

**COMMUNITY CENTER AND PLAYGROUND  
DISTRICT #4 WARD #1  
SPECIAL MEETING Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Bill Willis at 5:00pm.

**Board Members in attendance:** Connie Hoffpauir, David Nixon, Bobby Boom and Bill Willis

**Board Members not in attendance:** Theo Chantlin

**In attendance:** David Brossett – Brossett Architect, Leroy Tademy Jr & Emily Burleigh – American Press, John Todd, Jessie Parker, Jason Parker, Meagan Gonzalez, Madison Sommers- MBL, William Wilcox, Mitch Robertson, Mack Rousseau, Terrance Angelo, Joseph Angelo, Colby Callaway- MBL, Lacey Callaway-MBL, Cody White (not physically present at meeting but on laptop), Derek Goss-MBL, Charles Armentor, Mark Becton, Bill Sommers, Richard Smith-MBL, Brian Bourgeois, Meredith Anthony, Jake Anthony, Blake Landry, Kelsey Hartman, John Migiez, Savannah Aucoin, A. Justin Fontenot, Brittany Donovan, Josh Donovan, Broe Corbello, Kevin O'Rourke, Cedy Andrus, Garrett Guidry, Brandon Vidrine, Denny Ardoin, Dustin Rayon, Dewayne Dailey, Bryan Hebert, Brandon Dartez, Amanda Hollier- MBL, Kaitlyn Courville, Cortney Cowley, Bubba Viator, Nicole Viator, Hayleigh Snell, Don Manuel, Eddie LeDoux, Korey Salmen, Kristen Salmen, Toni Wilcox and Richard Dow

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

**New Business:**

**Discuss the use of the baseball & softball complex and safety concerns:** The Board was given a copy of the email from Cody White, President of Moss Bluff Little League that was received on Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:24pm. The email listed approximately eight areas of safety concerns along with twenty-five photos. David asked for an update on the Musco Lighting System. Richard stated Willis Electric and Trahan Construction have been at the Park working on some of the issues. We were given light keys today to the control boxes for the lights. David asked for the status on the Dugout Project. Richard stated we are working with the Architect to schedule a walk-thru to discuss the issues and concerns with the Dugouts. Bill spoke with Brossett about the dugout project. They are waiting for the rest of the benches to come in. Bill expressed his concerns about structural safety concerns with the dugouts. Bill stated he will be speaking with the Architect about the dugout concerns. David explained since the hurricane the District has done approximately 4 million in repairs. The District consists of the main complex, soccer complex, and the senior center. The District has received less than 1.5 million from Insurance. The District has partnered with FEMA. FEMA has extremely strict guidelines to follow, which the District has had to follow for the past two years. The Community asked if there were deadlines set with completion dates for the projects. Bill explained every construction project has a deadline, due to weather, supply chain shortages and other issues that have arisen, the deadlines were extended. Bill stated Moss Bluff League Little Leagues concerns are the following base coverings are in poor shape or missing, holes for the bases have been covered or seem to be missing, the bases are not lined up with home plate/ new backstops, electrical wires are exposed on the fields, holes are present around the field in the playing area, debris is spread throughout the park and should be cleaned/disposed of, multiple areas with

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sharp and rusted pipe protruding from the ground, walkways should be cleaned and free from algae or mud covering the concrete. Richard Smith (MBLL VP Softball) asked why the fields were not touched or kept up with in the last two years. Richard explained that when he took this job in 2021, there was one office and two maintenance employees. Unfortunately, we lost two employees in 2021 due to unforeseen circumstances. In June 2022, we hired one office and two maintenance employees. Smith shared in the past; the league has been allowed to have field workdays to assist in getting the fields ready for the season. He proposed to have the maintenance staff work on the outside of the field area and Little League members help get the baseball/softball fields ready for the season. Bill explained the Main Complex for months now has been a construction site. The Park has projects that are not completed. Bill stated the main concern is addressing the Moss Bluff Little League safety concerns. Colby Callaway (MBLL Safety) stated the website stated the fencing at the complex is fully repaired and the facility is fully functional. After review, the website states the fencing at the complex on Jones Rd is fully repaired and the facility is fully functional. Someone from the community asked why MBLL was given permission to begin the season if the park was not ready. Bill explained MBLL was not given a date as to when they could start practices at the Main Complex. Madison Sommers (MBLL Baseball Secretary) explains there is a breakdown in communication between the Little League Board and the Park. Bill explained the gates were locked on Wednesday due to the weather. Lacey Callaway (MBLL Treasurer) expressed concerns about not being able to access the Leagues records locked in the office. Richard explained the gate locked on Wednesday was a misunderstanding between the Park and the League. White had spoken to Toni during the day on Wednesday, he stated there were no scheduled practices for Wednesday. Colby Callaway presented the Board with a Waiver of Liability; they would sign to agree to come out and work on the fields to get them ready. Callaway stated MBLL does not want to create more problems with the Park, because he feels the Park will push back. Connie stated Callaway's characterization of the Board push back is not true. The Board has the same goals to allow the children to play ball. She explained that's the reason the Special Meeting was called tonight. Connie explained the waiver of liability would have to be looked over by the legal counsel. Smith stated they have always had field works days to prep the fields before opening day. Someone from the community stated the bottom line is they want to know if the kids will be allowed to play this year. Bill stated yes, the kids will be allowed to play ball, the question that will need to be discussed is when safety issues will be addressed so the Park can be opened. David explained the safety issues must be addressed first, the fields may not be game day ready, but a coach can still have very productive practice. Madison Sommers asked what date practices resume. Bill stated with the Moss Bluff Little Leagues safety list of concerns provided by Cody White; practices should be able to resume in approximately a week pending weather. He also stated the board will have a discussion at the regular meeting on Monday to decide who will have access to the lights. David asked Richard, can we commit to having the MBLL safety concerns addressed by March 6<sup>th</sup>. Richard stated March 6<sup>th</sup> pending weather, the safety concerns should be addressed. Someone from the community asked if the dugout concerns were on the MBLL safety concerns list. Bill stated the dugouts were not listed on the MBLL safety concerns list. Bill explained there are some safety issues with the dugouts. The dugout project is not complete, and those issues will be discussed with the contractor. If the dugouts are not completed by March 6<sup>th</sup>, they will be roped off and not to be used. The community

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expressed concerns about the brick backstop having sharp edges and the drains on two of the infields. David explained the drains have been there for years. The community asked if the bathrooms will be open when practices resume. Bill stated the bathroom will be open when practices resume. Smith asked when the monthly board meeting would be held. David stated the board meetings are normally scheduled on the third Monday of the month. The meetings are occasionally moved due to holidays. Smith asked when the meetings date is changed is the date posted. David explained the next meeting date is always set at the end of the monthly meeting. The meeting is always posted on the bulletin board and website prior to the meeting. Amanda Hollier (MBLL Softball Secretary) expressed her concerns about the website and not knowing the date of the next meeting. David stated after the monthly meeting we can make a post on the website stating the date of the next meeting. The community asked who is overseeing the projects. Bill stated we have an architect for the projects. David explained the District has three unique accounts: the first one is the Capital account, the second one is the Maintenance account, and the third is for the Senior Center. The capital account is the account that has been used to repair/replace the complex. Bill Sommers stated from what he has heard the main issue is lack of communication. Bill Sommers suggested the MBLL board, Richard, Toni and maybe a board member come together to make a plan to move forward. A meeting between Moss Bluff Little League Board, Richard, and Toni is scheduled for Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm to discuss a plan to move forward. Bill invited everyone to our next regular meeting on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Madison Sommers stated Moss Bluff Little League will put out a statement tomorrow after the meeting to inform everyone of the plan moving forward. Someone from the community asked why football was allowed to play/practice on the football field. He also expressed his frustration at the lack of progress. Callaway asked if MBLL could get a copy of the Parks safety concern punch list. Moss Bluff Little League will be giving the punch list at tomorrow's meeting. The Board asked David Brossett to look at the dugout plans for field five. The Board explained they have safety concerns with no post on the front of the dugout on field five, locks that need to be looked at, as well as bent poles and other issues. Brossett explained they have not made a punch list for the dugout contractor yet.

*\*Bobby made a motion that the Board go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Second by Connie. Motion passed. Time 6:25PM*

*\*Bobby made a motion to rejoin regular session at 7:00PM. Seconded by David. Motion passed unanimously.*

**Commissioner's Comments:** The next regular meeting for the Board of Commissioners for the Community Center and Playground District 4 of Ward 1 is scheduled to be held Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 in open-air conference room.

*Bobby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by David. Motion passed unanimously. 7:10PM*

Minutes recorded and reported by Toni Wilcox.