

*City/Parish Recreation Advisory Commission  
August 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes*

Attendance:

Commission:

Larry Lanclos	Judy Placer	Harold Porter	Kristopher Harrison
Johnafort Bernard	Patti Carter (via telephone)		

Staff:

<i>ms</i> Timothy Sensley	Todd Robertson	Thomas Eschete	Christopher Arceneaux
Alena Fields	Ross Gresham	Nourine Lanerie	

Guests:

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Larry Lanclos. Opened with a Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

**Recognition of Guests/Staff Members:**

Chairperson Larry Lanclos welcomes the guests in attendance: Joseph Walker, Scott Prather and Garrett Gauthier.

**Correspondence/Announcements:**

None.

**Approval of Monthly Reports/Previous Meeting Minutes (Action Required):**

Monthly reports for June and July 2024 had been emailed. Judy Placer motions to accept the monthly reports for June and July 2024; seconded by Harold Porter; no opposition; motion passed unanimously. Harold Porter motions to accept the previous meeting minutes as written; seconded by Judy Placer; no opposition; motion passed unanimously.

**Chairperson's Report – Larry Lanclos:**

Larry asks Tim to provide an update on the department.

**Director's Report**

Tim advises that the Council Budget Review Hearing for the PARC Department will be held tomorrow morning around 9:00 a.m. in the Council Auditorium at City Hall. He invites all commissioners to attend.

Tim advises that Our Savior's Church will be performing a beautification project at Girard Park this coming Saturday. They will have around 200 workers and will be donating around \$30,000 in materials. Tim adds that he is looking at ways to be creative. He attended a meeting today at Stuller Settings to discuss future partnerships and generating revenue to help with capital improvement projects.

**Capital Projects Update**

***Thomas Skate Park***

Tim advises that the Thomas Skate Park is about 90% complete. There will be a four-foot walkway around the bowl.



***Brown Park***

Tim advises that the Brown Park project is expected to be done by the end of October. The turfing and sprigging of the fields have been completed. An outdoor basketball court has also been added to the project; however, it will not be covered.

***Moore Park***

Tim advises that the Moore Park project is going well and should be complete by the end of September. The sprigging of the fields should start by the end of August. Larry asks if the entrance to the park will be widened and/or changed. Tim advises that it is under discussion; once a decision is made, he will report back to the commission. Judy suggests that additional signage be put up at the park. Judy asks if Moore Park will be ready for play in the fall. Tim advises that it will most likely be ready for play in the spring of 2025. The plan is to submit a bid to host a big soccer tournament in the spring. Tim adds that he has been contacted by USSSA regarding hosting a big tournament at Brown Park in July of 2025. He plans to revisit the fee structure regarding field rentals.

***Picard Park***

Tim advises that he will be meeting with a representative from the Milton Civic group and Public Works on Thursday to review the preliminary plans for Picard Park. A town hall meeting will be held before the project moves forward.

***MLK Pool Enclosure***

Tim advises that the estimated cost for the MLK Pool Enclosure is \$877,000. As of today, \$800,000 has been allocated and \$40,000 has been used for Professional Services. Tim adds that his biggest concern is the material that will be used on the inside of the enclosure, as it needs to be rust resistant. The preliminary drawings include some garage type doors that could be opened to allow the breeze to flow through.

**Athletic Programs/Youth Neighborhood Associations**

***Brown Park***

Tim advises that the Brown Park Association is up and running. They are looking to get started up in the basketball season.

**Budget**

Larry asks if the Administration made any cuts made to the budget submitted by the department. Tim advises that the overtime budget was reduced; the justification given was that the proposed increase to the civil service pay plan would attract more qualified workers.

Judy asks if \$16 million is the proposed budget for the department this year. Tim explains that the budget may be a little skewed this year due to the American Rescue Plan Act funds. Larry adds that the budget numbers in the financial report are as of April 30, 2024.

**Other**

Judy asks for an update on the problem with the resurfacing of the tennis courts at Thomas Park. Ross explains that there was some bubbling in several areas; the contractor went back and fixed it and the courts are now playable.

**Divisional Presentations**

**Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course – Chris Arceneaux**

Chris advises that July was a challenging month due to the amount of rain, resulting in the course being closed for 12 plus days and a decrease in revenues of around \$44,000 compared to July of 2023. The golf



course has been very wet and drainage is an issue. Chris advises that he was still able to hold some camps at the Domingue Center and The Wetlands Golf Course. As of today, the grass at the course has been cut and the greens are back up to par. Judy advises that the course used to drain pretty good in the past. Harold asks if the drainage issue is being addressed. Tim explains that there was a mole issue a few years ago at the course that created different pockets that retained water. There is some dirt available to be brought in from Moore Park and Brown Park to help and a staging area has been set up.

**Les Vieux Chenes – Todd Robertson**

Todd advises that the month of July was very wet and the course was closed for four consecutive days. The golf course is now in good shape since the grass cutting has resumed. Even though the revenue for July was down, more annual passes were sold during the month versus July of 2023. Todd advises that the netting has been repaired from the recent storms. An aerification was performed on July 13th and 14th, and another aerification will take place tomorrow and Wednesday; therefore, the golf course will be closed. Todd advises that the process is underway to hire an Equipment Operator II.

**The Wetlands Golf Course – Thomas Eschete**

Thomas advises that The Wetlands received over 12-1/2 inches of rain during the month of July; therefore, a lot of time was spent on pumping water and keeping up with the mowing. July had a decrease in revenue versus July of last year. Thomas advises that when a lot of rain is received at the course, it can be closed for multiple days depending on the amount of rain received. Also, the net has been replaced on hole #7.

**Athletic Programs/Parks Maintenance – Ross Gresham**

Ross advises that July was a very wet month; however, the parks maintenance staff is now caught up with the grass cutting at the parks. Fall sports registration is underway for football and volleyball and Carencro Athletics Sports Association (CAYSI) has officially rejoined the PARC Department's athletic programs. Ross advises that a meeting was held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> with all the youth association presidents to get everyone up to speed and on the same page. Pony League baseball will be offered and played at Brown Park in 2025, instead of Little League. Ross advises that a project will be starting at the Earl J Chris pool to have the exhaust fans replaced and the Martin Luther King pool was closed for public swim last week. It was not a great year for swimming compared to the last few years; the total revenue generated was around \$200. Ross advises that Therapeutic Recreation hosted their one-day fun day and their regular programming will resume next week on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Judy asks for an update on the closure of the Acadiana Park Campground. Ross explains that the Campground Attendant resigned. The previous attendant lived on the property and did not maintain it very well. Ross adds that there is a lot of work to be done before it can be reopened. Judy advises that it used to be a really nice campground and a lot of people would utilize it. Harold asks if there is any revenue generated from the campground. Ross advises that the revenue generated is similar to the swimming pool revenue; the maintenance expenses are far greater than the revenue. Harold adds that the Parks and Recreation Department is not meant to be a revenue generating department.

**Centers & Programs – Alena Fields**

Alena advises that July was a slow month from a programming standpoint; however, the centers were busy with participants who wanted to be indoors to escape the rain and heat. Alena advises that a new Senior Center Coordinator has been hired and she started last week. Three temporary recreation center coordinators and one temporary janitor have also been hired.

Alena advises that ongoing capital projects include the entryway project at the Heymann Center. The project has been ongoing since January of this year and has been done in pieces to avoid shutting down the center. The art program at the senior centers was relaunched in July. Alena adds that she is working with the Community Development and Planning Department to apply for grants for the senior centers.



Alena advises that a new rental reservation software was implemented in July. The process is ongoing to transfer the old data from Active Net to the new software, Civic Rec. Alena adds that the goal is to provide more self-service options to the community in booking venues. Reservations can be done online instead of in-person at the office.

Alena advises that she recently attended a senior event. The goal is to get information for seniors, as programs and resource fairs become available.

Alena advises that the summer camps have now ended and the participation numbers are included in her report. She is waiting on the final numbers to be tallied in order to distribute the remaining subsidy payments. Alena explains that around \$4,000 was distributed during the first half of the summer in subsidy payments and she expects to distribute around the same amount for the second half. These subsidies helped the parents by reducing the weekly camp cost from \$100 to \$50.

Alena advises that upcoming events at the centers include a spay and neutering event and a few back to school drives. Alena adds that the Louisiana Recreation and Parks Conference will be held in Lafayette on November 19-21. Tim advises that the commissioners are all invited to attend and he will keep them updated of the scheduled events. The Louisiana Convention and Visitors Commission contributed \$24,000 for the conference costs and additional sponsors have also been secured.

Judy asks Alena if the programming at the centers is posted on Facebook. Alena explains that the Communication Department posts updates on the Parks and Recreation Facebook page. The new Chief of Communications for LCG, Jamie Boudreaux, has visited all of the centers and has been very helpful in getting the word out. Judy advises that she is very impressed with all of the activities going on at the senior centers. Alena adds that she has taken the initiative in getting the word out for activities and resources at the senior centers. Judy asks if any of the centers were used for cooling centers. Tim advises that they were not needed; all of the cooling stations were handled through Catholic Charities. Judy suggests that the volunteer groups that have been working to update the parks and centers attend a commission meeting so that they can formally be recognized and thanked.

**Committee Reports:**

Larry advises that the Facilities Committee Meeting Minutes of July 8, 2024, are included in the binders tonight.

**Old Business:**

Johnafort asks for an update on the MLK Pool Enclosure. Tim explains that the project came in overbid. The amount allocated was \$800,000 and the cost came in over \$877,000. That number may change based on the material that is used.

Johnafort asks for an update on the Heymann Park Project. Tim advises that the architect is working on the revised drawings and will submit those to Public Works once they are complete.

Johnafort asks for an update on the Park Police. Tim advises that it will take around \$650,000 to staff six officers and they will be hired under the Lafayette Marshal's office. Tim advises that there will be an upfront cost to purchase the vehicles and the yearly cost will be around \$233,000 in personnel salaries. Johnafort advises that he has a concern regarding the issues at the Martin Luther King Center with children jumping the fence to swim at night. Judy asks if the pools are chlorine or salt water pools. Ross explains that they are chlorine pools.

Larry asks for an update on the Recreation Complex Signage. Tim advises that Councilman Kenneth Boudreaux is working on connecting with the Nabers family to schedule a date for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

**New Business:**

None

Programs Committee Meeting: September 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Next Commission Meeting: October 7, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

Harold Porter motions to adjourn, seconded by Judy Placer; no opposition; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.