U Head Coach. A second was given by Mrs. Ankerich. Vote: 5-0. A motion was given by Mrs. Gaines to appoint Reggie Leverette as the 10U Head Coach. A second was given by Mr. Wise. Vote: 5-0. A motion was given to appoint Bryan Martin as the 11U Head Coach by Mrs. Gaines. A second was given by Mr. Wehunt. Vote: 5-0.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wise. A second was given by Mrs. Ankerich.

Minutes by James A. Owens, CPRP
Recreation and Parks Director

Next scheduled meeting: June 20, 2023, at 6:00 pm at the Clay Street Park HYDRA Room. Meeting time may be changed due to circumstances. Notification will be given as soon as possible in the event of a change.