

Habersham County Recreation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes – January 17th, 2023
Meeting Room A – Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center

Call to order: 6:00p

In attendance:

Andrew Gailey – Board Member
Alan Irvin – Board Member
Brooke Whitmire, HCPRD Director
Habersham BOC Chairman, Bruce Palmer
Dewane, President of Rapids Futbol Club
Matt, Community Member

Absent:

Kerri Davis
Darrel Jones
Joe Elam
Stan Wilbanks
Jimmy Kowalski

Discussed upgrading/fixing the lighting on the Upper & Lower Soccer fields (fields on the Fairgrounds side of the road)

- Many factors go into the need of replacement like safety, ability to grow, and the bad look it gives for the county when we have full poles out which creates dark spots on the fields
- Scheduling games and practices is hindered because Rapids must schedule around the availability of working lights
- It is causing a heavy burden, especially for the 12 and older age groups and the Lower Fields are in the most dire need & that is the largest field they have which serves those older age groups

It was mentioned that it is beneficial to the county to update these lights because these programs bring many people from outside of the county traveling through and participating on the teams or playing against our teams for games. This is additional tax revenue and vitalization in the community.

Discussed the potential of a park development in the South of the county, as well as the need for it.

- Mr. Gailey asked how do we know what is needed and when it is needed? Director Whitmire responded that one great way to gain more knowledge to make an informed decision would be to conduct a needs assessment & build a strategic road map for the Parks and Recreation Department. She also talked about how she would love to work with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government through UGA to conduct this. Many agreed it was an excellent resource.

Chairman Palmer mentioned that the Recreation Advisory Board members are an important part of educating the public about our parks and recreation department and its importance to the community.

Discussed issues with the ADA accessible parking at Diamond Memorial Park & potential plans to combat the location & limited parking

Chairman Palmer raised the question of whether or not the members of the board felt they should meet monthly. Pros & cons were discussed and it was ultimately decided the question would need to be raised again when there was a quorum of Recreation Advisory Board Members to make a decision.

Adjourned: 7:10p