

Harris County Recreation Board  
Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2018

**Board Members Present:** Rob Grant, Thomas Vowell, Steve Felt, Lee Starling, Jairo Gay, Jeff Allen

**Others Present:** Becky Langston – Commissioner, Morgan Marlowe – Bd of Education, Stephen Waskey– Recreation Director, Ashley Marston – Assistant Recreation Director

**Board Members Absent:** Brad Johnson - *absent due to work*; Sondra Moss – *absent due to previously scheduled event*

**I. CALL TO ORDER / WELCOME NEW MEMBERS / NEW RECREATION DIRECTOR**

The regular meeting of the Harris County Recreation Board was called to order at 7:00 PM on February 28, 2018 at the Harris County Community Center by Board Vice-Chair, Jairo Gay.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was reviewed by the board members. J. Allen made a motion to approve the agenda, S. Felt seconded and it passed unanimously.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- i. October 25, 2017 minutes: T. Vowell moved to approve, J. Allen seconded.  
Passed unanimously
- ii. January 31, 2018 minutes: S. Felt moved to approve, L. Starling seconded.  
Passed unanimously

**IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

No report given.

**V. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer's report was reviewed.

L. Starling moved to approve, J. Allen seconded. Passed unanimously

**VI. RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Playground – Pate Park:** RFP (Request For Proposal) is at the front office on Nancy's desk waiting to go out next week

**Tennis Courts Bid:** Still tweaking but almost ready to release. Will have posted to website and emailed out hopefully by tomorrow (Thursday, 3/1/18)

**Library Grand Opening:** March 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00

**Tire Recycling:** April 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

**HCLL:** Opening Day is March 10<sup>th</sup>; Saturdays will rotate between parks so Rec Dept can schedule in travel ball tournaments at Pate

**Ellerslie Park:** Waiting on DOT to determine entrance and exit to park; there is 1 lake and 1 "pond" with a house on the property to host events/parties, etc.; Phase I tentatively expected to open October, depending on bids; EP will be a passive recreation park with pavilions, playground, walking trails, etc.; built with SPLOST, donations and capitol expense money; any fees collected for rental of the house, etc. would go back into the general fund

**TV's at Community Center:** 2 hooked up to Roku, lobby tv hooked up to flash messages, information for community center

**Soccer:** T. Vowell shared the steps that the Soccer Board is taking to help prevent an incident like what happened in the fall between parents, officials and board members at the soccer complex. Coaches are holding a short parent's meeting 5 minutes prior to each game to remind parents/coaches of the behavior that is expected; using Remind 101 to report status of games following each game (i.e. if there were no issues, if there were issues, what exactly they were, etc.); there will be Field Marshalls around during all games and will be clearly identifiable by their shirts; there will be a uniformed deputy on duty on Saturdays paid for by the Soccer Association; a disciplinary committee has been formed and will deal with all future incidents

**VII. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Grimsley Release Appeal – update:** It was shared with the Board that LL, Inc. mandated that a child be allowed to play in the community that their school was located in, therefore the Grimsley family was to be released to play in Cataula since their son attends Mulberry Creek. Grimsley Family was released to play in Cataula. This decision could impact the future of communities in Little League in the County. The HCLL Board will take this issue up at their next meeting.
- b. **John Magazu Scholarship Fund:** Tabled to the next meeting
- c.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Update on HC Youth Soccer Association – solutions implemented to ensure safety of spectators and players:** T. Vowell shared the steps that the Soccer Board is taking to help prevent an incident like what happened in the fall between parents, officials and board members at the soccer complex. Signs have been made reminding parents/coaches and spectators to behave; Coaches are holding a short parent's meeting 5 minutes prior to each game to remind parents/coaches of the behavior that is expected; using Remind 101 to report status of games following each game (i.e. if there were no issues, if there were issues, what exactly they were, etc.); there will be 2 Field Marshalls around during all games and will be clearly identifiable by their shirts; there will be a uniformed deputy on duty on Saturdays paid for by the Soccer Association; a disciplinary committee has been formed and will deal with all future incidents
- b. **Purpose/Responsibilities/Involvement of Recreation Board:** Discussion led by T. Vowell
- c. **Other?**
  - i. **HCLL Finances update** - Board was briefly updated on HCLL Finances – HC Sheriff's Dept officially closed the investigation into the Board's finances, saying that although there was no clear evidence or way to prove that money was stolen or misused as the Board did not have in place practices to ensure against theft or loss of money, no way to track or trace money coming in, especially cash.
  - ii. **Morgan Marlowe's last Rec Board meeting** – It was noted that this would be Morgan Marlowe's last Rec Board meeting

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

J. Gay adjourned the meeting at 8:50 PM.

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R. Grant, Chair

Attest:

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A. Marston, Assistant Director  
Harris County Recreation Department