

Ponchatoula Area Recreation District No. 1  
19030 Ponchatoula Park Dr.  
Ponchatoula, LA 70454  
Conference Room - Gym  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 15, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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

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

**II. Roll Call:** Terry Byers (P), Marshall Graves (P), Christy Whitaker (P), Patricia Landaiche (P), Kyle Mitchell (P)

Visitors: Letisha Smith, Mark Verbois, Wesley Fletcher, Robby Scates

**III. Approval of Minutes:** April 17, 2025, Minutes

Motion by Kyle Mitchell

Seconded by Tricia Landaiche

Favor: 5    Opposed: 0    Abstained: 0    Absent: 0

**IV. Approval of Financials:**

Motion by Kyle Mitchell

Seconded by Marshall Graves

Favor: 5    Opposed: 0    Abstained: 0    Absent: 0

**V. Public Comments:**

Public Comment was given by Sheka Quinn on the topic of youth programs

**VI. Reports:**

**a. Director's Report – Mark Verbois**

1. Verbois reported that the assessor called about the tax assessment, Rolling Forward. Verbois explained what it would mean to roll forward. The board was in agreement to roll forward.
2. Verbois produced the plans for the new conference room with the addition of office space that will stay within budget. This room would also serve as a small rental space. Cost should be around \$228,000 next plan is to contact contractors to start getting bids. The board was in agreement to move forward with the new conference room.
3. Verbois suggested that with a new board member, Christy Whitaker, stepping in, there should be an official swearing-in of all board members with the exception of the chairman. He proposed that it happen at the next meeting.
4. AT&T is changing the copper line to fiber and will do a bundle that will be an estimated savings of \$900 a month.
5. The inclusive playground is rolling forward. A donation of \$20,000 came from the Ace of Hearts, and the Jaycees are getting a banner for PARD to put up. Action News 17 wants to do an interview.
6. In-house programs are starting to come together. PARD has partnered with NFL Flag football. Plans for the football and basketball camp.
7. Verbois presented a policy for public input. He pulled the policy from the Tangipahoa Parish School Board. It will be sent to the PARD Attorney to get clarification on a couple of items. Kyle Mitchell made a motion to adopt the policy, Landaiche seconded the motion all were in favor. Motion passed.

**b. Assistant Director Report- Tisha Smith**

1. Smith reported that the in-house audit began on Monday, May 12. They finished on Thursday, May 15, 2025. The audit was not complete, and they would be requesting more documentation until the exit meeting, which is planned for the week of June 9<sup>th</sup>, and they would be at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to present their findings to the board.
2. Smith reported that she was creating an informative handbook for the board.
3. Parks and Rec day at the Capitol is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3. This event brings awareness to legislators on the importance of Recreation Parks for the community. Smith, Verbois, and Burise will be attending, and the board is invited to attend.
8. PARD Youth Fishing Rodeo will be coming up this weekend.

**c. Facilities Director Report- Wesley Fletcher**

1. A seasonal part-time employee was hired to work on the fields. Everything is routine with grass cutting and ball field prepping.

**VII. Old Business:**

None

**VIII. New Business:**

- a. Robby Scates, Berryland Insurance, gave the board the update on the Inland Marine Policy renewal. He said the rate is a level renewal. Coverage last year was on a blanket basis of 332,000 last year and this year coverage is 368,260 this year which will cover unscheduled equipment.

**IX. Chairman's Remark-**

Byers thanked the board for their time.

**X . Adjournment:**

Motion by Kyle Mitchell Seconded by Christy Whitaker

Favor: 5 Opposed: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: 0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Terry Byers, Board Chairman

Letisha Smith, Executive Secretary