

Minutes of the Fairhope Recreation Board

The Fairhope Recreation Board met on Wednesday, August 18, 2021 at 5:15 p.m. in the Rec Center at 803 North Greeno Road.

Present: Bob Keyser, Charlie Langham, Jack Burrell, Cathy Hudson, Corey Martin, Charlie Williamson, Derek Thomas. Absent: Vann Saltz and Michelle Smith. Pat White took minutes. Guest: Gary Gover

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Williamson at 5:15 p.m. The minutes of the July 21, 2021 meeting were considered and approved on a motion by Bob Keyser, seconded by Charlie Langham, none opposed.

Recreation Updates:

Pat White informed the board that the brick work for ADA seating is still in progress, public works is installing the hand railings. He added that the poles/concrete for the jumbotron have been set. The jumbotron and scoreboard will be ready by Wednesday and training will begin soon. Improvements have been made at Founders for girls' softball, club soccer is underway, youth football – in the process of getting quotes for a new roof, siding repairs, stairwells, and new pavilions that were destroyed by hurricane Sally. There was general discussion among the board regarding parking for the football games.

The Recreation Board went into executive session from 5:32 p.m. to 5:55 p.m.

Bob Keyser moved to recommend to the City Council the appointment of Haden Giddings to the Recreation Board. 2nd by Derek Thomas, motion passed unanimously. Giddings term shall end in September of 2024.

Bob Keyser moved to recommend to the City Council the appointment of Maurice Morrisette to the Recreation Board. 2nd by Derek Thomas, motion passed unanimously. Morrisette's term shall end in September of 2025.

New Business:

Charlie Williamson suggested that for future meetings, if a guest has a presentation allow them 3 minutes to present to the board and request to be added to the agenda prior to the meeting. The board agreed to his suggestion.

Bob Keyser stated that he will send the 5-year plan to the board, so everyone can review before the next meeting.

Corey Martin informed the board that he has been contacted by parents inquiring about gently used athletic equipment for children in need. He stated that he is glad to help oversee a sports closet that could be a drop off for gently used equipment for children in the community that want to play sports, but unable to due to the financial burden associated with playing sports. He suggested a collection box at the Rec Center and using neighborhood bridges to inform the community of this specific need.

Derek Thomas moved to recommend to the City Council to create a space at the Fairhope Recreation Center for gently used and new sports equipment for charity. Also, the board requested the City use Neighborhood Bridges to help promote the need within the community, 2nd by Bob Keyser, motion passed unanimously.

Charlie Williamson informed the board that he had Sports Advisory look at the Rec property and make suggestions about what could be done. Charlie provided everyone a copy and asked that each member review prior to the next meeting.

Old Business:

There was general discussion regarding the 115 acres purchased by the City for future recreation needs and sports tourism in Fairhope.

Jack Burrell informed the board that the recent recommendation to the city council for approval of charging \$1,000 per game to St. Michael Catholic High School to use the jumbotron video board in the stadium, was not added to the agenda because they let the City use Barnwell for football and they will only use the field one more season.

Jack stated that Corey will join him in meeting with the City attorney to discuss the field use agreement and is hopeful it will be on the next City Council agenda for approval.

Bob Keyser moved to recommend to the City Council that the following changes to the City of Fairhope Code of Ordinances, Division 6 – Recreation Board: Sec. 2 -133- Board of Advisors:

- (a) Delete “director of community affairs and recreation” as ex-officio member of the board. Delete “All recreation league presidents will also be considered ex-officio members of the board.”

Rationale: Community Affairs and Recreation have been separated into two positions. The Director of Parks and Recreation remains an ex-officio member. There is no need for the Director of Community Affairs to be a member, nor have they participated in board activities and meetings in over 4 years since the positions were separated. Recreation league presidents have not participated in board activities and meetings except when issues involving their sport are considered. None have ever voted, nor have they participated in general discussions or discussions regarding other sports programs. All recreation league presidents are welcome at all Recreation Board meetings and may participate in discussion and debate. Voting rights associated with being ex-officio members are not believed to be proper or prudent.

and 2nd by Derek Thomas, motion passed unanimously.

Guest: Gary Gover asked if the Rec Board had a land use plan in place to go along with the Rec Board’s 5-year plan regarding the City’s Comp Plan. Bob Keyser stated that the Rec Board is only involved in City owned recreation property.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m.