

**COMMUNITY CENTER AND PLAYGROUND
DISTRICT #4 WARD #1
MEETING Monday, August 16th, 2021**

Meeting was called to order by David Nixon at 6:02pm.

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

In attendance: Ashton Richard-Police Juror Ward 1, and Richard Dow

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

Visiting Guest Agenda Items: No visiting guests

Previous Meeting Minutes: *Bill made a motion to approve the minutes from July, 19th 2021 with corrections. Second by Billy. All in favor; board minutes accepted.*

Police Jurors Comments: Ashton Richard was in attendance and said the meeting would cover the items he had come to discuss.

Treasurers Report: Board Members were presented with a copy of report. Capital balance is \$3,700,059.15. Community Center Maintenance fund is \$2,367,502.02. And Senior Center balance is \$797,797.29. David asked if the insurance monies from 2020 were reflected in the Capital balance. Richard confirmed. Bill asked about if any changes could be made to the regularity of cutting grass at the both the main and soccer complexes due to inactivity. Richard said that he has had conversations with M&M who is contracted to cut the grass, and that he was told that they have continued with the original schedule because it takes twice as long anyway to cut if they have not cut the week prior. The Board asked Richard to continue to speak with M&M and see if a different schedule of frequency could be arranged since there was no activity at the main complex. Bill said that we did still have mower equipment and to still see if a different gameplan could be arranged that could be done legally and more cost efficient. Bill also asked about aggregate problems with the Soccer complex as it was adding to the cost to run the complex, stating that the contractor who used the complex during the hurricane cleanup was supposed to return the parking lot to its original condition.

Committee Reports:

Park: Richard reported that plans were underway now that bids were accepted for Hercules Fence to do repair work at the soccer complex. Hollier's roofing is to do the shingle repairs on the bathrooms and concession stands at Main complex. Brossett Architects will begin preliminary work on reconstructing ball fields at Main complex. David asked to make sure Brossett was working toward having a lot completed by March of 2022 so that the fields were usable for baseball/softball. While lighting would also be available in perfect world, at least having fields to play on is a must, especially with the expectation that Westlake fields would not be an option in 2022 because of their own construction issues. Bill asked that conversations be made with Brossett on how to fast track the lighting issues and find out and put it writing that the expectation was to have some fields available in March. Connie suggested asking for weekly email updates just so everyone was on the same page and for accountability. Connie is concerned about

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the electrical. Board expressed that dealing with the old electrical infrastructure is not an option for when new lights are brought in.

Office: Richard reported that Jackie has been out for some time with Covid issues. Bob has also been sick and dealing with Covid issues at home. Richard said that the Louisiana Recreation & Parks Convention was coming November 9th, with a registration deadline of September 9th, and asked about registration and financial preparations. David felt it was a good idea and that it would be a great opportunity for exchanging ideas. Connie mentioned to Richard that she had received news that the Water District had made mention that the District had not yet conducted a necessary back flow test on the facilities and that the water could be turned off if that was not done soon. Richard said he would make calls immediately to get that done.

Senior Center: Sandi continues to put her own touches on the Senior Center. Mitch cleaned out a room that had been used for all books and Sandi is making the room into a room for sewing classes. The Birthday lunch is coming August 24th. Bill asked about power washing the outside of the Senior Center. Richard said it has been on the list of things to do but that staffing, time and weather have made it difficult to get to.

Capital Planning: Richard presented the idea and some paperwork about changing the Senior Center front sign to include a programmable LED sign. The current sign has broken pieces that need repairing and a programmable one would allow the Senior Center to change the wording at their leisure. The Board liked the idea, knowing that the sign eventually would end up costing near the \$10,000 range. Not a top priority now but something to look at. Richard also presented the Board with ideas on a portable concession stand. There were two concession stands destroyed during the hurricanes, and Richard is working with idea with insurance monies and FEMA would help replace the stands with one that could be used at the Soccer Complex and brought to wherever it needed to go. David suggested beginning with the bid process and doing what it takes to obtain it. David then brought up the concept of building a Community Center that could be used as a basketball facility or other area serving venues. David asked that the Board engage the idea through the procurement process with an architect that can come up with costs and plans that would allow the Board to move forward with a project once the Main complex was repaired. Connie suggested that those numbers could be obtained without an architect and by just asking questions of those who have recently built one. The Board fundamentally agreed with the concept and said he would take the lead on obtaining more information. Ashton Richard echoed the comments of the Board and said that a facility to host recreational basketball is one of the most expressed concerns of the community. Connie reminded the Board that a tax renewal is coming soon and that it would be nice to show the community a concrete plan before it came to election. David asked Ashton if there were any available funds or grants available from the Police Jury.

Old Business:

L-15 Drainage Project: There is an excavator and a series of culverts have been delivered to the park. Richard has been told that a Covid outbreak and other issues have come up with the crew from Asphalt Associates, and while there have been things

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delivered, no digging or actual work has taken place. Bill said he has also called and asked what options they have. Ashton said he talked to an inspector and was told they were supposed to bring all the culverts and line them up. Richard said he had been told that they were bringing them in just a few at a time so that they don't get handled as often.

Senior Center Parking Lot Phase III: Richard said that there was just some final paperwork needed to get to Jessen to finalize the job. Richard said that to his knowledge the final items listed to be completed to finalize the project were finished.

Hurricanes Laura and Delta: There has been a FEMA inspector on site a few times trying to catalog damage inventory items so that FEMA can push our projects ahead. Bill asked about paperwork to FEMA regarding the ballpark upgrades. Brossett the architect will now act as project manager for the field fencing and lighting projects.

Soccer and Football Complex Lighting: VSG is assessing the lighting and should be getting back soon. Richard has been in contact with Boss Lighting out of Sulphur who has given estimates on 40' and 60' temporary lights. They will be setting up a demo at the Soccer Complex next week. Connie asked if the two leagues had come up with an agreement on the concession usage this fall. It was reported that was still in the air. Different options have been given to both. There was some open discussion regarding the problems that both leagues appear to be having over the dual use of the concession stand. Connie stated that these were extraordinary times and they needed to work with us this season. She was disappointed that she hadn't seen much of an effort to work together. Making it more difficult is that the debate has bled into social media, with some that are not even involved in either league thinking a separate concession stand should be built, one for each league. David said while that may be a solution down the long run, it was not a reality for this year. Simply, both leagues have been given a complex that they have ample space to use and there is a facility there that can house a concession stand. This season if they can come up with a creative way to do something different, that is between the two leagues. Billy said that baseball/softball makes enough on a given night to pay both umpires and concession workers. If the argument got really bad, the Board could just say they would run the concession stand .

New Business:

Commissioner's Comments: The next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners for the Community Center and Playground District 4 of Ward 1 will be Tuesday, September 21st, 2021, at 6pm. This is one day later than regular due to Board member conflicts on Monday, Sept 20th. Billy Wilcox announced he will be out of town for work for a National Convention until November.

*Billy made a motion to adjourn meeting; second by Connie. All in Favor. Motion passed.
7:06 pm.*

Minutes recorded and reported by Richard Dow.