

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR SESSION**  
November 16, 2021  
6:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Andrew Zuerner, Susan Andrews, Rob Grant, Bobby Irions, Becky Langston.  
Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk. Staff Present by  
Phone: Russell Britt, County Attorney.

1. **CALL TO ORDER.** Chairman Zuerner called the Regular Session to order.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** Chairman Zuerner led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **MINUTES.** The motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2021 Regular Session was made by Commissioner Langston, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.
4. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Recreation Board By-Laws Recommendation.** Chairman Zuerner said that the Recreation Board, during its October meeting, took action to allow out-of-county participants in County Recreation sports/programs, effective January 1, 2022, at a fee of \$50, with \$25 to the County and \$25 to the John Magazu Scholarship Fund; that while the by-laws allow the Rec Board to plan activities for the County recreation programs, it does not give the Rec Board the power or jurisdiction to adopt amendments or rules of procedure without final approval of the Board of Commissioners; that because the action taken appears to fall under the powers or jurisdiction, action by the Commissioners is needed.

Stephen Waskey, Recreation Director, appeared before the Board to respond to questions regarding the Rec Board's action. Discussion included that the stipulations related to such participants have not been decided; that having a "pool" of players was discussed as to where such players could be used; that pros include it builds competitiveness and makes teams better; that cons include it takes the spot of an in-county participant; that the Rec Board was informed multiple times that such action would have to be approved by the Board of Commissioners; that boundaries, for rec purposes, include a slight expansion outside of Pine Mountain and outside of Waverly Hall; and that the \$50 fee would be in addition to the usual registration fee.

Mike Fuson, Recreation Board Chairman, appeared before the Board and said that he was not present at the Rec Board meeting where the action took place; that had he been there, he would have opposed such action; that this topic has been discussed during several Red Board meetings; that he was against this issue when the Rec Board discussed it previously and still is; that allowing out-of-county participants to play will not work; that it is opening Pandora's box, especially with there being no parameters; that putting something in place needs to have everything laid out; that it is not going to work with the current structure; that we should not build programs to bring in out-of-county players; that he does not think allowing out-of-county participants helps the recreation program; and that the Rec Board is an advisory board only with no power to implement such action.

Commissioner Grant said, as explanation, that when the Rec Board by-laws were written, it included that out-of-county players were not allowed to participate in the County recreation programs, but the then County Attorney said it was not needed because the document implies that it is for Harris County; that it appears such is needed now; and that travel ball is different since they rent the fields, which is within the Rec Department purview.

The motion to disapprove the action taken by the Recreation Board and to move forward with an amendment to the Rec Board By-Laws to indicate that out-of-county participants are not permitted to take part in County recreation sports/programs was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Chairman Zuerner, and passed unanimously.

5. **COUNTY MANAGER**
  - A. **Project Updates.** Randy Dowling, County Manager, reviewed various projects, as follows:

- (1) Replace Chairs in Commission Chambers. Chairs were delivered this evening and are in use.
  - (2) UDC/Land Use Codes. The Board did not approve the UDC; therefore, an additional meeting of the Board, which is open to the public but not for comment by the public, will take place on November 30 at 5:00 PM at the Library.
  - (3) Ellerslie Park. Development continues, the gates and dock have been installed, the road clearing is complete, the maintenance facility and pavilion will be started after the holidays, and a soft opening is tentatively scheduled during January 2022.
  - (4) Man O'War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase IV (aka Rails to Trails). Project from behind Mountain Creek Inn to Callaway Gardens Country Store (1.5 miles) is almost complete; there will be a ribbon cutting at the Callaway Country Store on November 30 at 4:00 PM; and the lights on the bridge will be tested tonight between 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM
  - (5) Man O'War Railroad Recreation Trail, Phase V (aka Rails to Trails). Survey has been completed and design has commenced; hope to bid out in February, award in March, begin in April, and be finished by this time next year with a total of 10 miles completed.
  - (6) Solid Waster Transfer Station Building. Project is on-going.
  - (7) Courthouse Renovations, Phase I. Project on-going and should be bid out next month..
  - (8) Underground Diesel Fuel Tank Removal. Tank was removed on November 8, and we are awaiting soil test results to determine the extent of any contamination.
  - (9) Renovation of Old Library - Roof & HVAC System. Project is on-going with completion expected by late this year.
  - (10) Redistricting of Commission Districts. The State finished its redistricting last week, so the County redistricting should start in January.
6. **COUNTY ATTORNEY.** Russell Britt, County Attorney, said he had nothing to discuss with the Board this evening.
  7. **RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.** Chairman Zuerner made the motion to go into Executive Session for personnel at 7:06 PM. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Grant and passed unanimously.
  8. **RESUME REGULAR SESSION.** The motion to go back into Regular Session was made at 8:05 PM by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
  9. **OTHER**
    - A. **Cancellation of December 21, 2021, Commissioner Meeting.** The motion to cancel the December 21, 2021, meeting of the Board was made by Commissioner Andrews, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.
    - B. **Speed Limit Sign Results on Old West Point Road.** Commissioner Grant said he had received the results of the electronic speed limit sign on Old West Point Road and will be happy to share with the Commissioners.
  10. **ADJOURNMENT.** There being no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Grant, seconded by Commissioner Langston, and passed unanimously.

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Andrew Zuerner, Chairman

Attest:

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Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk