

*City/Parish Recreation Advisory Commission
October 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes*

Attendance:

Commission:

Larry Lanclos	Judy Placer	Harold Porter	Kristopher Harrison
Joseph Tidwell	Patti Carter	Thaddeus Shelvin	

Staff:

<i>ms</i> Timothy Sensley	Todd Robertson	David Gary	Joseph Walker
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 guest in attendance: Barbara Gauthier with Scott Area Team Sports (SATS).

Correspondence/Announcements:

None.

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

Monthly reports for August and September 2024 had been emailed. Judy Placer motions to accept the monthly reports for August and September 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 LCG Budget was passed without any major changes. The pay rate increases will go into effect on November 1, 2024.

Tim advises that the Brown and Moore Park projects are moving along. Both projects will be complete before the end of year. The Thomas Skate Park is almost complete; the installation of cameras and lighting is ongoing and there is some additional concrete work left to be done. The Picard Park project will be going out to bid in the upcoming weeks. Judy asks for details on the Picard Park project. Tim explains that a dog park is being constructed, pickleball courts will be built and renovations will be made to the concession and bathroom facilities. Larry asks if the pickleball courts will be lighted. Tim advises that the plan is to install lighting on the courts. Judy asks about the sand being stored at Picard Park. Ross explains that the sand was put there by the Public Works Department and is for constituents to fill sandbags.

Tim advises that he and Ross met with Chase Architects to finalize the materials and design for the MLK Pool Enclosure project. They also met with the Lafayette Police Department and the Lafayette Marshall's Office regarding the transition process for the Park Police.

Tim advises that Festival Acadiens will be held in Girard Park this coming weekend. A National Night Out was held at the Martin Luther King (MLK) Center on October 1st and it was a great success. The community involvement with the law enforcement was great. Tim adds that he attended a 911 flag raising at Parc Sans Souci this morning. The event was not able to take place on September 11th as scheduled, due to the possibility of a potential hurricane. The existing flag was replaced with a new flag after 23 years.

Tim advises that he is working on installing cameras at the golf courses. This will hopefully deter any future break-ins.

Tim reminds every one of the Louisiana Recreation and Parks Association Conference that will be held in November. He asks the commissioners to email Nourine and let her know if they plan to attend any of the events. A social will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn on November 19th at 6:00 p.m. On November 20th, a social event will be held at Rock-N-Bowl. He will need a headcount for any of those attending the banquet at the Cajundome Convention Center on November 21st. Larry asks Tim to confirm all of the details through a follow up email tomorrow. Discussion follows.

Tim advises that the Dupuis Recreation Center was used as a shelter during the recent inclement weather. The Lafayette Police Department will be hosting their annual Trunk or Treat event at Girard Park on October 31st. The Mayor-President is scheduled to speak to the entire staff of the PARC department on Friday, November 22nd. Tim adds that she is meeting individually with each LCG Department.

Tim advises that the Youth Neighborhood Association/Commission Christmas Social will be held on December 9th. Judy suggests that a planning committee be formed. Larry advises that he will send out an email tomorrow requesting volunteers to serve on the committee.

Larry asks if security cameras will be installed at Moore Park. Tim confirms that they will be installed at both Brown and Moore Parks.

Divisional Presentations

Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course – Joseph Walker

Joseph advises that he is filling in for Chris Arceneaux who is out on vacation. He reviews the monthly report as submitted. The course was closed for six days during September due to the rain and the hurricane. The greens are looking great due to the recent work done on them. Judy asks about the upcoming fundraiser that includes tennis and pickleball. Joseph explains that the event will be held on October 19th and will be a fundraiser for the Council on Aging. The tennis and pickleball will be played at Beaver Park and the golf will be played at Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course. Judy asks if sponsors are required. Tim explains that sponsors are not required; he will forward the specific information to the commission. Discussion follows.

Les Vieux Chenes – Todd Robertson

Todd advises that the golf course was closed for seven days in September due to the hurricane and rain at the beginning of the month. This contributed to the decrease in revenues in comparison to last year. Also, play is decreased due to hunting and football season. The Southside Baseball Fundraiser Golf Tournament was held on September 28th and kicked off the fall tournament season. Judy asks if the drainage at LVC has been addressed. Todd explains that he has not met with Public Works yet. The State of Louisiana may also need to be contacted since Ambassador Caffery is a state road.

The Wetlands Golf Course – David Gary

David advises that the course was closed for only one day due to the hurricane. The drainage at The Wetlands is pretty good. The revenue numbers are down a bit due to the rescheduling of some golf

tournaments. The greens will be over seeded on October 15th in preparation for the winter. The golf tournament season has kicked off and the course will be busy with a full tournament schedule. The staffing shortage is still a concern; hopefully, the pay rate increase may help some. David advises that there was a recent break in at the golf course. The cart barn was broken into and 14 carts were damaged. Patti asks if a camera or alarm system will help to deter break ins. David explains that this is the first time this has happened in 19 years. The clubhouse has been broken into before; however, the cart barn has never been broken into. Tim adds that the cameras will be linked to the Lafayette Police Department. Judy asks if any break ins have happened at the other two golf courses. Tim advises that a lawn mower was stolen from Jay & Lionel Hebert a few years ago. Discussion follows.

Athletic Programs/Parks Maintenance – Ross Gresham

Ross advises that the maintenance division has been busy with a lot of park upgrades. There has been a lot of work done on the ponds and new turf was installed on the playground at Girard Park. The staff has been busy prepping the park for Festival Acadiens this weekend. Things are going well in athletics with volleyball and football. Ross advises that new exhaust fans will be installed at the Earl J Chris Pool and the leak has been repaired at the MLK pool. Ross adds that the pool at Girard is under evaluation to see what it will take to get it up and running. The Beaver Park Tennis facility has received some upgrades as well. Judy shares that she was recently at Veterans Park and the lake looks very nice and the grass is well kept up. Thaddeus asks for an update on the basketball season. Ross advises that he has a conference call set up with the Pelicans this Thursday and will have more information thereafter. Larry asks for an update on Brown Park Athletics. Ross explains that they did not participate in any fall sports; however, they are planning on participating in the basketball season.

Centers and Programs – Alena Fields

Alena advises that the entryway flooring project at Heymann has been completed and the interior painting project is now underway. The carpet in the offices at Girard is on the schedule to be replaced as well as the racquetball flooring at Thomas. The senior centers have ramped up their programming and the feedback has been positive from the seniors. The National Night Out with the LPD on October 1st was a great success. Alena advises that she is working on getting the ceramic class back at the MLK Center. She is working with Parish Proud to get the new fence at the Greenhouse painted. Parish Proud has also adopted the Domingue Recreation Center as their 2025 project. She still has a need for additional temporary staffing and will be able to add more in the new fiscal year. Alena adds that she is working on streamlining internal rental processes and tightening up the policies. She is also working with the Communications Department to share information and partner with other departments. As the new pay rate increases take effect, she is rolling out a new scoring system for her staff. Alena advises that her staff also provided support at the Dupuis Center shelter during Hurricane Francine. Patti asks if the pay rate increase has generated an increase in applicants. Alena explains that she has seen a little increase and people seem to be a little more interested. Joseph advises that the scoring system is a great idea. He is hopeful that it will be successful and will make her job easier. Joseph adds that if the “A” players within her staff are reinforced, the others will fall in line. Alena advises that the plan is to have a clear structure in place and create “less” subjective measures. Judy adds that people like to be appreciated and it does not take much to show appreciation. Discussion follows.

Committee Reports:

Larry advises that the Programs Committee Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2024, are included in the binders tonight. He asks Judy to provide an update. Judy advises that Ms. Jo Charles was recognized at the committee meeting. It is good to give recognition to someone that has touched so many people. Judy adds that she would like to do more to highlight people that serve. Alena advises that the Greenhouse participants were so excited for Ms. Charles and they provided breakfast the next morning for her. Judy adds that she is glad to see the projects getting done and she hopes to see more improvements in the city this time next year. Judy suggests that the commissioners be provided with a list of the park facilities within

their districts. She would like to see them drive around and provide feedback to the staff. Thaddeus advises that he tries to do that before each commission meeting and he also tries to stay engaged with the community within his district.

Old Business:

Patti asks if the golf courses still offer the twilight specials. David confirms that they do and it is a discounted rate that kicks in at 3:00 p.m. each day. There is also a special at noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Joseph asks for an update on Picard Park. He was there recently and saw that the dirt had been moved. Tim explains that the Picard Park upgrade project will be going out to bid soon and should be underway by the beginning of 2025. Judy asks if parish funds will be utilized for the project. Tim confirms that parish funds will be used.

Joseph asks for an update on the BMX park, as the materials are still located at Picard Park. Tim advises that the project has been moved to Scott. Ross adds that the BMX track in Scott is scheduled to begin construction within the first quarter of 2025.

Judy asks if there is anyway the money generated from the department could stay within the department. Tim advises that it is not likely; the revenues and expenses all go through the LCG General Fund

New Business:

Larry advises that the Finance Committee Meeting scheduled on November 11th will have to be rescheduled. Once a new date is set, an email will be sent out.

Next Commission Meeting/Christmas Social: December 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Judy Placer motions to adjourn, seconded by Thaddeus Shelvin; no opposition; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.