

Recreation District #1 of St. Tammany Parish

Chairman: Nixon Adams
Vice-Chairman: Shearn Lemoine
Commissioner: Rick Danielson

Commissioner: John Neill
Commissioner: deShea Richardson
Commissioner: Barrett McGuire

Commissioner: Ed Bee
Executive Director: Suzanne Reeder



Recreation District #1/Pelican Park Board of Commissioners Monthly Meeting February 19, 2025

Board present:

- **Nixon Adams**
- **Rick Danielson**
- **deShea Richardson**
- **John Neill**
- **Ed Bee**
- **Barrett McGuire**

Board absent:

- **Shearn Lemoine**

Staff present:

- **Suzanne Reeder – Executive Director**
- **Doug McLemore – Assistant Director**
- **Scott Goodwill – Finance Director**
- **Niki Butler – Marketing Director/Board Secretary**
- **Louisette Scott – Dept. Planning & Environmental Ed.**
- **Lykinda Thibodeaux – People Operations**
- **Melissa Garcia – Grants and Contracts Manager**
- **Carly Arthur – Recreation Supervisor**
- **Borato Broughton – Evening Recreation Supervisor**
- **Chad Groover - Recreation Supervisor**

1. Call to Order:

- The Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting was called to order by Chairman N. Adams at 6:30pm. N. Butler, Board Secretary, called the roll. Six out of seven of the current appointed Board Members were present, which represents a quorum.

2. Open agenda to propose new items: None

3. Welcome Visitors:

- Lieutenant Governor Nungesser, Julio Guichard, Councilmen Joe Impastato, Richard Lampert, Barry Brubacher with Neel-Schaffer, Paul Dimitrios with RCL, Bob Mora with Batcher, Andrew Doyle with New Line Skatepark.
- Lt. Governor Nungesser addressed the Board and provided an update on potential developments. He clarified that while a casino is not being built, there is exploration of a project similar to the Gulf States setup at a state park in Alabama. A committee will be formed, including local officials, chamber members, council members, and potentially a board member from Pelican Park. The project envisions the construction of 150 rooms and a conference center.

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There are 350 members and 411 visitors annually who are unable to find accommodations in New Orleans. The project may include cabins and a lazy river, aimed at enhancing the quality of life in the area. A safety passageway under the road, along with the construction of a berm in the lake for flood protection, will also be included. Additionally, this berm and deeper holes that will be made will provide opportunities for fishing, offering an alternative to concrete levees. A study is also being conducted for a golf course to complement the convention center and hotel. Lt. Governor Nungesser thanked the Board for their time.

- The work completed at Fontainebleau State Park, including direct sewage upgrades, has successfully attracted hundreds of new visitors from other states, particularly those who traditionally visited Mississippi and Alabama that have the direct sewage and upgraded amenities. Since the installation of mountain bike trails at Bogue Chitto State Park, it has become the highest-attended camping location, drawing 1,000 visitors per month from 14 states.
- Joe Impastato discussed the current Master Plan, highlighting the bypass road as the most significant project. The Parish has the ability to match state funds for this initiative. The primary goal is to connect Pelican Park with Fontainebleau State Park, offering opportunities for expansion and establishing Pelican Park as a central hub for the community and visitors. The development will also include a Love's Travel Stop/gas station at the intersection of Highway 1088 and I-12. Mr. Impastato expressed gratitude to Recreation District #1 and the Pelican Park Board and Staff for their donation of the old skate park equipment to Lacombe Recreation District #4.

4. Proclamations/Resolutions: None

5. Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes:

- **5a. Board of Commissioner Monthly Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2024.**
 - Motion by B. McGuire to approve the previous month's Meeting Minutes as presented with no changes, Seconded by d. Richardson. Vote 6-0. Motion passes.

6. New Business:

- **6a. CEA – Northshore Music Alliance**
 - S. Reeder shared the CEA with the Northshore Music Alliance for the next three concerts in 2025. The Concert Series will be held at the Castine Center, including the following three events: Rippling Watercolors: The Music of Brian Balmages (March 26, 2025), a to-be-named concert (October 9, 2025), and A Northshore Christmas (December 18, 2025).
 - Motion by J. Neill to approve the CEA with the Northshore Music Alliance as presented, Second, by E. Bee. Vote 6-0. Motion passes.
- **6b. Development Fund Reallocation**
 - S. Goodwill presents the financial data and explanation for the reallocation of funds for the Skate Park / Pump Track project. Board Members on the Financial Committee, discussed these funds in great detail at their last Committee meeting on January 14th.
Discussion.

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- Motion by E. Bee Motion to approve a budget adjustment within the Development Fund to accommodate the increased projected cost of the Skate Park / Pump Track project from \$2.4 million to \$2.87 million, Second, by B. McGuire. Vote 6-0. Motion passes.
- **6c. Acceptance of Lowest Bidder for Skatepark and Pump Track, Phase II, Specialty Contractor**
 - S. Reeder reiterated that, since the funds in 6b have been approved and reallocated, staff recommends awarding the contract to the base bid from Grindline Skateparks, Inc. L. Scott discussed the recommendation to accept only the base bid, excluding the alternate options presented. The projected completion date for the project is late summer/early fall of this year, 2025.
 - Motion by B. McGuire to approve the award of the base bid contract to Grindline Skateparks, Inc. as the lowest responsive bidder for the Skatepark and Pump Track – Specialty Contractor Scope, excluding Alternate 1, as outlined in the memo from Newline Skateparks. Second, by N. Adams Vote 6-0. Motion passes.
- **6d. Approval of Construction Management Contract for Phase II, Skatepark Specialty Contractor scope**
 - S. Reeder and staff recommend awarding a construction management contract to Sieverding Construction. Sieverding Construction will serve as the project manager, working directly with Newline and Grindline Construction to ensure all permit requirements and project expectations are met. B. McGuire noted that the discussion at the most recent Financial and Strategic Planning Committee meeting emphasized the importance of a risk reduction strategy. It was highlighted that careful coordination is essential to ensure all aspects of this large project are completed successfully.
 - Motion made by R. Danielson to approve the Specialty Scope Project Management contract with Sieverding Construction in an amount not to exceed \$80,000, and to authorize the necessary execution of the agreement in accordance with applicable procurement regulations. Second, by B. McGuire. Vote 6-0. Motion passes.
- **6e. Personnel Policy: FMLA**
 - L. Thibodeaux gave an update for review for the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) policy. The policy presented aligns with all applicable federal regulations and provides employees with the necessary protections and benefits in the event of a qualifying leave establishing a more productive work environment, allow staff to share with the staff for feedback, and return next month for official vote.
 - The Board will look at this policy in great detail with more information given at the next Board meeting on March 19th. No votes were taken at this meeting.
- **6f. Park Weather Detection & Notification System – Perry Weather**
 - S. Reeder provided a brief overview of several weather detection and notification systems. Staff is requesting approval to purchase equipment from Perry Weather, the best choice to meet the required options for the park. Once approved, Pelican Park staff will complete the installation, with the goal of completing it before the start of the spring baseball and softball seasons to ensure the safety of our patrons. This system will help reduce human error and alleviate the pressure on umpires when making decisions to stop

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games. The equipment will be leased for a 3-year period, with two systems to be installed on the property. The system will include features such as text-to-voice notifications, horn and siren alerts activated by set parameters, a sleep mode for when the park is closed, and potential future capabilities like photo and live camera feeds. B. McGuire inquired whether insurance premiums would decrease following the installation.

- Motion by B. McGuire to approve the purchase and installation of the Perry Weather System to enhance the safety and security of Pelican Park. Second by R. Danielson. Vote 6-0. Motion passes.

7. Financials

• 7a. Monthly Summaries:

- The financials were reviewed by S. Goodwill and N. Adams, who commended S. Goodwill for presenting accurate and thorough documentation, consistently keeping the Board well-informed on all financial matters.

• 7b. Bank and Credit Card Statements:

- S. Lemoine was absent, so the Credit Card Statements will be presented and approved at the next meeting on March 19th.
- A motion was made by R. Danielson to approve the financials as presented, with the vote on the Credit Card Statements to be held next month. Second by J. Neill. Vote 6-0. Motion passes.

8. Committee Updates:

• 8a. Finance Committee– 02/014

- N. Adams mentioned that many of the discussions from the Financial Committee have already been discussed during the Board Meeting and if any additional information is needed. The full minutes are in the packets and withing the official meeting minutes to be reviewed at any time.

9. Division Monthly Reports

• 9a. Administration (Presented by Suzanne Reeder):

- S. Reeder introduced the newest Pelican Park employees: Melissa Garcia, our new Grants and Contracts Manager; Chad Groover, Recreation Supervisor; Chelsea Ducre, who was not present but is an Administrative Assistant; and Borato Broughton, Evening Recreation Supervisor, responsible for overseeing the Facility Staff and evening games and officials
- S. Goodwill and C. Arthur have been granted the NRPA Million Coaches Challenge Grant.

• 9b. Master Planning/Environmental Education:

- Discussed a few slides with images, updates and site plans for the skatepark, sand volleyball and The Groves Stage which is finally complete with the ramp construction being finished this past week.
- Displayed the Signage Package options to the Board to choose their favorite design.

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- Alex Landry with Pelican Parks Environmental Education Department has been working on a Pelican Nature Club and has been in contact with the insurance company to find out what they may need.
- The Pontchartrain Astronomy Society has two upcoming Star March 8th from 7-9pm and May 3rd 8-10pm.

- **9c. Parks:**

- The LED sconces and Econo-lights for the field lights have been replaced.
- D. McLemore was unable to reach anyone at Brilliant Efficiencies, the company that originally replaced our old lights with LEDs through an Energy Efficiency Grant. Unfortunately, the lights they installed are now failing one by one, and replacements for these specific fixtures are unavailable. After some research, the staff discovered that Brilliant Efficiencies is no longer in business. As a result, staff will need to find replacement fixtures to restore the lights and ensure the safety of our patrons.

- **9c. Recreation:**

- The Recreation staff is excited to finally have a full team. As S. Reeder mentioned earlier, S. Goodwill and C. Arthur have been awarded the NRPA Million Coaches Challenge Grant.
- A variety of events and rentals are scheduled, including:
 - Southern Elite Volleyball Tournament
 - YBOA Basketball Tournament
 - Pylon 7 on 7
 - Pickleball Socials
 - Pelican Park Shamrock Showdown Pickleball Tournament
 - A baseball tournament at the Blue Complex
 - Nike Performance Pickleball Camp
 - The Bidy Basketball World Tournament for girls will also be held at Pelican Park.

- **9c. Castine Center:**

- The Castine Center has already seen great revenue this year from large events such as Mardi Gras balls.
- J. Neill attended the Eve Ball and publicly recognized our staff for their excellent work, especially the Park crew who worked overtime and collaborated across departments to assist with the set-up. Key team members include: Damon, Logan, Brett, Patric, Jarrod, Charles, Tracy, and Catherine.

10. Old Business: None

11. Public Comments: None

Next Board of Commissioner Meeting, Wednesday, March 19th, 2025

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12. Meeting Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn at 7:35pm by B. McGuire. Second by J. Neill Vote 6-0 in favor.

****All attachments, item lists and Reports in Brief documents are included in the official minutes.**