

**Recreation District #1  
Board of Commissioners Meeting  
September 20, 2023  
Castine Center Hall D**

**Board present:** Nixon Adams  
Majure Savell  
Rick Danielson  
William Matthews  
John Neill  
Shearn Lemoine  
deShea Richardson

**Board absent:** None

**Staff present:** Jenny Dexter – Executive Director  
Doug McLemore – Assistant Director  
Kia Knight – Assistant Director  
Scott Goodwill – Finance Director  
Niki Butler – Marketing Administrator  
Louisette Scott – Park Planner/Environmental Ed.  
Marie Dupre – Records Information Manager  
Lenis Villa – Human Resources Manager

**Staff absent:** None

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman N. Adams at 6:30 p.m. Assigned Secretary, Niki Butler, called the roll. All seven Board members were present.

**Welcome visitors:** Chairman N. Adams welcomed the Board, staff members and 30 guests attending the meeting.

**Open agenda for proposed new items:**

Chairman N. Adams suggested to have Public Comments moved to beginning of the agenda to accommodate citizens wishing to speak. Visitors from the sign-in sheet indicating a desire to speak were called up one at a time. N. Adams addressed the public and provided rules of procedure, including a three-minute time limit per speaker.

Motion by W. Matthews to move Public Comments to the beginning of the agenda. Seconded by R. Danielson. Vote 7-0 in favor.

Eleven citizens spoke concerning the upcoming Fear Fest event—a scheduled rental in the Castine Center on September 29<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Rose Thibodeaux - 78306 Davidson, Rd. Folsom, LA - Opposed
- Linda Mandello – 12193 Hwy 1078, Folsom, LA - Opposed
- Howard Pitre – 66130 Hickory St., Mandeville, LA - Supportive
- Father Doug Bush – 312 Lafitte St., Mandeville, LA - Opposed
- Wendy French – 2051 Olvey Dr., Mandeville, LA - Opposed
- Debbie Cannizzaro – 300 Williamsburg Dr., Mandeville, LA - Opposed
- Scott Payne – 73033 Allen Rd., Abita Springs, Mandeville, LA - Opposed
- Diane Yorsch – 16 S Court Villa Dr., Mandeville, LA - Opposed
- John Neill – 1798 Culver Ct., Mandeville, LA - Opposed
- Pam Roselli – 110 Williams Rd., Madisonville, LA - Opposed
- Majure Savell – 104 Dianna Ct., Covington, LA - Opposed

N. Adams spoke about Constitutional Rights of renters and the opinion of the District Attorney's office. He also stated that it is important that Recreation District #1 does not use public funds for preventable litigation.

#### **Approval of minutes (attachments):**

Motion by R. Danielson to accept the board meeting minutes from the regular monthly meeting on August 16, 2023 and the special board meeting on September 7, 2023 as presented. Seconded by W. Matthews. Vote 7-0 in favor.

#### **RCL Architecture Presentation**

Motion by W. Matthews to move the presentation by RCL Architecture, LLC up in the agenda. Seconded by R. Danielson. Vote 7-0 in favor.

Paul Dimitrios shared information about the Event Stage project and the three bids received in September were all considerably over budget. Following a meeting with J. Dexter and L. Scott on September 6<sup>th</sup>, P. Dimitrios revised the design and materials to bring costs down to \$765,000. He was doubtful that the Event Stage could be built for \$650,000 and asked to increase the budget as nearly all bids are received over budget lately. N. Adams inquired about reducing the size of the stage. B. Matthews inquired about the timeline moving forward. P. Dimitrios would like to complete revisions and return the plans to the structural engineer (approximately two weeks), then have an estimator look at the construction drawings (approximately one month). P. Dimitrios will then present revised package with estimates to the board for approval on new design and budget. Overall, he expects this to take between one to two months.

Motion by W. Matthews to reject all bids received for the Event Stage. Seconded by S. Lemoine. Vote 7-0 in favor.

**Financials:**

N. Adams presented a brief explanation of the financial report provided by S. Goodwill. N. Adams drew attention to the Castine Center revenues, the field revenues, and the insurance expenses. N. Adams stated that we should have some surplus at end of year to hopefully be able to do more Capital projects.

Motion by N. Adams to approve the financials as presented. Seconded by S. Lemoine. Vote 7-0 in favor.

**Resolutions:**

None

**Reports in Brief:**

- **St Tammany Parish Fund (Vote)**

J. Dexter reported on the history of the St Tammany Parish Fund and the process of the application that is due to receive the fund. J. Dexter is asking for the Boards' approval to allow her to sign the forms to send the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. W. Matthews asked to table the vote until all board members received the attachments to the CEA. S. Goodwill will provide all board members with the attachments at the end of the meeting. No votes were taken at this time.

**Division Reports/Updates:**

- **Admin – J. Dexter**

J. Dexter welcomed and introduced Lenis Villa, the newly hired Human Resource Manager, a candidate from a local temp agency. Lenis has a background in HR and is an Army Veteran with a thirst for knowledge and success.

An advertisement for Pelican Park will be in the annual edition of Inside Northside magazine.

Staff is continuing to work on the Policies and Procedures.

N. Adams, J. Dexter, R. Danielson, S. Lemoine, D. McLemore, K. Knight, and Jesse Williams will be attending the NRPA conference in Dallas in October.

J. Dexter and Carly Arthur will be attending the NAYS conference in Maryland the first of November.

- **Park – D. McLemore (attachment)**

The water valve replacements approved at the last meeting have all been replaced. W. Matthews wanted to thank Doug and his crew for the amazing job they do in the park. The staff that Doug employs are very skilled and complete many small and large projects and repairs that would otherwise require large expenses with contractors saving money for Recreation District #1.

- **Recreation – J. Dexter** (attachment)

J. Dexter reported on the Recreation Department. The Pickleball Classic has almost 200 participants registered and will be a two-day tournament on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

- **Castine Center – K. Knight** (attachment)

The Castine Center has been very busy with several events in a row that have very quick turnarounds. Kevin Lewis has done an amazing job doing these set ups quickly and professionally, with the help from Chris Jackson, from our local temp agency.

- **Master Plan Update – L. Scott** (attachment)

L. Scott reported on the well-attended, open public input meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Presentations were given by Newline Skateparks and input was given by visitors from several states on their wants for the future skatepark at Pelican Park.

### **Old Business:**

- **Northlake Nature Center**

The Northlake Nature Center Board has addressed several of the maintenance issues that were discussed with them.

### **Meeting Adjourn:**

Motion by W. Matthews to adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by J. Neill. Vote 7-0 in favor.