

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
RECREATION BOARD WORKSHOP
MARCH 2, 2021

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made.

RECORDING: Pamela H. Woodington, Finance Director, Clerk of Courts

PRESIDING: Jimmy Tallman, Chair

ATTENDING: Commissioner Lacey Cannon; Commissioner Channing Dobbs; Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Ryan Perez; Peggy Gatlin, Finance Officer; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Russ Wade, County Attorney; Jimmy Williams, County Coordinator; Mac Johns, UC Recreation Board Member; Kevin Orton, UC Recreation Board Member.

Chair Tallman called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Commissioner Dobbs offered the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Tallman, opened discussion requesting suggestions to increase revenue within the county to benefit the Recreation Board. One consideration would be to expand the Mosquito Control Spraying for the City of Worthington and the City of Raiford. This would benefit both County and the Cities with perhaps a lesser charge than are now being charged. Chair Tallman also ask Mr. Johns and Mr. Orton how the concession were being managed. They stated currently researching options to incorporate community service hours for High School Students with adults from the Recreation Board as supervisors. To date concessions are being managed by Babe Ruth. Chair Tallman suggested that this source of revenue should be revisited. Mr. Orton stated currently the proceeds from concessions are used to pay the officials.

Chair Tallman asked if the Recreation Board had met with the City of Lake Butler Council to request support of funding. Mr. Johns stated they had not met to date with the City Council, however he had met with City Manager, Mr. Walker and hoped to further the conversation with better success. Mayor Jack Schenck, spoke with Mr. Williams and indicated that the Recreation Board would be able to count on the City for funding in the FY2022 budget. Chair Tallman also wanted to remind the attendees that there is an Inter- Local Agreement with the City for their financial support of the Recreation Board and the children they serve.

Mr. Orton stated that the Recreation Board, through their programs, serves a minimum of 250 children throughout our County. The Recreation Board also provides some of the services for the Middle School baseball team. Basic upkeep of the facilities should be met, keeping the fields in order for the children to play ball and practice. The bare necessities are being met to date. Mr. Williams reminded everyone that we do not currently have the labor support from The Department of Corrections, but hopefully there would be a change in the very near future.

Mr. Johns stated that he has hopes in the near foreseeable future that the Recreation Board become a Department of the County and not managed by volunteers. Chair Tallman then indicated that perhaps the focus should change to hiring an employee to manage the Parks and Recreation Department. With

the employee being expected to not only manage upkeep of the facilities, but to also attend games and coordinate volunteers. Mr. Williams stated he would take a look at the current staffing to see if perhaps we can coordinate some additional support from current staffing. Mrs. Woodington suggested that perhaps we research a student/intern from one of the local Colleges who are required to have work experience in this field that perhaps would be an option for staffing. Commissioner Perez stated he would seek assistance from The Crown Workforce, which he serves on the board. Commissioner Perez asked what type of liability the county would incur with students volunteering to work and help maintain facilities.

Discussion ensued in requesting for monetary support from Union County Schools, noting that there has been assistance with upgrading facilities, but not assistance in the reoccurring expenses. Lights and upkeep.

Commissioner Dobbs reminded everyone that while we appreciate all the assistance from the Department of Corrections we can't be dependent on them for basic services.

Mr. Johns and Mr. Orton are in agreement for the county to hire a person to maintain and keep the facilities in working order. They hope to see the position grow into assistance with coordinating baseball, football, soccer and other recreational activities to better serve the children in our community.

Chair Tallman asked those in attendance to reach out to the City and the School Board, expressing the need for assistance in maintaining and expanding the Complex.

Mr. Johns invited everyone to opening day, March 27th at 9 A.M. 18 teams will be participating.

Commissioner Perez requested reports from the finance department providing the unspent balance from each department for the last 5 years. Mrs. Woodington agreed to provide.

March 16th at 6 P.M. there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Agricultural Education Building, Mr. Williams invited all to attend.

Mr. Derrick Simmons was present to ask for assistance with his new mobile home and land setup.

Mr. Williams offered that he would speak with Building Official Mr. Whidden for guidance as the next step for Mr. Simmons.

Chair Tallman adjourned workshop at 7:22 PM.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

James Tallman, Chair

Kellie Hendricks Rhoades, Clerk of Courts

Adopted by vote of the Board of County Commissioners on May 17, 2021.