

**Hart County Recreation Department  
Recreation Advisory Board Minutes  
April 18, 2023**

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

**Present:** Steve Wehunt, Erin Gaines, , and Bryan Wise

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

**Approval of the agenda:** Mrs. Gaines motion to approve. A second was given by Mr. Wehunt. Vote: 4-0.

Mrs. Kay Ankerich came in.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was given to approve the minutes from 2/20 by Mr. Wise. A second was given by Mrs. Gaines. Vote: 5-0.

**Guest:** None

**Chairman's Report:** None

**Board Member Reports:** Mr. Wehunt asked about online registration. Mrs. Ankerich asked about the Recreation Department providing a volleyball program for kids. Mr. Wise asked about providing a travel flag football program in the Spring.

**Director's Report:** Director Owens reported that three new steel doors have been installed on the two story building at the Clay Street Park. Minor repairs to several score towers and other buildings in Clay Street Park. A new roof has been put on the Boy Scout Building. Director Owens reported that the Recreation Department continues to be in compliance with the State DNR regarding the LWCF grant from 1977. We are eligible to apply for another LWCF grant. The outdoor basketball court fencing has been completed and is open for use to the public. Thank you to A&T Fencing for another great fencing install at the Recreation Department. Director Owens reported that the Temporary Summer employee worker program is underway and working well. Director Owens reported new playground mulch will be purchased and installed at the Clay Street Park playground. Staff will also be painting building at Clay Street Park over the Summer.

**Old Business:** The use of ballfield lights was taken off the table with a motion from Mr. Wehunt. A second was given by Mrs. Ankerich. Vote: 5-0. No action was taken. Mrs. Ankerich made a motion to take 6U Tackle Football off the table. A second was given by Mr. Wise. Mr. Wise asked Director Owens how much would adding 6U Tackle Football to our program. Director Owens said it cost \$104.00 per player. Mr. Frye asked what would adding this do to our Flag Football program? Director Owens said you will not know until registration numbers are known. Director Owens said an upfront cost to add this age group to the program would be around \$10,000. This would be to purchase enough new helmets and shoulder pads. The budget would also have to reflect the increased number of jerseys and pants that would be added. A motion was made by Mr. Wise to add a 6U Tackle Football age group to our program for 2023 if enough equipment can be acquired. If not, move to the 2024 season. A second was given by Mrs. Ankerich. Vote: 5-0. The Board discussed about football uniforms due to the NGYFA mandating reversible jerseys for the 2024 season. A motion was given by Mr. Wise to go with sublimated football jerseys and pants for the 2023 season. A second was given by Mrs. Gaines. Vote: 5-0. The Board also recommended to increase the registration fee from \$65.00 to \$90.00 per player for your football. A motion was given by Mrs. Ankerich and a second was given Mrs. Gaines. Vote: 5-0. A motion was given by Mrs. Gaines to leave Flag Football fees at \$40.00 per player. Mr. Wehunt gave a second. Vote: 5-0. Mr. Wehunt asked about Fall Sports registration dates. Director Owens

said we are shooting for May 1, 2023 pending registration fee approval by the BOC. A motion to take a discussion off the table regarding coaches selection by Mr. Wehunt. A second was given by Mr. Wise. Vote: 5-0. A discussion was had and no action was taken. Mrs. Ankerich gave a motion to apply for the \$500,000 LWCF Grant to go towards a Recreation Center. A second was given by Mr. Wehunt. Vote: 5-0.

**New Business:** The Board discussed SPLOST Projects for 2024. The Board recommended to ask the BOC for the maximum SPLOST amount and it go towards construction of a Recreation Center. Members will meet before specified meetings to have a work session to discuss the 2023-2024 Budget year. Mrs. Ankerich asked about providing a volleyball program and to use the school gyms for practice and games.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Gaines.

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

Next scheduled meeting: May 17, 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.