

**Richland County Recreation Commission
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2012
6:00PM**

Commissioners in Attendance:

J. Marie Green, Chair
Barbara Mickens, Vice Chair
G. Todd Weiss, Secretary
George Martin
Weston A. Furgess, Jr.
C. Todd Latiff

RCRC Staff in Attendance:

James Brown, III
Kenya Bryant
Curt Wilson
Ronnie Kinnett
Tara Dickerson
Taurus Lewis
Connie Reaves
Tony Cooper
Andrea Fripp
Cornelia Watts

Others in Attendance:

James E. Bridgett, Jr., Consultant/Parliamentarian

1. Call to Order:

Chair Green called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. and welcomed any special guest.

2. Adoption of the Agenda: (Action)

Motion to adopt the agenda made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Mickens. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Furgess, Mickens, Martin, Latiff and Weiss.

3. Approval of Minutes: (Action)

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2011 Board Meeting made by Commissioner Furgess and second by Commissioner Mickens. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Furgess, Mickens, Martin, Latiff and Weiss.

4. Public Input:

Ms. Ellen Leggett stated to the Board that she along with her great grandson, Dontorian Best, and some of the other parents from the Hopkins area were here on behalf of Coach Lee Davis. Ms. Leggett stated that they were very unhappy about what has happened and they do not understand. Ms. Leggett reported that she has worked with Coach Davis at Hopkins Park for the last four years and they started a wrestling club that was going strong until his change in Parks this winter. Ms. Leggett stated that they had just bought a wrestling mat for the boys a week before the catastrophe. Ms. Leggett reported that they found donations from as far away as New York. We ran a concession stand to support the players and families at the basketball games and through his tutors; we had the state champion wrestlers. Ms. Leggett reported that Coach Davis accompanied them to Ohio one year and he coached the kids to Nationals, adding that's just how good our kids are when they have the right people. The kids placed nationally in the top six for two years and this is our fourth year and we are doomed because we have no coach. Ms. Leggett stated that Coach Davis has lead with his motivation to a Division 3 State Championship this year for our football team which is Pop Warner, with about 80 kids in the program. Ms. Leggett stated that she has served as the Wrestling Club President, Pop Warner Packer Treasurer, served on the Hopkins Park Advisory Board and she has talked with many kids and parents and they felt safe at Hopkins Park because they knew Coach Davis would not tolerate any bad actions; he worked at the local school and knew which kids needed watching and which ones didn't; he counseled the kids and they knew they could go to him; he was a friend and mentor; he was a father figure to my

great grandson and I hope you know just how devastating this decision was to many kids and their families and we wish you would please reconsider this action.

Ms. Leggett introduced her great grandson, Dontorian Best, 10 years old, and he stated that Coach Davis takes you under his wing and makes you feel at home when he talks to you when you are sad.

Chair Green asked Ms. Leggett for a copy of her notes that she was speaking from and advised that because it is a personnel issue, the Board will pass it on to Mr. Brown for handling. Ms. Leggett stated that she is sure Mr. Brown knows how she feels about Coach Davis because he has been to a few Advisory Board meetings.

Ms. Pamela Bladden stated that she along with others standing, were classmates of Lee Davis and they came in support of him returning to Hopkins Park to work with the youth and the community. They stated that they are also a part of the Hopkins community and that Mr. Davis has done a lot for us with our children.

Mr. Lee Edens thanked the Board and RCRC staff for everything that occurred at Crane Creek on Wednesday at the ground breaking for the new gym and special thanks to Chair Green for serving as the Master of Ceremonies.

Commissioner Latiff stated to the Commissioners and the Commission what an asset we have in our Foundation's Executive Director, Ms. Fripp. Commissioner Latiff stated that she did a wonderful job at our event; it was well attended and overwhelmingly a great success. Mr. Latiff thanked Ms. Fripp for all her hard work and stated that he was terribly proud that she is part of this organization.

Chair Green added that she also thinks Ms. Fripp did a great job and thinks that Commissioner Latiff is an asset to the Board and that he brings a very different perspective; one that they truly appreciate. Ms. Green stated that she had a ball.

Commissioner Furgess stated that he received calls over the weekend expressing praise for the event.

Commissioner Mickens stated that the event really made them proud as people were walking around the reception speaking very highly of the Commission.

James Brown, Executive Director, stated that Ms. Fripp did a great job.

5. Financial Report: (Information)

Mr. Curt Wilson, Business Systems, stated that last month he reported that the cash received from Richland County was above what was expected. Mr. Wilson reported that we received January's allotment and it is about half of what we expected. Mr. Wilson explained that it will affect the Operations somewhat, in that we will have to wait until February 15th for the big check to make any major repairs or purchases. Mr. Wilson explained that we will get the money, when taxes are paid, that's when the money comes in.

Mr. Wilson reported that a presentation is being prepared to start the budget cycle for staff requests in the month of February and in March we will have a draft to work from for final presentation.

Mr. Wilson reported that LinRick had a tremendous December; best December in four years for revenue, most rounds in December in five years, and cart rental revenue was the highest ever for December.

Chair Green questioned the drop in the Workman's Comp E-mod and Mr. Wilson explained that the E-mod is based on what happened three years ago and back and it rolls, so since the E-mod came down that means that there were less injuries during that period of time and our premium will drop. We are expecting to get a refund for what was projected this year but we don't know what that figure is yet.

Commissioner Latiff asked if there was any way to track the fluctuation on a monthly basis yearly, to see if there are any trends to be able to predict the revenues received and Mr. Wilson reported that he does that and that's how he comes up with the projections.

6. Bond Construction Update: (Information)

Mr. Ronnie Kinnett, Property Management, reviewed Bond Construction Update included in the Board's package.

Commissioner Weiss asked if anyone ever got back with the Homeowner's Association about the sound survey and Mr. Kinnett advised that the results were provided but he does not remember who received them. Commissioner Weiss stated that he would follow-up with the Association.

7. Executive Director Report: (Information)

Mr. Brown reported Agency updates as listed on handout to Board.

Chair Green reminded everyone of the grand opening for the Crossroads Community Center on January 24th.

8. Other Business

Ms. Andrea Fripp, Executive Director Foundation, thanked everyone for their support during the planning and execution of the event. Ms. Fripp added that the response from the event has been great and she is now working on follow-up calls to set up appointments. Ms. Fripp stated that we are moving forward towards major gifts hopefully, naming rights, etc. Ms. Fripp reported that she has a copy of the policy regarding donations and memorials and wants to assure the Commission that the Foundation will definitely follow the guidelines. Ms. Fripp stated that she made an attempt for the Foundation to become an agency of the United Way but we fell short in some areas but Charlotte Berry, one of the Host at the event, was so impressed that she is meeting with me this week to help bypass some of those areas. Ms. Fripp reported that hopefully next year our employees will have the opportunity to donate to the Foundation/Agency through the United Way which is a huge accomplishment.

Ms. Fripp stated that she is hoping for the next event, a signature event, to be held in the fall.

Mr. Kenya Bryant, Assistant Executive Director, reported that they are now working on trying to determine what opportunities there are for naming rights; scoreboards, picnic shelters, etc. and what the cost would be.

Commissioner Latiff stated that he was approached by Nelson Mullins about putting their name on a park. Mr. Bryant reported that the policy states that 51% of the construction cost of a new facility is required before there is naming rights.

Commissioner Latiff stated that we will discuss it and see where opportunities might be.

9. Executive Session

No items for Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Commission Latiff and second by Commissioner Weiss. Motion approved unanimously by all members present; Green, Latiff, Weiss, Mickens, Martin and Furgess.

10. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 6:40p.m.

2. Marie Green

Minutes approved on this 27th day of February 2012.