

**Hart County Recreation Department  
Recreation Advisory Board Minutes  
October 17, 2023**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Bob Frye

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

**Staff Present:** Jim Owens, Recreation Director

**Approval of the agenda:** Mr. Wise motion to approve. A second was given by Mr. Robinson. Vote: 6-0.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mrs. Gaines made a motion to approve the minutes from June and September. Mr. Wehunt gave a second. Vote: 6-0

**Guest:** Arthur Oglesby

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Frye would like to get the dead tree removed at the Jimmy Bell Football Field.

**Board Member Reports:**

Mr. Robinson: Would like information on the Vape Policy and where we stand as a department. Mr. Robinson would like to have this put on the BOC agenda. Mr. Robinson would like to know what the future of the Clay Street Park looks like. What is the Vision for this park? Mr. Robinson is looking for a plan.

Mr. Wehunt: Asked about the painting of the Boy Scout Hunt. Director Owens said the building is scheduled to be painted the week of October 23.

Mrs. Gaines: Would like to see a Recreation Building. Mr. Robinson commented that the City of Commerce has put a bond referendum on the November ballot to fund a recreation Center. All RAB members voiced their favorable opinion for this and would like to ask the BOC to have this put on a future ballot to let the Hart County citizens to vote for/against funds to build a Recreation Center.

Mr. Wise: He would like for the RAB to craft a Parental Conduct Policy

**Director's Report:** Director Owens gave an update on the Flag Football program. Director Owens gave an update on the ongoing Youth Basketball registration program. He also gave an update on the new bathroom building project located at by the Pickleball/Tennis courts. He said the completion date is before the end of the year before the school begins practicing.

**Old Business:** The parent issue regarding Kyle Whalen. Mr. Whalen was given a letter regarding his conduct at our youth football games and informed he must reframe from acting out as he had several times. 9U player Connor Whalen was acting out and was taken out of the game by Coach Wyckle, who is also Connor Whalen's step-father. Mr. Whalen went on the playing field to the sideline and began yelling as his son, Connor. He grabbed his son by the shoulder pads and took him off the field. Other members of the family were at the game and arguments ensued.

Mr. Wehunt made a motion to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to ban Mr. Whalen for a period of time to begin immediately through December 31, 2024, from all Recreation Department facilities and events. This includes the rest of the 2023 Youth Football season, the 2024 Little League Baseball season, HYDRA, and any other activities/events held at any Hart County Recreation Department facilities. A second was given by Mrs. Ankerich. Vote: 6-0.

The RAB recommended to remove the addition on the old baseball concession stand and block up the wall and renovate what is still existing. The SRC Baseball fields need new windscreens for the backstops. A suggestion to install sun shades over the bleachers at the SRC Baseball fields. A recommendation was made to develop a Pickleball/Tennis court complex at the SRC on the 10 undeveloped acres. The RAB also recommended to replace department trucks.

**New Business:** None.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Gaines. A second was given by Mr. Wehunt..

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

Next scheduled meeting: November 21, 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.