

Ponchatoula Area Recreation District No. 1  
19030 Ponchatoula Park Dr.  
Ponchatoula, LA 70454  
Conference Room - Gym  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, January 16, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**I. Call to Order:** Terry Byers, Chairman

The public hearing was called to order by Terry Byers, at 6:07 p.m.

**II. Roll Call:** Terry Byers (P), Marshall Graves (P- 6:17), Roger Kennedy (P), Patricia Landaiche (P),  
Kyle Mitchell (P)

Visitors: Letisha Smith, Mark Verbois, Christy Whitaker

**III. Approval of Minutes:** December 13, 2024 Minutes

Motion by Kyle Mitchell                      Seconded by Roger Kennedy  
Favor: 4      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 0      Absent: 1

**IV. Approval of Financials:** December 1-31, 2024

Motion by Kyle Mitchell                      Seconded by Roger Kennedy  
Favor: 5      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 0      Absent:   

**V. Public / Guest Comments:**

**No comments were made.**

**VI. Reports:**

Director's Report – Mark Verbois

1. Verbois updated the board on the by-laws. No by-laws were found after making numerous contacts with past board members, officials, and research. With that conclusion, the board will have to start fresh. Byers suggested contacting Wayne Foster. Verbois showed the board the wording for the new sportsman banners that were ordered. He also announced that PARD was bringing on an intern from Southeastern to handle PARD's social media and marketing. It was brought to Verbois's attention that the gym floors had become slippery for the basketball players during the games. The issue is being looked into and will be addressed. Wesley and Verbois are looking into lighting for the park.

Assistant Director Report- Tisha Smith

1. Smith reported on the upcoming events and activities from the Recreation Coordinator. She asked the board to confirm the date for the fireworks show and if they wanted to

go with the same display as 2024. The board agreed that the fireworks show would be held on Friday, July 4, 2025, and they were happy with keeping the same display. James, Lambert, and Riggs contacted Smith to see if PARD would be using them again for the audit if so they would send over the Engagement Agreement for Terry to sign. Brody who works for the CPA side of their office would be helping with the 2024 closeout to prepare for the audit. Smith then touched on the Recreation Coordinator's event, the Senior Social on Valentine's Day.

Facilities Director Report- Wesley Fletcher

1. Fletcher reported that the elevator was back in working order, the gym roof and gutter repairs had been completed and the construction on the backstops for the center complex had already begun. He had included a written report of other upcoming projects in the board packet. Fletcher said if they have any questions to let him know. Fletcher updated the board on the new robotic painting machine we are leasing.

**VII. Old Business:**

- a. Inclusive Playground- There was nothing to report at this time but a Zoom meeting was scheduled for the following Monday.

Marshall Graves had to leave the meeting early and left at 6:40 pm.

- b. Cooperative Endeavor- Verbois asked if they could go over the endeavor before they discussed the rentals and the board agreed. Verbois said that prior to him starting at PARD, the board voted to add wording in the Cooperative Endeavor to include teams' use of the fields during the off-season and sent it to the PARD attorney, Ernie Drake for his opinion. After speaking with Drake, Verbois stated that Drake came to the conclusion that if these teams did not fall under Dixie or PYBS insurance, they could not fall under the Cooperative Endeavor.

Per the last meeting once Drake gave his opinion, the board would vote on whether or not to add the new wording to the Cooperative endeavor, Kyle Mitchell made a motion not to add the new wording, Roger Kennedy seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

- c. Rentals- Verbois presented a spreadsheet that includes the current field/gym rental fees with the proposed rental fees for Ponchatoula schools, in-district and out-of-district public. Verbois showed on his spreadsheet the fees from the Hammond Area Recreation District #1 to compare the differences. Verbois explained the issues we would have with the influx of people and the wear of the facilities if the fees were not enough to cover the uses. Byers and Landaiche felt that the fees could be lower. Mitchell suggested they table the rental fees until further comparisons could be made.

**VIII. New Business- None**

**IX. Other Business- None**

**X. Chairman's Remark**

- a. Byers thanked everyone for their time

**XI. Adjournment:**

Motion by Roger Kennedy Seconded by Kyle Mitchell

Favor: 4      Opposed: 0      Abstained: 0      Absent: 1

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Terry Byers, Board Chairman

Letisha Smith, Executive Secretary