

PONCHATOULA AREA RECREATION DISTRICT #1

CHAIRMAN AND BOARD

The PARD # 1 held a regular meeting on Thursday, March 9, 2017. Rocquin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and the roll was called.

Present: Byers, Fletcher, Palmer, Rocquin

Absent: Kennedy

Guest: Jacob Drude

Ronnie Rocquin requested Drude be allowed to address the board to discuss a gospel and country music show. The event would be open to people in the community with free admission and held at the Events Building. Any donations received at the door would be donated to PARD. Concessions could be sold by one of the sports programs. The show formally produced in Hammond for about 14 years would take place on a Saturday night about every other month. Drude thank the board for their time and consideration. Rocquin agreed to discuss with the board and be back in touch with Drude about the community service.

After review of the February 16, 2017 regular meeting minutes, Fletcher made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Palmer seconded the motion. There being no discussion, all board members present were in favor the motion passed.

After a review of the financial provided by Martin, Fletcher made motion to accept the financial review report. Palmer seconded the motion and all board members present were in favor and the motion passed.

Under the old business Rocquin discussed with the board the three options for the 2017 Firework Show to be held on July 3rd this year. After final review of bids from Pyrotecnico, Artisan Pyrotechnics, and J&M Display. Rocquin asked for a recommendation for the 2017 Show. Fletcher made a motion to award Artisan Pyrotechnics the bid for the July 3, 2017 Firework Show. The motion was seconded by Byers and all board members present were in favor the motion passed.

Rocquin discussed insurance quotes for property, workmen compensation and equipment due in March. Martin reported lost runs report have been order from Jackson Vaughan, insurer from last year, and are necessary for an accurate quote for each policy. Fletcher made a motion to empower Rocquin to make a final decision on insurance after all quotes are finalized. Rocquin agreed to meet with Stevens and Martin to review quotes and to have renewals in place by March 20, 2017 for property, workmen compensation, and equipment.

The board discussed if security officers working detail for PARD should be included in the workmen compensation policy. Martin will contact the Sheriff Departments for further information about workmen compensation.

Board discussed corporate and gold sponsor signs displayed at entrance to park. With more space need for corporate sponsors board agreed for the gold sponsors be listed on one side but not both sides of the gate.

Stevens reported on the following: fencing is complete on dugouts and bids are in place for fencing of property line. Survey of property line will be required before fence is installed. Lots of people are fishing this time of the year and using the prier. Fish are producing well, the population survey for fish is underway, fish feeders releasing 3 times per day with turtle trap at a minimum. He also reported preparation are underway for 2017 baseball season. Manchac, Millville, and Ponchatoula fields are raised and drain well. He discuss the issue of drainage, culvert and caps behind Wadesboro Field and culverts for the entire south side of the park. Plan for next phase of infrastructure drainage is being discussed with Southern Pipe. Estimates for culvert and catch basin in existing problem areas would be approx. \$60,000. Board discuss purchasing culvert and have the Parish install.

Rocquin reported opening day of Baseball is April 22, 2017. The girls' softball complex will be dedicated to the life and memory of Julian E. Dufreche, founder of PARD. A bronze plaque in Dufreche's honor will be installed at the entrance to the softball complex. Dedication and unveiling of the plaque will be on opening day of baseball season.

Byers discussed the purchase of property on east and west side of Ponchatoula to expanding the reach of PARD into the district. The areas of Pumpkin Center and Bedico areas were discussed. Byers reported Bedico Community Center would like to work with PARD on the sale of approx. 12-13 acres and a building. Board agreed there is an interest if it's financially sound. Rocquin will inquire on price of land in the Pumpkin Center area.

Palmer requested use of Events Building for a football scholarship banquet on April 29, 2017 for the area youth with the Football camp following on May 13.

Board discussed possibility of replacing a small bridge to access a strip of property, off site from the park, on Sisters Road. PARD is responsible for keeping the grass cut on a small parasol of land behind the home owner. A small bridge would allow for a lawn mower to cross the canal for maintenance. Board agreed for Stevens to acquire bids on a bridge.

Byers made a motion to adjourn. Palmer seconded the motion. There being no discussion, all board members present were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p. m.

Ronnie Rocquin, Chairman

Charlotte Martin, Secretary