

MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 5:45pm
Large Meeting Room-Aquatic Center
120 Paul Franklin Rd., Clarkesville, GA 30523

The Recreation Advisory Board held a regular public meeting on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 5:45pm in the large meeting room at the Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center located at 120 Paul Franklin Rd., Clarkesville, GA 30523.

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

Members Absent: Matt Shirley

Others Present: Terry Lannon, Karen Macleod, Reggie Williams, David Mickler and a Northeast Georgian Reporter

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

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Shelley Tullis to table the minutes of February 18, 2025, regular meeting approval since no minutes were available, seconded by Joe Elam, and voted 6-0 to table the February 18, 2025, minutes.

5 Minute Public Comments:

- a. Mr. Reggie Williams, a longtime resident of Habersham County, member, and frequent user of the Aquatic Center facility, expressed his desire to see the Aquatic Center open on Sunday afternoons from 1-5/6pm for just people that would like to be indoors to walk and out of the weather; the pool could remain closed as well as the Fitness Center so less staff would be needed. He suggested the Aquatic Center open during the week at a later time, not at 05:30am, to save money so the center could open on Sundays.
- b. Mr. David Mickler, resident of Habersham County and Veteran, began by expressing his support for Disadvantaged people, Seniors, Disabled and Veterans stating that he was "disappointed with the fees". He felt that Fieldale employees were given discounts that others deserve. Karen Macleod, staff with HCPR, and Cassie Head clarified to him that there was no discount extended to Fieldale employees and that Fieldale paid for their employee membership as a benefit of employment. He inquired

About his recent Membership Scholarship discussion and wondered if any of us had any conclusion or update. The Board did not. Mr. Mickler expressed his disappointment with the absence of the Aerobics and exercise classes. He also was concerned with the Aquatic center's different forms of payments accepted, and was not satisfied with how HCPR chose to collect payments, mentioning credit cards, checks, and auto pay. He did not specify exactly what his disagreement was with the payment system.

Staff Report: Each Board member received a copy of the Head of Department HCPR meeting notes which outlined the status of programs, memberships and rentals. Terry Lannon, Interim Director of HCPR, briefly read through them. A copy of the Fiscal Budget, dated 07/01/2024 to 04/11/2025, was distributed and reviewed by all, prompting discussion:

T. Lannon stated that changes would be coming, and he would be doing his due diligence to make a deep dive into expenditures. Job descriptions will be reviewed, new bleachers will be installed in June, and the Aikido instructor has requested to be released from his contract due to medical reasons. T. Lannon explained how he would like to see 3 Park Assistants, one at each facility, and 1 Park Supervisor on duty, on all game nights, stating the importance of having staff members present. Having a new playground was brought up by one of the Board members, to which T. Lannon agreed that it needs to meet ADA requirements as well. Discussion ensued as to where it was best to locate it, to make it equally accessible to all Habersham County residents with suggestions of "the South side", "near the new Animal Shelter" or "mid-county". Suggestion was made to add the Playground discussion to the next Agenda for the meeting on Tuesday, May 13th. A Motion was made by Angela to allow the Aikido Instructor contract to be reviewed by the County Attorney for an opt out for medical reasons.

Keith Dayton seconded the motion. The vote was 6-0 to approve the motion.

Old Business:

- a. T. Lannon gave the update on the Pool deck completion. He mentioned the rust areas in the Pool area will need attention in the future and will be discussed, 2 bathrooms in the Pool area are awaiting tile which will be done in 2-4 weeks.
- b. T. Lannon gave the update on the Gymnastics building; quality air sample is being taken, mold mitigation is priced, an Insurance claim was submitted but the County does not own the building, the new Gymnastics Lessee would like to start in May, but the roof is still leaking, and the landlord has not been responsive. T. Lannon will review the prior Gymnastics building lease. Shelley Tullis questioned if the County should be responsible for any repairs.

New Business:

- a. A Board Secretary position was discussed, and Shelley Tullis suggested they ask for a volunteer. Shelley Tullis stated the Board should review the By Laws for any changes needed to add the position of Secretary to the By Laws and then a secretary could be elected. On that note, Roberts Rules of Order was brought up with the question of "can the words be changed to allow for more flexibility?"

Since Cassie Head, Board member, had to leave early, it was requested that this item be tabled until the next meeting, so everyone could be present. Shelley Tullis made a motion to delay choosing a volunteer Secretary until the next meeting and Keith Deyton seconded the motion. Election officers' term limits were questioned and then found in By Laws. Election of new officers will be in December, to then start in January of 2026. The board would like to see someone from the school district to serve, that is well versed in Athletics. All board members requested that the County Clerk contact the absent board member, Matt Shirley to submit his resignation.

- b. Peggy Fortson brought up the outside contractor protocol and questioned if there was a set fee schedule, if there were categories they fell into, and if or how that was policed by the Recreation department. She specifically asked about the people that make money for instruction, in different activities and have no contract. Karen Macleod, staff with HCPR, explained the difference between short-term class type instruction falling under the Rentals area, and long-term classes falling under Programs, Rentals having a contract and rent charged for the facility usage, and Programs having a longer-term contract and receiving a portion of the fees charged to the attendee. Peggy asked for a copy of the Programs contract from Lenay, the Programs Manager so it could be reviewed. Peggy Fortson said that every activity with Instructors, teaching long-term classes such as Tennis and Pickleball, should be contracted to receive payment that would benefit the Recreation center and help maintain the facility.
- c. Regarding the Budget and Fee Schedule, T. Lannon was requested to bring a copy of the proposed budget and fee schedule to the next meeting for them to review.

Next meeting: May 13, 2025, large meeting room, Aquatic Center, at 5:45pm

Adjourn: A motion was made by Joe Elam and seconded by Keith Deyton and voted 6-0 to adjourn at 7:38pm