**Hart County Recreation Department**

**Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**

**Regular Meeting**

**April 17, 2018**

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

**Present:** Bob Frye, Lonnie Robinson, Steve Wehunt, Cecil Marett, Erin Gaines, Jeff Meitz, and Bill Fogerty.

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

**Guest Present:**  Marshall Sayer

**Approval of the minutes:** A motion was made by Bill Fogerty and a second by Steve Wehunt to approve the minutes of 3/19/18. Vote: 7-0. A motion was made by Jeff Meitz and a second by Cecil Marett to approve the minutes of 3/26/18. Vote: 7-0.

**Invited Guests:** Anna Strickland from ARCHWAY, gave a presentation on the Community Conversation sessions that were held to gain community input on the Long Range Master Plan update. Mrs. Strickland mentioned that the feedback brought to light that the general public does not actually understand what the Recreation and Parks Department does on a day to day basis. Mr. Marett mentioned that the Recreation Department staff is doing a good job taking care of everything we have but it is worn out and according to this survey things need to be replaced. He also mentioned that the largest item on the survey it to add a Recreation Center and renovate the tennis courts. Mr. Robinson asked Mrs. Strickland if we could compare this survey data to the survey data from the previous survey from 2012. She said they were almost verbatim the same thing as last time. The survey also mentioned the need for more recreation department staff. Mr. Marett asked Director Owens what are the current personnel needs. Director Owens said at the moment the department needs at least one more maintenance worker and one program/athletic coordinator. Mrs. Strickland suggested we have a meeting to discuss this information in depth and determine the next steps in the process. The R.A.B. suggested a called meeting on Monday, May 7 at 5:30 pm.

**Chairman’s Report:**

**Board Member’s Reports:**

*Lonnie Robinson:* GRPA Basketball participation for 2018. Mr. Robinson also mentioned the coach’s background check procedure. He wants to develop a background check where “we” can help monitor the coaches and do a better job. Mr. Robinson also asked if there was something in the SPLOST to replace the roof on the Boy Scouts building.

*Steve Wehunt*: None

*Bill Fogerty*: Mr. Fogerty asked about money for scholarships for kids that can’t pay to play. Director Owens said there is no line item in the budget for scholarships. Mr. Fogerty also asked about the High School basketball coaches to help get more games for the recreation department teams. Director Owens informed Mr. Fogerty that there is no basketball association as there is for football.

*Erin Gaines:* “When someone says they are all in and they are 100% or 110%, and they don’t go out in public and say other things because the perception that comes back is just not good. It has really been weighing hard on me some of the comments that came back.”

*Cecil Marett: None*

*Jeff Meitz:* Asked about the use of the football/soccer fields at the Sports and Recreation Complex. Can they be used for another program?

**Director’s Report:** Director Owens informed the Board that there will be a meeting on Wednesday April 25 at 10:00 am with regards to the North Georgia Youth Football Association. They will be voting to invite us to join the association. The meeting will also discuss re-alignment of the members with regards to who plays who. Director Owens reported on the ongoing day to day operations in the parks. The baseball fields are being mowed two times a week. The Lake Hartwell Music Festival is on the schedule for Memorial Day weekend. Staff will be preparing the park for this event. Director Owens informed the Board of a playground meeting he will be attending on May 8 that will be given by GRPA, Playcore, and Gametime. Playcore and Gametime are playground equipment companies.

Mr. Meitz asked Director Owens about the future use of the football/soccer fields at the SRC. Director Owens informed the Board that the Catholic Church had asked to use the two fields for an event they will be having on Saturday May 5. They would like to use the fields for a soccer event. Director Owens said we would have to install the soccer netting on the existing football goals and layout and paint the fields for this event. A motion was made by Cecil Marett to recommend allowing the Catholic Church to use the fields for their event on May 5, 2018, and to as a show of good faith recommended to waive the fee for this one-time event. A second was given by Mr. Robinson. Vote: 7-0.

**Old Business:** Director Owens gave a tentative date for the opening of Fall Sports registration. Director Owens also discussed the coaches training sessions for this year. He suggested having multiple sessions to train this year’s volunteer coaches trained by the new rules of the NGYFA. These meetings will be mandatory for all coaches.

**New Business:** Mr. Fogerty asked about program numbers for youth basketball and youth football. Director Owens said the participation for 2017 football was 220 players, cheerleading was 47, basketball was 146. The number of games for football was 62 and basketball was 72. Each team played an 8 game season plus a post season tournament.

Mr. Fogerty asked a financial report for the 2017 youth football program. Director Owens gave him a report. Mr. Fogerty said he wants to do something with the numbers for the next meeting. Director Owens asked Mr. Fogerty to copy the rest of the Board member when making a request so they will be in the loop as well. Mr. Marett concurred saying he would also like to know any request before the meeting.

Mr. Robinson asked that the facility use agreement put on the agenda for discussion. Chairman Frye said that everybody who uses the building pays a fee except the Swinging Harts and Lucky Stars do not pay. Mr. Frye said years ago the R.A.B. voted to recommend that everybody pay the fee. Mr. Fogerty said that the BOC said that non-profit groups could use the facility for free. Mr. Fogerty gave a list of organizations that he said used the facilities for free. Mr. Fogerty wanted to know why Little League and the Boy Scouts used county facilities for free. He wanted to know why the Youth Football Program uses the facilities for free. Mr. Frye said he does not have a problem with the way things are. Mr. Frye said he has a problem when a group uses a facility for free and complains and points out everything that’s wrong about that facility. Mr. Frye had to leave. Vice Chairman Robinson wanted to ask the Board to look at the agreement to see if there was something that could be done. Mr. Robinson said this agreement has not been updated in forever.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Wehunt and a second given by Mr. Meitz. Vote 6-0:

Minutes by James A. Owens

Recreation and Parks Director

Cc: Terrell Partain, County Administrator

Next regularly scheduled meeting: May 15, 2018, 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.