

MINUTES
Habersham County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 5:45pm
Activity Room-Aquatic Center
120 Paul Franklin Rd., Clarkesville, GA 30523

The Recreation Advisory Board held a public meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 5:45pm in the Activity room at the Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center located at 120 Paul Franklin Rd., Clarkesville, GA 30523.

Members Present: Peggy Fortson, Cassie Head, Angela Haughton, Shelley Tullis, Keith Deyton, and Joe Elam

Members Absent: Matt Shirley (resigned)

Others Present: Terry Lannon, Karen Macleod, Simon Raley, Eugenia Almand, and a Northeast Georgian Reporter

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Shelley Tullis

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Shelley to approve the May 13th minutes, seconded by Angela Haughton and voted 6-0 to approve. Motion made by Shelley to approve the May 29th minutes, seconded by Peggy and voted 6-0 to approve.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Shelley to approve the June agenda, seconded by Joe Elam and voted 6-0 to approve.

5 Minute Public Comments: No public comments.

Staff Report: Each member received a copy of the Staff Report prepared by Terry Lannon, Interim Director of HCPR. Terry read through the report to members.

Old Business: 5-minute presentation by Eugenia Almand about her request to continue Aikido classes at the Aquatic Center. She shared 2 handouts with members that covered her main points and her proposal for a new contract. Eugenia said she would carry her own insurance, students will sign two waivers, have 2 classes per week, and she will look into what the Ki Society considers their criteria for one to teach. She currently holds a Brown Belt, which according to Eugenia, the Aikido world considers this level allowed to teach. Per Terry Lannon, if approved to teach, a contract would be signed with HCPR, for one year and then go to the BOC for approval. The Board discussed a recommendation to allow her to teach and then a motion was brought forth by Peggy, seconded by Keith, and voted 6-0 to approve.

New Business:

- a. Simon Raley with Harvest Love Missions, a non-profit missions ministry, presented his request to hold benefit Adult Softball fundraising tournaments, possibly 1 per month, to raise money for families and individuals in need. He would like to begin with a tournament on June 28, 2025, to raise money for a family in need, involved in the organization, who experienced an unexpected death. He would like to use fields 2 & 4 all day into the evening. He would also like use of the Concession stand for the coolers only, they will help to clean up and offered help with the fields. Terry Lannon expressed his opinion to waive all rental fees except for field prep (30.00/hr.) and light costs (15.00/hr.). Joe Elam expressed his caution for waiving fees and being equitable with others in the community. After discussion, the members all agreed this was something they would like to support. Shelley Tullis made a motion to approve the tournaments and waiving all fees except for the hard costs that Terry Lannon brought up. Angela Haughton seconded the motion; vote was 6-0 to approve.
- b. Re-institution of team and league sponsorship program was presented by Terry Lannon who asked the Board what they thought of soliciting sponsors, with examples of the use of banners, names on scoreboards, and business names on the back of jerseys. He said he would come to the next meeting with ideas and costs for sponsorships and start to solicit if the Board approved the idea. Joe Elam requested some historical information on what had been done in the past and why it was discontinued. No action was to be taken at this meeting.
- c. Terry Lannon began the discussion of creating policies for facility usage by organized teams and for-profit instruction on the Aquatic center grounds, as well as the proper signage needed to inform the public. He used an example of a Pitching Coach that may want to teach for-profit on a field, that there should be a contractual agreement with HCPR, and this should be applied across the board in all sports, as a standard. All members nodded in agreement. He also asked the board members to look around the recreation center and notice signs that have been posted, to address this, that are ignored, and to give him feedback as to how the signs can be updated or worded differently. Cassie Head asked Terry to take photos of the signs and send them to her for her review.
- d. Terry Lannon brought up the idea of having a Farmers market at the pavilion. Shelley Tullis stated that she knew the history of this idea that had been brought up in the past and approves of the idea. Discussion ensued with multiple ideas and suggestions shared by members and questions as to how it would work. It was agreed that more research would have to be done to develop what would be allowed, what fees would be charged, vendor approvals etc. Terry will work on this.
- d.1.Shelley Tullis brought up an impromptu question at this time regarding repeat renters for the Fairgrounds and if they were prioritized when scheduling events. The

question was directed to Karen, Secretary and HCPR employee that does rentals, to answer. Karen explained that this was always important and given consideration. Priority was given to repeat long-term renters whenever possible, unless there was a conflict with dates, and a decision had to be made with whatever information was available to make the best decision possible. Karen explained the many different scenarios that can occur with requesting dates, how the dates can conflict or overlap and how there is a Reservation Request form for the next upcoming year sent to all repeat vendors so that priorities can be reviewed and given all opportunity for optimal scheduling. She mentioned how at times, the renters have agreed to change or work with one another to allow two vendors to have their event that may have had a conflict with dates. Karen mentioned how she is very aware of issues as they arise and is proactive in communicating with the renters to resolve any issue.

- e. General discussion began by Peggy Fortson about security issues around outside facilities and the Save Station/AED location near the Pickleball and Tennis courts. She mentioned the AED box that had been tampered with recently that sent an alert out to several people with the County, herself included, as the Pickleball President. She questioned who all was on the alert notification, what the procedure was for responding and who would respond. Peggy suggested security cameras to be located in different places at the recreation center, and should AEDs and cameras be at every field? Terry Lannon suggested that he and Peggy get together to look further into this subject.

Next meeting: July 15th, 2025, Activity room, Aquatic Center, at 5:45pm

Adjourn: A motion was made by Joe Elam and seconded by Angela Haughton, vote was 6-0 to adjourn at 7:04pm.

Shelley Lullis 7/15/2025