

Minutes of the Fairhope Recreation Board

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

Present: Charlie Langham, Charlie Williamson, Lisa Atchley, Corey Martin, Derek Thomas, Pat White, Maurice Morrisette and Cathy Hudson. Absent: Bob Keyser, Haden Giddings, Jack Burrell and Vann Saltz. Gayle Fogarty took minutes. Guests: Fred Riley, Susan Riley and Gary Gover

The meeting was called to order by Charlie Williamson at 5:15 p.m. The minutes of the November 17, 2021, meeting were considered and approved on a motion by Corey Martin, seconded by Maurice Morrisette, none opposed.

Storm Update: Fred Riley provided an update to the Rec Board regarding the Storm team, he stated that the team is a ministry/football franchise and is about impacting young men to be better men, husbands, fathers and future community leaders. He added that 2022 will be their fourth season and they currently have 70 working members. Members include players, dance team members, trainers, coaches, etc. Fred said, they have raised nearly \$60,000 through corporate partnerships since the non-profit franchise began and have zero debt. The Storm has been approached by a professional league for consideration in the 2023 season. They have 3,000 Social Media followers, and the games have been viewed by 5,000 people on YouTube. Through the Storm's corporate partners, four players have been hired and gotten jobs. The team has been adopted by 3 Circle Church and is now part of their ministry. This announcement will be made public in January 2022.

New Business:

Charlie Williamson introduced new Rec Board member, Lisa Atchley. He stated that Lisa is filling the open seat/unfinished term for Michelle Smith.

Recreation Updates:

Pat White informed the Rec Board that the Recreation department has been working on the new baseball fields, and irrigation will be going in next week. He stated that he will work with other City supervisors to get bid packets ready for site work on the parking lot, restrooms and for the backstops to be built.

He added that he felt the Christmas movie event in the stadium, held on December 5, was an overall huge success. He has received positive feedback from the Fairhope High School football coach and others that attended.

He shared that he believes the City is moving towards taking over youth recreation leagues. He stated that the recreation software will go live in the next few days. There was general discussion among the board members regarding the leagues and how the software will be used.

Cathy Hudson stated that the Fairhope High School swim team had the best state meet ever in Auburn, AL recently. She stated that FHS student/swim team member Lena Amare placed in two races at the meet. Lena placed in the 200 and 100 freestyle event. Cathy added that the boys placed 4th overall and girls placed 7th overall. Cathy praised Coach Rich for training the kids in the City pool, and thanked the City for allowing this swim coaching/training possible for Fairhope kids.

Charlie Williamson inquired about the restrooms at Founder's. Pat White stated that he will get with Public Works tomorrow about the bid and report back to the Rec Board.

There was general discussion regarding the Recreation feasibility study that has been discussed at previous Rec Board meetings.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.