

*City/Parish Recreation Advisory Commission
June 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes*

Attendance:

Commission:

Larry Lanclos
Patti Carter

Judy Placer
Johnafort Bernard

Harold Porter

Kristopher Harrison

Staff:

728 Timothy Sensley
Alena Fields

Todd Robertson
Nourine Lanerie

David Gary

Christopher Arceneaux

Opening Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance:

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Larry Lanclos. Opened with a Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence is observed for the recent passing of Tim Sensley's mother and also for Leroy Barrington, a former commissioner who recently passed away.

Recognition of Guests/Staff Members:

Chairperson Larry Lanclos welcomes the guests in attendance: Barbara Gauthier with Scott Area Team Sports (SATS); Jennifer Landry with Voice of The Experience (VOTE); Dr. Samika Miner with VOTE; and, Rachel Henry with Clearport Learning Center.

Correspondence/Announcements:

None

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

Monthly reports for April and May 2025 had been emailed. Judy Placer motions to accept the monthly reports; seconded by Johnafort Bernard; 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 thanks everyone for reaching out to him during the recent unexpected loss of his mother. He appreciates all the well wishes and prayers.

Tim advises that the vacancies in the department are in the process of getting filled. Michael Manceaux has been promoted from Maintenance Supervisor to Parks Maintenance Supervisor and Gerald Jones will be promoted to Maintenance Supervisor. Tim adds that he is in the process of reviewing the applications for the new Parks and Recreational Maintenance Manager.

Tim advises that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Ernest Nabers Recreational Complex took place this past Saturday, June 7th. Mr. Nabers' great grandson, Malik Nabers was in attendance and also held a football camp at Clark Field. Judy adds that she attended the ribbon cutting ceremony and it was very nice; however, the sign is smaller than expected and Senator Boudreaux advised that he will be looking to get a bigger sign.

Tim advises that the Martin Luther King (MLK) pool opened last week and the Girard Pool was scheduled to open today; however, due to equipment issues, the tentative opening date is now June 23rd. Harold suggests that the Girard Pool be shocked while waiting for the equipment to come in. Discussion follows.

Tim advises that the ordinance reorganizing the department was adopted and there will now be an Athletics Program Manager and a Parks and Recreational Maintenance Manager. The ordinance establishing the rental rates at Brown Park was also adopted. The rental rates will be \$35/hour per field and \$250/day per field. The fee to rent the batting cages is \$15 per hour and there is a cleanup fee of \$75. The clean up fee for tournaments will be different and is still being worked out. Larry asks for details on the process to rent the fields or batting cages. Tim explains that rentals can be secured by calling our offices. The process is underway to add field rentals to the Civic Rec software and that will allow the public to rent the fields online.

Tim advises that the baseball/softball regular season has ended and the post season is underway. Ms. Gauthier adds that Scott Park will be hosting the Pony Zone tournament in July.

Tim advises that the budget season is underway and things seem to be going well. Councilman Kenneth Boudreaux is recommending additional staffing for the PARC Department. Tim adds that in order to provide the community with a high-quality product, the staffing needs to be in place.

Johnafort asks Tim to provide details on the contract with Bon Temps Grill to run the concessions at Brown Park. Tim explains that the request went out for bid and Bon Temps Grill was awarded the contract. Johnafort asks if they have exclusive rights to the concession stand. Tim confirms that they do. They will be purchasing all of the equipment to go inside of the concession stand and they also won the bid for the concessions at Moore Park. Johnafort advises that he never heard about the bid and is shocked to hear that they are the only ones that can sell concessions at Brown Park. Tim explains that the bid was advertised to the public and only two companies responded, Bon Temps Grill and Twisted Nutrition. Many town meetings were held with the community and Councilman Elroy Broussard was aware of the process. Harold adds that public bids are advertised at City Hall. Judy asks if the Brown Park Association will be allowed to sell concessions for the basketball season. Tim confirms that they will. The basketball games are held at the Dupuis Recreation Center and the contract with Bon Temps Grill is only for Brown Park. Tim adds that the Brown Park Association will not have to pay the rental fee to host tournaments at Brown Park. He is also willing to work with the association to secure sponsorships at Brown Park to generate revenue. Harold asks if the equipment that will be installed by Bon Temps Grill in the concession stand at Brown Park will become the property of LCG once the contract is up in seven years. Tim confirms that all equipment will be the property of LCG.

Divisional Presentations

Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course – Christopher Arceneaux

Chris advises that golf has been pretty good with the summer weather. The course received five days of rain during the month of May; however, the revenue numbers have increased from last year. He hosted a special event last week where he took kids fishing in Duson. He will also be hosting a day with the summer camp participants at the golf course, Clark Field and Fischer Field. Chris adds that he enjoys working with the kids and introducing them to golf. Tim advises that the new Golf Course Superintendent will be starting soon.

Les Vieux Chenes – Todd Robertson

Todd advises that May was a bit of a weird month. It started out with the high school state championship and it was a great event. Two events during the month of May were rescheduled due to the rain. Revenue was down about \$5,000 from last year. The golf course is in great shape and the student summer special

kicked off in May. The cost is \$150 for middle school and high school students to play at all three golf courses during the months of June, July and August. Chris adds that this is a great program, as it allows the kids to play golf all day.

The Wetlands Golf Course – David Gary

David advises that May was a good month, even with 17.65 inches of rain, compared to the average of 4.78 inches of rain. There are a lot of new comers on the golf course and golf seems to be on a high. The staff communicates well with the new golfers and is available to help them with anything they need. David advises that the Lafayette Sheriff's Junior Golf Clinic is coming up on June 16-18. The clinic is free of charge and is held from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. The average number of participants is around 80 kids. David adds that the golf course is in great condition and he is looking forward to the new golf course equipment that will help maintain the course in the way the public expects it to be maintained. The month of May was one of the best months since the 19 years that the golf course has been in existence. Patti asks what ages are allowed in the junior clinic. David explains that the age range is from six years old to sixteen years old and they are split up into groups. Harold asks for an update on hole #1. Tim advises that they met with the developer, Spencer Hoyt, and he is aware that everything they build will have to be rated to handle the "slice" and "hook" from the golf course. The cost to install the netting by the driving range will be around \$1 million.

Tim advises that a policy has been adopted that will allow for the leasing of golf course equipment. There will be an option to buy the equipment for \$1 after 48 months. This will allow the golf courses to replace the old equipment. David adds that the current equipment is run down and new equipment is needed to maintain the golf course. Todd advises that the leasing price also includes the upkeep and maintenance. This will help tremendously, as they have not been able to fill the Small Equipment Mechanic position at The Wetlands or at Les Vieux Chenes. Discussion follows.

Capital Projects – Tim Sensley

Judy asks for an update on the Thomas Park Tennis Courts project. Tim advises that the bid came back at over \$600,000. They resubmitted the project for bid with modified specifications and should have those bids back within the next few weeks.

Tim advises that the Picard Park project is underway; however, the concrete cannot be poured until the clay dries up. The Comeaux Recreation Center Water Intrusion project has been submitted for bid. A resiliency grant of \$1.4 million has been received to make the MLK Center a resiliency hub. The Heymann Amphitheater project should be submitted for bid soon and the Moore Park ribbon cutting ceremony should be held sometime next month.

Johnafort asks for an update on the Park Rangers. Tim advises that they have been included in the upcoming budget under the Lafayette Marshal's office. The details are being worked out regarding their working hours and responsibilities within the PARC Department.

Johanfort asks how the passageway at Heymann Park will be safeguarded. Tim advises that the passageway has not been included in the initial phase.

Patti asks for an update on the Thomas Skate Park. Tim advises that everything seems to be going well. There was one incident reported; however, Risk Management denied the claim.

Centers and Programs – Alena Fields

Alena advises that the Malik Nabers camp was a great success. It was great to see the kids' reaction to having Malik on the field. She also enjoyed seeing the legacy passed on from Mr. Ernest Nabers.

Alena advises that today was the first day of the LCG led summer camp at the Girard Recreation Center. The MLK Center summer camp is hosted by the Foster Grandparents organization and other community partners. New Hope Outreach is also hosting a summer camp at the J. Carlton James Center. The number of actual attendees this morning were 93 kids at Girard and 52 kids at MLK. Alena adds that the cost for the Girard camp is \$125 for six weeks of summer camp. Judy asks if the therapeutic recreation camp, "Camp We Can Do" is being held. Alena advises that it is not due to lack of funding.

Alena advises that a new spin class is being offered at the Dupuis Recreation Center. It seems to be very popular with 50 people attending. Judy asks if chair aerobics is offered at any of the recreation centers. Alena advises that it is offered at both senior centers.

John asks for an update on the MLK pool, specifically on how many people have keys for the pool. Alena advises that keys were given to Ms. Jennifer Simms, the lifeguards and the recreation coordinator at the MLK Center. Judy asks for an update on the hiring of lifeguards. Alena explains that the swimming program is now under her and she has three lifeguards on staff. She is aggressively working to hire more lifeguards. Tim advises that there is a big problem with people jumping the fence at the MLK pool. He is working with the Marshal's office to come up with a solution. Discussion follows.

Patti asks if any state funding has ever been received for the parks. She saw that Moncus Park recently received \$1.2 in state funding. They are a non-profit and should not be receiving state funding. Harold suggests that the commissioners reach out to the state legislators to advocate for funding. Patti adds that the public private partnerships are receiving state funding; however, the public is providing most of the funds. Discussion follows.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Landry and Dr. Samiker Miner with Voice of the Experience introduce themselves. They advise that they host their monthly meeting at the MLK Center. Ms. Raquel Henry, with the Clearport Learning Center, introduces herself. She advises that the Clearport Learning Center is an afterschool program that specifically services teenagers. They are located by the Northgate Mall and she is looking to partner with the Parks and Recreation Department. Discussion follows.

Committee Reports:

None.

Old Business:

Tim advises that he attended the Louisiana Recreation and Parks (LRPA) Day at the Capitol this past Tuesday. He had the opportunity to fellowship with Senator Gerald Boudreaux, Representative Troy Hebert and Representative Tehmi Chaisson. He also networked with other park departments across the state. Tim advises that this year is the 80th anniversary of the LRPA and the annual conference will be held in Baton Rouge in November.

New Business:

None.

Next Meeting – August 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Harold Porter motions to adjourn, seconded by Johnafort Bernard; no opposition; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.