

**COMMUNITY CENTER AND PLAYGROUND  
DISTRICT #4 WARD #1  
MEETING Monday, November 15th, 2021**

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

**Board Members in attendance:** David Nixon, Bill Willis, and Connie Hoffpauir, and Jonathan Simien

**In attendance:** Ashton Richard-Police Juror Ward 1, Richard Dow, David Brossett-Brossett Architects, Toni Wilcox, Representing Moss Bluff Little League; John Miguez-President, Cody White, Lucas Perere, Teddy Authement, Philip Rider, Brent Manuel, Jeremy Harlow, Amanda Hollier, Eric Foshee, Laura Carpenter, Henry Carpenter III, Wes Bennett, Lori Partin, Kelli Maynor, Max Maynor, Kristie Hogue

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

**Previous Meeting Minutes:** The Board was presented with both September and October minutes. Connie asked that some language be cleaned up from the September minutes regarding questions about football coach background checks. Language corrected. David made the motion to accept the September minutes with the revisions. Seconded by Johnathan. Motion passed unanimously. Connie made the motion to accept October minutes. Seconded by Johnathan. All in favor. Motion Passed

**Police Jurors Comments:** Ashton Richard was in attendance and said he was sure the meeting would cover some of the questions he had and would wait to address when they arose.

**Visiting Guest Agenda Items:** David Brossett was given the floor to discuss his involvement with the plans to improve and fix up the park. Brossett, hired to design and manage the repairs to the main complex, is using the Sulzer group and other damage assessment reports that have been completed to finalize the final plans for park fence and lighting replacement. The previous inspections were made to stay in line for the opportunity to have such projects funded partially by FEMA. Drawings are done and a final meeting with Richard is expected later in the week. Bill and David asked if they could be part of that meeting as well. David asked that once the project goes to bid what the process regarding fencing would be. David Brossett stated it was approximately a 25-to-28-day process with a construction date of being started in mid-January. Bill stated that the Board has expressed to the public that baseball/softball could still potentially start in March and asked Brossett if that plan was still in place. Brossett said that would depend on the contractor from a supply side. The question will not be CAN they do the work but IF they can based on the materials being available. David asked about timing of a contractor doing the job based on FEMA requirements and whether the District was forced to take the low bid if another contractor who may have bid slightly higher could still complete quicker due to staffing and materials availability. Brossett said he eliminates any problems with that by making all material and performance rules of part of the bid and State procurement process. Regarding the lighting phase of the fields project, Brossett is using the Sulzer group damage assessment as well as electrical engineering group M&E out of Lafayette. The engineers are looking how to replace back to original condition prior to Hurricane Laura to quantify

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for reimbursement but at the same time justifying Codes and Standards for FEMA reimbursement. David mentioned that the electrical issue has come up in the meeting with FEMA and they have been told the park would not be repaired to previous condition to the point if it had to be redone at the District expense without FEMA subsidies that so be it. David believes that means we need to go all the way back to the origin of power at the corner pole and work it back to complex. Brossette said that he still needed to contact M&E to see where they are. David asked if awnings and pavilions or phase 3 had begun yet. David said it had not. Foul poles for all fields were discussed and they were supposed to be part of the fencing phase 1 portion of the project. David asked if he was receiving the support he needed from the District and Brossette said things were great. David asked Brossett if there were any material-based supply chain issues with the projects at Ward 3 Recreation that he was working on. Brossett said there were but that the contractor fixed them quickly.

**Treasurers Report:** Board Members were presented with a copy of report. Capital balance is \$3,554,347.97. Community Center Maintenance fund is \$2,306,860.36. And Senior Center balance is \$744,376.32.

**Committee Reports:**

**Park:** Richard said cleanup continues at the main complex. Downed light poles have been cut into 10-foot sections and communication continues to have them removed to an approved site at Jefferson-Davis Parish. The playgrounds are being taken apart since they are in such bad shape. Richard state that they had rented 60-foot lights from Boss Lighting for use at the football field. Richard did not feel it was adequate lighting and had staff create football field on Field 2 of the Soccer/FB Complex so that the current light system could be utilized. This cut down on the cost of renting lights and using fuel for generators. The scoreboard from the football field at the Main Complex was taken down and being utilized at the current football field. VSG Architects could not attend tonight, but David asked now that we had more time could raise the scope to include electrical for future scoreboard and lighting issues. Richard said he did reach out and that Darryl Hicks the electrical engineer was still working on the project. David said that he feels the best option was to redo the power structure from the poles on Bozo Road and supply the necessary power to western side of the complex. Richard said the Southwest Louisiana Homeschool was using the complex and concession stand for home games and practices through the end of February. Sam Houston Girls Soccer has also provided insurance and signed a Facility agreement to use the complex for practices through February 2022. Football is scheduled to be completed with their recreation season by December 2021. Richard said that the necessary part for fixing the backflow preventer at the main complex arrived at Able Plumbing and they were scheduled install on Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. It should be a one-day job.

**Office:** One of the two maintenance workers obtained through the temp company Westaff left to take a new position at the plants. Richard is looking to replace by the start of the new year. The clerical position is still a temporary position. Senior Center and Main office cleaning is currently under contract with the Classy Cleaning service and comes once a week to thoroughly clean bathrooms and mop floors at both buildings. Richard did report that he attended the Louisiana Recreation and Parks annual meeting

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the week before. He said it was a positive experience from a networking angle and that he obtained perspective on just how the rest of the state as dealing with many of the structure and damage issues that facilities are dealing with in our area from the hurricanes. He made connections with the Crowley and Broussard Parks department that have just finished building new complexes. He also stated that pickle ball was becoming increasingly popular and that there may be a need to look creating an opportunity in the future.

**Senior Center:** The Senior Center continues to host big meals, which of late included a Veterans Day meal and the monthly birthday celebration. Bill asked if the District was now able to rent out the facility. Use of the facility had been minimized to just Senior Center activities due to the Covid-19 outbreak. Richard said he had not re-evaluated that scenario as of yet but would look to get rental agreements and pricing structured to do so in the future.

**Capital Planning:** No Capital Planning to discuss tonight.

**Old Business:**

**L-15 Drainage Project:** Richard said that culverts continued to arrive and there is some digging happening. Richard said he had a conversation with the Asphalt Associates supervisor who stated there were still staffing issues delaying the project. Also slowing it down is the difficulty of joining the new system to the construction of the drainage coming from the Junior High School side of the project, including tying in square culverts to the round culverts leading from the school. Ashton added they had sandbags and the need to build a concrete structure to tie the systems together.

**Hurricanes Laura and Delta:** Meetings have decreased but progress continues to be made. Bill expressed to those present at the meeting that the objective was to use as much FEMA funding as possible as to not have to use as much District funds from Capital funding. Richard said it appeared that progress was made to receive funding for the downed concession stands on fields 10 and field 6 of the main complex. David reinforced for those who had not been to previous meetings that the District had been working with FEMA since the beginning of 2021.

**Soccer and Football Complex Lighting:** Most issues were discussed in Park report prior in the meeting.

**New Business:** Those in attendance, mostly baseball parents, began expressing concerns over the slow recovery to the park as a baseball/softball season quickly approaches. Questions were asked if the architect Brossett had contractor in line once the bidding process had begun. David qualified Brossett by making it aware he had just begun completing work with Ward 3 Recreation in Lake Charles, and that Brossett already had contractors in mind before the development started. Another question was asked regarding having materials purchased ahead of time so that it could be guaranteed that there would not be any waiting for when the contractor working on the fencing was selected. David remarked that would be difficult and not along the lines of how things worked with state procurement process. David said the Board would ask

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that question when they met with Brossett later in the week. Bill said that in the past that we were told we could not do that for legal reasons. There at one point was confusion as to the parameters of CCPD4W1, as there was some thought that the Board controlled Power Center, Huber Park, College Oaks and many of the parks in Lake Charles that are run by Ward 3 Recreation. Rumor also is that Westlake fields will be usable in 2022. The bottom-line question by those in attendance, "What has to be done to be able to play this year". David stated the process was begun with Brossett to get fencing done first. It then went to electrical. David said we knew upfront that things had to get fixed in the electrical infrastructure, and that the Board is dedicated to spend Capital Funding to get the Park sufficiently fixed. Also, it has been said at previous meetings that the fencing was the main priority, that teams may be playing day baseball/softball this season. He said while he understood it was not ideal, at least kids would be playing. Temporary fencing may be an option. That may be a prioritization of fields needed whether that is just field 1,2, and 3 to start but that some fields would become available. Comments included that it has been a year plus and that it didn't appear anything had been done to make the park available. Davis reiterated that if people had seen the damage the day after the storm(s), they would know that is not the case. David explained the electrical infrastructure issues, which includes not knowing where the park currently stands. This will help expediate the new lighting system issues. Fencing became a talking point regarding temporary fencing and backstops. Questions arose about whether there was a plan B. Other questions arose about other places to practice. David stated that he foresaw the use of the Soccer/FB complex as far as grass able to practice. Connie wanted to make sure people knew that using the complex also slowed down the construction process and could potentially put projects further behind. Discussion bantered back and forth about possible ways to play and complete a baseball/softball season in 2022. John Miguez said that the season could not start too late as it would affect the ability to play in Little League tournament play. Scheduling is also important as to the registration process. Little League is concerned because they lost over 200 kids by not being able to play in Moss Bluff, and not being able have a season in 2022 would be crippling. While there are a lot of questions, David said time is still needed to see where the process is going and more may not be known until early January. There are multiple coaches on the Board, and while the Board understood the concerns, the Board is doing the best they can. David expressed he was appreciative with groups attendance and welcomed all back to further meeting. There was a question from the audience about making the meetings available for public broadcast and whether there were rules against that. David and Connie reiterated that the meetings were public and that while they did not believe there were rules against it, the Board did not have people to accommodate a broadcast of sorts. But if someone wanted to do it personally there were no rules to stop that. Another question arose if the park would accept volunteers to help do things such as take down fencing and other project. Richard said while that would be helpful, the park still needed to have oversight about what was taken down by FEMA and by the architect as to not mess things up from a Codes and Standards perspective. David said that if we got to the point that we needed to string up temporary fencing and other things that volunteers may be needed if we reach those crossroads.

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**Commissioner's Comments:** The next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners for the Community Center and Playground District 4 of Ward 1 would normally fall on Monday December 20<sup>th</sup>, but was changed to Monday December 13, 2021 to potentially speed up the bid process for fencing and to not conflict with Christmas holiday.

*Connie made a motion to adjourn meeting; second by Jonathan. All in Favor. Motion passed. 7:26 pm.*

Minutes recorded and reported by Richard Dow.