

The Livingston Parish Recreation District 2 met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, in Watson, La. at 6 pm at the Administrative Office (Live Oak Sportsplex) located at 36965 Louisiana Highway 16, Watson, La.

Present- C.Prescott, T.McRae, J.Hood, A.Curtis, B.J.Guerin, B.J.Clark, V.Brown
Absent: none

Guests/Public: Ryan Chavers, Livingston Parish Councilman,
Director Mike Hansen, Cody Bergeron, Alvin Fairburn & Associates, Luke Spinoza citizen, Taylor Hubert, candidate for School Board

Meeting called to order by Chairman Chris Prescott.

Pledge of allegiance was given and prayer led by Administrative Secretary.

Motion to adopt the minutes as mailed for the August 14, 2024, meeting with no public comment, by B.J. Guerin seconded by A. Curtis Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays- none Absent-none

Being no public comments, Chairman moved to next agenda item.

Mr. Cody Bergeron of Alvin Fairburn & Associates along with developer Luke Spinoza addressed the board presenting a plan to purchase the District's 29 acres of land along Fore Road. They shared their plans for large sized lots with custom home development. Chairman led the discussion on this proposal and how consideration by the District must be contingent upon the purchase of replacement land on the adjacent Pendarvis property (roughly 20 acres). He stated that the 5 year master plan denotes what the land would be used for. Board comments shared that this proposal should be pursued. It was noted that a legal opinion should be secured (last appraisal was 10 months ago) if a new appraisal must be made for both acreage sections owned by the District (29 acres). It was stated that Legal advice should be secured on the entire process. Board consensus agreed that the legal opinion on the need of a new appraisal and the approval process should be secured as soon as possible with a special meeting being called to determine a formal decision.

Parish Councilman, Ryan Chavers, cautioned the board that a portion of this land is on the books of the Parish Council. He stated that the submitted District 5 year plan, detailed uses of the Fore Road property with no mention of the Pendarvis property. He commented that the public was not given this property information before the election was held.

Various board members made statements on recent comments as well as tonight's comments made by Mr. Chavers on the potential of changing the 5 year plan and that his comments seem to infer that the board's intentions were not clear.

Tracy McRae responded to Mr. Chavers' comments on transparency with the public by summarizing all the elements of the 5 year plan that were presented previously to the Livingston Parish Council. She stated that the plan clearly states that it is a projection and that the terms used in it states that plans are hoped to be accomplished. She commented that real time changes come forth as priorities just like tonight's property proposal, as well as the recent attention to bathroom revisions, track overlay needs, etc. She reminded all that changes evolve to the real needs conveyed by the public with any plan. She noted that no guidelines for assembling a plan were ever given in March or April, 2024, by the Council, but rather just that the requirement to submit a plan by early April must be complied by the District from his direction.

Mr. Chavers stated that he had phone conversations previously in the year giving verbally what was needed to comply.

Mr. Chavers noted however, that a written standard criteria for master plans should be provided by the Council for clarification in the future in order to clear up this issue.

It was also stated that the Recreation District 2 is the only subsidiary that has complied with the Parish requirement of submitting a 5 year plan.

B.J.Clark shared his opinion on earlier Councilman's comments made regarding the board's transparency on the 5 year plan, noting that he was unaware of any instance where the public feels the change regarding the Fore property sale in order to purchase and use adjacent property was not an efficient or a good change logistically.

Tracy McRae shared the history of management by the board over the past 5 years; public opinion feedback; intentional efforts in saving funds without the need of tax proposals; actual facility improvement actions accomplished over the years; and the board's continual intentions to improve park facilities in a very responsible manner. Other board members also commented on actions for planning and that changes are always considered for practicality purposes to an original plan.

Councilman Chavers stated that he apologizes if his comments seemed to lead the board to form an opinion regarding any view of dishonesty on their part and that he only wants to support the District as they serve the public.

Alvin Fairburn representative, Mr. Bergeron, made comments on his need for District authorization onto a Parish form regarding the land purchase by the District in order to meet upcoming Parish requirements.

Chairman commented on the need for District legal advice before such authorization can be granted and the potential requirement of securing a new appraisal. Board discussed the need for legal guidance on this entire issue.

Jimmy Hood departed the room at this time.

Motion to authorize Chairman to secure a legal opinion regarding the sale and purchase of land for planned purposes with contingency clauses linking the two transactions and an opinion on the need for a new appraisal to potentially sell the Fore Road property (both sections) and purchase the Pendarvis property as a contingency with no public comment by T.McRae seconded by B.J. Guerin
Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent-none Not voting- J.Hood

Jimmy Hood arrived again at the meeting.

Director, Mike Hansen, presented the Director's report for September.

He noted that the flooring project for bath rooms and concessions was completed (a few small items remain) and that great feedback has been received from the public thus far.

He covered that various new goals and soccer supplies were purchased and that soccer scrimmages will begin for the fall season soon.

He made comments on the good work performed thus far from the new hire Maintenance Supervisor.

He shared that the concession stand new freezer is installed.

He shared concerns about parent authorizations concerning parents that do not live together concerning their children. His concerns are regarding identifying who has true authorization over the child as a participant. He summarized that rule followed will be the parent that registers the child will be the authorized party.

He noted that the Architect/Engineer has the original specifications on the track and he will be visiting the site to review track conditions as well as assisting in writing specifications for contractors in the near future.

Administrative Secretary presented the financial report with the board for the August, 2024, period of operations as compared to budget with September bills. He noted that the both tracts of the Fore Road property are in the District's name, but that any sale must have the approval of the Parish Council regarding the 24 acre tract since it was purchased from bond proceeds.

Motion to accept the financial report of August and pay the bills as presented for the August period with no public comment by C.Prescott seconded by B.J. Clark
Vote passed Yeas-7 Nays-none Absent-none

Chairman commented conversations regarding the 20 adjacent acres (Pendarvis land) in the rear of the park regarding recent comments on the pricing per acre. Board members discussed past efforts to purchase and how the plans for improvements can be accomplished on the land.

April Curtis departed the meeting.

There were no committee reports given.

Under Board comments, B.J.Clark recommended that the Personnel Committee consider compensation adjustments for the Director soon.

Under old business, Director summarized his past month's attempts to secure the legal forms needed to complete the overtime compensation action. Chairman will follow up on the form when he meets with Legal Counsel.

Motion to adjourn the meeting with no public comment by T.McRae seconded by V. Brown
Vote passed Yeas-6 Nays-none Absent-none Not voting-A.Curtis



Randall Smith - Administrative Secretary

Next public meeting on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 6 pm