

**COMMUNITY CENTER AND PLAYGROUND
DISTRICT #4 WARD #1
MEETING Monday, April 12th, 2021**

Meeting was called to order by David Nixon at 6:00pm.

Board Members in attendance: David Nixon, Bill Willis, Connie Hoffpauir, Johnathan Simien, and Billy Wilcox

In attendance: Richard Dow, Ashton Richard-District 1 Police Juror, Mike Smith-District 2 Police Juror

Prayer/Pledge: Prayer led by Bill Willis; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by board members.

Visiting Guest Agenda Items: No guests comments

Previous Meeting Minutes: *Connie made a motion to approve the minutes from March 15th, 2021 as written. Second by Bill. All in favor; board minutes accepted.*

Police Jurors Comments: No comments at this time.

Treasurers Report: Board Members were presented with a copy of report. Capital funds are currently at \$3.19 Million, Community funds at \$2.85 Million, with Senior Center funds \$877,422. David asked if the utility bill problems were up to date. Richard stated that the Beauregard Electric bill still was being worked through Parish finance to become completely up to date. Richard said there have been several role changes in the Parish finance department and that he is still working with the new payments designee to work out any problems BECI might be having at this time. Billy questioned if the security hardware at the soccer complex had been damaged during the ice storm. Richard stated that the equipment that had just been purchased did not need replacing and was working correctly. Richard said that they were attempting to find ways to get internet to the soccer complex so that the equipment could be monitored from the main office so that the equipment worked the way it was originally intended. After some discussion regarding invoices from Sylvan and other vendors, report was finalized.

Committee Reports:

Park: Richard told the board that the garbage hopper discussed at the March meeting had been purchased after review of the safety specification and concerns the board had expressed. The hopper is built to dump hands free and works as expected. M&M Lawn had to come and replace a head on the unit that controls irrigation. There is a major leak somewhere in front of Concession Stand #2 on the west side of the complex. That is still being investigated. Leak appears to be coming from somewhere behind the Field 8 backstop. There are no up to date schematics of the water lines in the park which is making the leak hard to locate. The water on the west side of the complex is turned off at this time. The rented Bobcat was returned to avoid having to pay an additional month. The tractor is the main equipment being used for debris removal. LA Scrap continues to remove metal items as needed. Richard had conversations with one of the project managers from Crowder, the company that is contracted to remove debris throughout the Parish. They are scheduled within the next week to make their final sweep Parish wide and should be by the complex to pick up debris that is currently at the entrance. David questioned whether Crowder would come inside the facility. Richard stated no,

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that it had to be outside the fence line on the side of the road. The Soccer parking lot has been repaired by Crowder. There were items such as parking barriers and other vegetative and general debris that had to be removed. Bill said he felt once those items were attended to and fencing placed around maintenance building and sewer treatment plant that Soccer should be able to open back up. Richard said he had bids sent out for numerous items that needed work but because the RFQ's did not have the FEMA grant language, and because not enough acceptable bids were returned, the process would have to be re-started. FEMA requires a minimum of three acceptable bids before work can continue. Richard is creating Soccer fencing as its own project which should expediate the time frame to complete. Richard did say that fencing at the main complex was most likely a huge job that would need engineering and advertised bids because of the damage and amount needing repair. Bill questioned why it would need to be engineered. Richard said because of the huge amount of damage. With the cost being what it will be to repair, Richard feels an engineer could tighten things up and make the park look better. David backed up Richard's comment, saying that after taking a tour with Richard earlier in the day, his belief was that fencing was at an 80-90% loss. Probably the best field is Field 11 which received the least amount of damage to the hurricanes. Corner poles behind the backstops at most other fields will have to be replaced. If that much work needs to be done, David asked why not take the time to get an engineer to reset some of the pole placement and ways the fields tie together to make the park better, maybe with netting instead of chain link. Fields 1 and 2 that just received rock wall backstops already need to be replaced. Probably 75% because of hurricanes and 25% because of poor design. While the original thought process was to just repair, it is apparent the job is much bigger. Bill asked if FEMA money was going to cover engineer fees. David felt that following the state sliding scale like we would have to with the lighting project would still fall under FEMA reimbursement. Richard said there had been discussion regarding the thought process of separating the park in two to get the projects done faster. David had concerns that we would be losing value in volume, whether it was work or materials. Bill asked if there was any opportunity of tying both the lighting and fencing projects together. David said that might be a good possibility. David said regarding lighting, he had discussions with three other firms. Livingston, Polaris, and a gentleman now with Hargrove. His feeling were that we would need to send bid packages out to those three as well as the M&E Group out of Lafayette. Given what the response has been lately we would probably need a fifth as well. The biggest items scope wise that need to be replaced are fencing, canopies and lighting. There is concern that from an engineering and design concept finding just one engineer to properly be able to fit all three for the best case financially may be very hard to find. David admitted that if things go time wise like they should it is conceivable that the park would be open to be host baseball in 2022. While it has been discussed in previous meetings, David felt now was time to talk strategically about moving youth Football to the soccer complex. David feels that this is a cost neutral move considering that football must be rebuilt after the hurricanes anyway. When the soccer fields were built, the fields to the south portion of the complex had been earmarked for hosting football. If the money must be spent anyway to replace canopies, bleachers, and lighting, just replace those things now at the soccer complex. David admitted that there had been discussion as recent as last year to move football that received resistance, but the feeling amongst the board was that had more to do with concessions than locations and that things meeting the resistance could be worked out. Bill expressed his thoughts regarding the

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need for younger football age groups needing to play on a 100-yard field and asked it to be considered that football looked at like youth baseball in that the field was apportionment to the age group playing. David added that a decision should be made soon so that Richard could assign bid projects accordingly and get the biggest bang for buck rather than replace items that may or may not be needed in the future (ex. Fencing at current football facility). Connie asked if there was room to put up to two football fields and would like to see some dimensions mapped out. Bill agreed so that football and their parents could be presented with the positives before a final decision could be made.

Richard stated that once he got the okay from FEMA, he felt that getting RFQ's out would be a quick task, and that from this time on while dealing with FEMA he will be making sure that no less than three bids would be returned as to not have the delays that were witnessed over the last month. The only fencing RFQ that will be searched out at this time will be to replace damage at the soccer complex while the fencing at the main complex will take a much bigger effort. Billy asked about getting the front gate to the soccer complex adjusted. Richard did say that we were extremely close to being able to open up soccer. David asked that Richard reach out to Join Miguez with MBLL to let him know there were availabilities there to practice. Connie asked where we were about asking for additional insurance coverages. Richard said that this week he did finally receive information on the adjuster's report for the main complex and that while he had not talked to anyone that process could begin.

Office: No new office news.

Senior Center: Richard mentioned that Mary Jane would eventually like to see a fence built on the south side of the building as there is a problem with cars and trucks leaving Kjun Boo's restaurant next door and rutting up the grassy area between properties because they do not want to have to make a turnaround on the one-way area of 171 to go back south.

Richard stated that while the Senior Center was not yet opened, there were tentative plans to have a major event including Bingo and outdoor car show on May 13th, but only if State Government and CCOA guidelines allowed. Connie questioned if the construction project would interfere. Richard said the parking lot project should be completed by May 5th to allow such an event. Concrete still needs to be poured and light fixtures replaced and striping the parking lot.

Old Business:

L-15 Drainage Project: Richard stated that the Parish drainage personnel had made a few trips to the site in preparation, and that material and debris had been removed to allow them to begin when they desired. Things have not begun yet. There is still discussion regarding the potential electrical line that the Parish and BECI still needed to be worked out. The projected start date is still the end of April.

Senior Center Parking Lot Phase III: The parking lot project has begun but going very slowly. Richard felt there had been some wasted days. Crews were to have begun pouring concrete but that was not happening yet because of the wet weather we've had.

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Bill questioned if smaller rock drive on the north side of the building was on the scope to be paved. Richard did not believe it was and Bill's biggest concern was the large potholes there. The issue about paving was that not all the drive is on what is considered Senior Center property. Bill addressed the board regarding a change order for the parking lot project that was needed after it was discovered that material dirt used to build cement on top of was not conducive for construction. A decision at the time was to remove old dirt and bring in dirt per unit. David reiterated that the change order included taking out 18 inches of the topsoil and bringing in 18 inches to replace to give it the right compaction and base it should have. It was 900 yards of excavation and stone base that got brought in. The net \$17,033.60. David felt that it would be a waste of the approximate \$178,000 spent by not having proper construction material base. The question could be asked why this was not done in the preconstruction phase. Bill did ask Cole Thompson if soil testing had been done and it had not. Bill did find out it would have been about an additional \$25,000 to the bid had contractors done a test in preconstruction so it was decided the additional \$17,000 of material actually worked out to be less expensive. Bill did express his disappointment to Cole Thompson that it was not done in this type of project. Bill asked if this would change the expected timeline of project completion and David stated that it changed the timeline by zero (0) days. Richard mentioned that the time was of the essence to make decision due to the amount of rain expected shortly after the dirt was hauled in.

David made the motion to accept the change order from Pat Williams Construction of \$17,033.60 to replace the base. Bill second. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Hurricanes Laura and Delta: Richard continues to work with the FEMA and assigned Sulzer Group based in New Orleans on ratifying damage assessments for futures reimbursement from FEMA. The Sulzer Group adjuster continues to come to the parks to create a final report for FEMA. Richard had discussed in previous meetings that FEMA was supposed to bring in their own adjuster, but it now believed that the Sulzer report will suffice for FEMA which will save time. Bill had concerns that a light pole on the west of the football field was leaning dangerously. Richard said he would get his staff to address it this week. Richard had staff put up red 'Do Not Enter' tape because traffic through the park had been higher since warmer weather has started. The biggest issues is students from the Junior High who are taking advantage of lack of fencing to get to homes to the east of the park.

New Business: No new business.

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Commissioner's Comments: Next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners for the Community Center and Playground District 4 of Ward 1 will be Monday, May 17th 2021, at 6pm

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(Post note: Meeting later moved to Tuesday May 25th, because of conflicts in schedule for both Richard and Board members).

David made a motion to adjourn meeting; second by Billy. All in Favor. Motion passed.
7:08 pm.

Minutes recorded and reported by Richard Dow.