

**St. Tammany Parish Recreation District #4**  
**Board of Directors ZOOM Conference Meeting**  
(unofficial/draft) Minutes

March 17, 2021

**Present:** Chairman, Al Hamauei; Vice Chairman, Gerrin Narcisse; Wendy Batiste, Shannon Menard, Steve Muller, Antoinette Wright

**Absent:** Lucinda Roberts

**Counsel:** Laurie Pennison   **Staff:** Executive Director, Jordan Johnson; Sherry Marrero Fabian Hartley,

**Guests:** Councilman Jimmie Davis, III; Shane Purvis & Bob Wellman of Fidelity Bank; Margie Vicknair

With the required quorum noted and guests introduced, Chairman Hamauei called the meeting to order at 6:35pm and led those present through the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MINUTES**

With no corrections to the minutes, Antoinette Wright, seconded by Wendy Batiste, motioned to approve the minutes for the February 24 meeting. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

With no question on the finance report, Gerrin Narcisse, seconded by Wendy Batiste, motioned to approve the February financial statements. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Johnson stated new email addresses were sent out to all board members. Anyone with questions or issues should contact him.

Johnson reported on a conversation with Sandy O'Brien of the United Methodist Church who informed him of a property sub-committee being formed to ensure they are getting the best value from each property they plan to sell.

Registrations are ongoing for the next two weeks, so Johnson asked everyone to help spread the word. Flyers sent out to schools.

Johnson and Hartley are in the process of contacting the City of Slidell and the parish regarding Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and how to secure more funding for the walking trail.

Facility maintenance: Johnson reported receiving one quote to repair the awnings with another quote due in the next few days. Johnson reported doors are rotting and rusting from the inside. Muller stated the doors could easily be repaired with new paint and hardware rather than spending thousands on new doors. It was the consensus of the board, that if the quality of repairs bring the doors to effective and functional working condition, to make necessary repairs rather than install new doors. Muller suggested Acadian Millworks, a company that builds this type of door. Fence repair will take place as soon as the weather permits.

Event Bookings: The Phase 3 executive order was received from the parish attorney. Johnson has reviewed and asked for further guidance regarding gym rentals. A refund was given on a previously scheduled wedding reception. Someone recently called wanting to book the facility for a graduation

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party. Other rec districts are allowing facility rentals dependent upon state and local COVID guidelines for Phase 3. Wendy Batiste, seconded by Shannon Menard, motioned to open the facility for outside use at 50% capacity with 250 seated capacity. All were in favor. Motion passed. Pennison added that guidelines for social distancing, disinfection, etc. must be enforced as part of the facility use contract. She will revise the facility contract with updated COVID protocols.

A local pop-up shop is looking to open at the park for 3-4 hour events.

**MOTION TO MOVE AGENDA ITEM**

Gerrin Narcisse, seconded by Antoinette Wright, motioned to move Item #3 in New Business to the top of the agenda. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Johnson introduced Shane Purvis and Bob Wellman of Fidelity Bank, who detailed the process of insuring and collateralizing assets, in which the bank insures funds over the FDIC threshold of \$250K. After the presentation, Hamauei stated with \$15K in one account, \$324K in Fidelity; and \$245K in Whitney he and noted the need to act regarding funds in all accounts being insured. The board discussed risk vs. reward. Pennison recommended moving funds to endure FDIC insurance on the assets. Hamauei stated with upcoming spending, the accounts should be reduced to FDIC insurable amounts. No action was taken.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Email addresses for Board members mentioned in Director's report above. Hamauei encouraged everyone to use the new RD4 email addresses. Pennison reviewed the Public Records request and the need to preserve district business emails.

Hamauei reported the Finance Committee met on 2021 budget amendments. He reviewed the budget with the board and reported a net income of \$31K leftover for projects.

Muller reported the Building Committee met and prioritized projects as follows:

1. Get Keller Field in shape (may be done in phases)
2. Basketball Court
  - a. Outdoor concrete slab with coating \$40K
  - b. Pavilion to follow

3. Walking Trail – 90K in grant funds with additional funding to come later for larger projects  
Councilman Davis remarked Keller Field and the basketball court can be done at the same time and recommended an immediate start. Wendy Batiste, seconded by Steve Muller, motioned to start phasing the Keller Field project while starting the process with the basketball court. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Personnel Committee met on a request from Fabian Hartley. As an Executive Session is required, this item was tabled until the April board meeting.

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Councilman Davis spoke to the need for asbestos removal and mold at the old church building, which should begin next week. Demolition on the roof and interior walls will ensue. Upon completion, RD4 will have full access to the facility.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Tammany Trace to Boat Launch Project**

Councilman Davis reported the parish purchased the Green family property, and a tremendous grant that allows for development is a great possibility. Some items Davis mentioned were additional parking spaces, a kayak launch, a paved extension to the Tammany Trace, and a walking trail around Bayou Lacombe. He stated a public charrette will take place at John Davis Gym to allow the public to input their ideas and suggestions for the area. He noted a resolution will be written to inform the public on funding sources. Maintenance responsibility lies with the Tammany Trace.

**Emergency Action Plan**

Legal counsel and the Policy & Procedures Committee will review the plan for a board vote in April.

**Executive Session**

Steve Muller, seconded by Wendy Batiste, motioned to move into Executive Session at 8:33 pm. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The Executive Session ended at 8:35 pm, with no action taken by the board.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm on a motion by Wendy Batiste, seconded by Antoinette Wright. All were in favor. Motion passed.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Sharon DeLong.*