

Ponchatoula Area Recreation District No. 1  
19030 Ponchatoula Park Dr.  
Ponchatoula, LA 70454  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
Thursday, January 18, 2024  
6:00p.m.

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

*The public hearing was called to order by Terry Byers, at 6:05 p.m.*

*Roll Call: Terry Byers (P), Marshall Graves (P-6:07), Roger Kennedy (P), Patricia Landaiche (A), Kyle Mitchell (P)*

*Visitors: Jacob Stevens, Letisha Smith, Natalie Mackay- Unlimited Play, Christine Swift -Hahn Ponchatoula Jaycees- Britnay Williard, Chris Williard, Megan Edwards past member-Shelly Matherne*

**II. Approval of Minutes:** *December 14, 2023, Regular Meeting and Public Meeting.*

*After review, it was motioned by Roger Kennedy and seconded by Kyle Mitchell approving minutes.*

*Motion passed.*

**III. Approval of Financials:** *December 1- December 31, 2023*

*After review, it was motioned by Kyle Mitchell and seconded by Roger Kennedy approving financials. Motion passed.*

**IV. Old Business:**

➤ *Inclusive Playground- Post property assessment, Shelly Matherne, Ponchatoula Jaycees representative introduced Jaycee board members then explained that the inclusive playground project began around 2016. During that time Jaycees members moved on and Covid hit. Funds were raised and they partnered with Unlimited Play out of St. Louis, Missouri, and Hahn Enterprise. Natalie Mackay shared her background and her personal story as to how Unlimited Play began and how it has helped many communities. She included a slide show presentation along with a video. Unlimited Play and Hahn Enterprise included two (2) presentation boards featuring two (2) playground layouts. Christine explained the layouts.*

*Placement of the playground would be possible in the area between the t-ball and softball complex.*

*Shelly Matherne reported the Jaycees have close to \$80,000. The cost of the playground could be up to \$590,000. There are multiple grant opportunities available. Kyle Mitchell has met with our council woman, and they discussed talking to a grant writer for the parish.*

*Other possible fundraising and donation ideas were discussed. The earliest this project could begin is summer 2025.*

*Timeline from creating the P.O. to installation, approximately 4 months.*

**V. New Business:**

- *Cinderblock Backstop Proposal- Received proposal to do four (4) fields. A motion to approve the cinderblock backstop was made by Kyle Mitchell and seconded by Roger Kennedy. Motion Passed.*

**VI. Reports:**

- *Park Manager's Report – Stevens reported that a new net was ordered for the batting cages near Ponchatoula Field.*
- *Recreation Coordinator report reviewed.*
- *Chairman Remarks – Byers closes the meeting by thanking members for their attendance.*

**VII. Adjournment:**

*There was a motion by Roger Kennedy and seconded by Kyle Mitchell to adjourn the meeting. All members were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.*

  
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Terry Byers, Board Chairman

  
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Letisha Smith, Executive Secretary