

***City/Parish Recreation Advisory Commission
August 11, 2025 Meeting Minutes***

Attendance:

Commission:

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| Larry Lanclos | Judy Placer | Harold Porter | Joseph Tidwell |
| Patti Carter | Johnafort Bernard | Raymond Mallery | |

Staff:

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| Timothy Sensley | Joshua Gary | Eric Mouton | Christopher Arceneaux |
| Kenneth Granger | Thomas Eschete | Alena Fields | Nourine Lanerie |

Opening Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance:

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairperson Larry Lanclos. Opened with a Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Guests/Staff Members:

Chairperson Larry Lanclos welcomes the guests in attendance: Roxanna Usner with Community Development and Planning; Peter DeHart with Makemade; and, Barbara Gauthier with Scott Area Team Sports (SATS).

Roxanna advises that they are in the process of installing wayfinding signage systems in the parks. She was prepared to present a Power Point presentation tonight; however, she would like to reschedule and prepare handouts to distribute at the next commission meeting. Roxanna introduces Peter DeHart, the graphic designer for the project. She advises that they are working on standardizing and branding the signage all across Lafayette. The parks will have green signs and the downtown signs will be blue.

Correspondence/Announcements:

None.

Approval of Monthly Reports/Previous Meeting Minutes (Action Required):

Monthly reports for June and July 2025 had been emailed. Judy Placer motions to accept the monthly reports; seconded by Patti Carter; no opposition; motion passed unanimously. Johnafort Bernard asks for clarification on the previous meeting minutes regarding the committee that was formed to select the concessionaire for the parks. Timothy Sensley explains that Bon Temps Grill was selected to be the concessionaire for only Brown Park and Moore Park. The model that is used at both the Youngsville and Broussard Sport Complexes was followed. The advertisement was sent out and bids were received. Only two organizations submitted bids; Twisted Nutrition and Bon Temps Grill. The selection committee was formed and included himself, employees from Public Works, Innovation and Technology (IT), Community Development and Planning, and the Communications Department. The committee used a scoring system to rate the two companies and Bon Temps Grill was awarded the bid. The contract has been worked out with them and will be valid for seven years; this will allow them enough time to get a return on their \$125,000 investment at each location. The contract also states that any permanent fixture placed in the parks will be the property of Lafayette Consolidated Government (LCG) upon termination of the contract. Johnafort Bernard motions to accept the previous meeting minutes as written, seconded by Harold Porter; no opposition, motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report – Larry Lanclos:

Larry asks Tim to provide an update on the department.

Director's Report

Tim advises that the department has onboarded two new staff members since the last meeting; Eric Mouton is the new Athletic Programs Manager, and Joshua Gary is the new Parks and Recreational Maintenance Manager. As a part of the reorganization of the department, maintenance was put under one umbrella and will be managed by Joshua. Anything athletic programming related will be under Eric Mouton and all other programming will be under Alena Fields.

Tim advises that the department's budget hearing before the City Council will be held tomorrow, August 12th, between 9:00 am and 11:00 am in the Council Auditorium at City Hall. The department's budget hearing before the Parish Council will be held on Thursday, August 14th at 9:00 a.m.

Tim advises that the Moore Park ribbon cutting should be held no later than the middle of next month. He recently attended a demonstration for a device called "Turf Tank," which can paint a soccer field in 23 minutes and only use .23 gallons of paint. It currently takes about four hours to paint a field. The cost is around \$16,000 for the machine and it should pay for itself within the first year. It has the capability to paint soccer fields, baseball fields, football fields, and parking lots. The package includes two different logos and additional logos can be purchased. Tim adds that he is looking at different ways to streamline services.

Tim advises that the pools at both Girard Park and Martin Luther King Center are closed for the season.

Larry asks for an update on how the Moore Park operations will work with the Lafayette Youth Soccer Association (LYSA). Tim explains that he has a 7:00 a.m. meeting tomorrow with LYSA. There has been a merger within the soccer association; therefore, the current agreement needs to be amended. Larry asks if the new fields at Moore Park are currently being used. Tim advises that they are not being used until the final inspection has been completed. The heavy rains in April and May delayed the project somewhat. The fields and turf are ready; however, the areas around the fields are not ready.

Judy asks for an update on the Deanna Bostic sign at Moore Park. Tim advises that the process is underway and the details are still being worked out. The park will not be renamed after her; however, there will be some sort of acknowledgement of her contributions to the soccer community. Judy adds that the ribbon cutting would be an ideal time to recognize Deanna Bostic. She did so much for the soccer program in Lafayette Parish and she deserves the recognition. Judy asks for an update on the naming of the recreational complexes. Tim advises that the LCG Attorney is looking into the naming of complexes after individuals who are still living.

Patti asks for details on accessing the new fields at Moore Park. Tim explains that it can only be accessed from Pont des Mouton. Patti asks about the new building at Moore Park and if it is on LCG property. Tim advises that the current agreement being LCG and LYSA states that LCG would commit to purchase and develop the soccer complex and LYSA would commit to purchasing the nine front fields. Once the fields were paid for, there was to be a transfer of title to LCG. The meeting tomorrow will help to clean up details and update the agreement. Patti advises that the soccer club is a private club and should be paying to lease the property from LCG. Tim explains that LYSA purchased the land and the fields were to become the property of LCG. Discussion follows.

Larry asks if a system has been put in place for the rental of the Brown Park fields. Tim confirms that the system is in place and rentals are ongoing at Brown Park.

Introduction of Parks and Recreational Maintenance Manager – Joshua Gary

Tim introduces Joshua Gary, the new Parks and Recreational Maintenance Manager, who comes to the department with over 20 years of maintenance experience. Joshua advises that he is looking forward to

individually meeting everyone. He is a lifelong resident of Lafayette Parish. He grew up in Carencro and graduated from Carencro High School in 1995. He owned a property maintenance company before his career with Schlumberger. The company wanted him to relocate and he was not willing to do that; therefore, he started looking and came across this job opportunity. He is excited to be here and is looking forward to giving back to the community. Joshua adds that he has been able to meet with most of his team and is very impressed with the heart and dedication they have.

Introduction of Athletic Programs Manager – Eric Mouton

Tim introduces Eric Mouton, the new Athletic Programs Manager. He advises that Eric served in the school system for 20 years as an athletic director and is also a former Ragin Cajun basketball player. Eric advises that he was born and raised in Lafayette Parish and grew up in the recreation system. He is very excited to be here and to meet everyone. He started here on July 7th and Stephen Peloquin, who he has known for over 20 years, has been filling him in. Eric adds that he is talking to many people and doing a lot of reading about providing athletics to the youth of this community. He is also taking a look at the facilities and the rentals. The adult basketball league finished up last month and the first initial meeting with the youth associations regarding the fall sports went well. The athletic programs staff is working hard to increase participation in the youth programs. Eric advises that he wants to partner with the schools and plans to do a registration push within the next couple of weeks. The fire and passion can be lit in these kids through recreation sports, but it can also be put out. The goal is to offer a quality product and make this a great place for the kids to play. Judy advises that so many kids have been lost to the Youngsville and Broussard sports leagues; she asks if there is any way to get them back. Eric explains that he wants to do that and hopes to offer a quality product that will attract participants.

Larry advises that he attended some flag football games at Beaulieu Park last year and there were many nights when half of the lights were out. Joshua explains that he is planning on addressing the many issues within the parks. His name is now tied to the maintenance within the parks and he will put forth his best effort.

Harold advises that in order for the kids from Youngsville and Broussard to come to Lafayette, there needs to be some incentive. He asks if any thought has been given to partnering with the NFL flag football league. Tim advises that Eric is looking at ways to partner with organizations to increase participation. Kids are no longer looking to establish programs; they are looking for the best place to play.

Patti suggests that the UL football staff be contacted to see if they would work with the youth in athletics. Tim advises that he has reached out to UL athletics to see what they can offer for the youth. Harold suggests that Doug Ireland with the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame be contacted as well.

Capital Projects

Tim advises that the construction at Picard Park is underway. The Thomas Park Tennis Courts project should be going out to bid soon and construction should start within the next month or two. The cricket field project at Debaillon is also moving along. The Heymann Park Amphitheater is slated to begin construction at the end of the year. Joe asks if lighting along the walking track is included for Picard. Tim confirms that lighting is included, similar to what is at Brown Park. Tim adds that renovations are also slated for Mouton Park.

Budget

Tim advises that funds have been allocated within the new budget to dredge the pond at Girard Park. He adds that the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries stocks the pond at Girard Park.

Divisional Presentations

Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course – Christopher Arceneaux

Chris advises that the main issue at Hebert is the car accidents by and on the course. Vehicles traveling down Louisiana Avenue run through the fence and end up on the course. Judy suggests that the police department provide more patrols in the area. Tim adds that no one was injured in any of the crashes; however, the outcome could have been much different. Judy asks if the LCG insurance will cover the repair costs. Chris advises that Risk Management is conducting their investigation. Discussion follows.

Les Vieux Chenes – Todd Robertson

See monthly report.

The Wetlands Golf Course – Thomas Eschete

See monthly report.

Centers & Programs – Alena Fields

Alena advises that summer programming is wrapping up. The community camp at the MLK Center had 100 participants; the Girard camp had 100 participants; and, the camp at the J. Carlton James Center had 50 participants. The overall experience was great and the camp at MLK was led by volunteers. It was nice to pivot from outsourcing the camp at Girard. The swimming camp at the MLK pool was a big success along with the swimming lessons. Alena advises that the charge for the camp at Girard was \$125 for six weeks and Second Harvest provided the meals. There were a number of field trips that were provided at no cost. Alena adds that her monthly report includes a listing of all the organizations who donated their services. She is looking forward to additional funding to expand the summer camp to more locations next year. This year was a great opportunity to network and build connections.

Johnafort advises that he has heard complaints from the community about the youth jumping the fence at the MLK pool at night. He suggests that, if the fence height is raised, the situation might be resolved. Larry asks if the MLK pool enclosure is still moving forward. Tim advises that the project is on hold. He adds that the fence could be heightened; however, the people that are jumping the fence have been cutting the wire. Larry suggests that cameras be installed. Tim advises that the plan is to install cameras; however, it would be helpful if the community calls the police when they see anyone jumping the fence. Alena adds that the addition of the Marshals has reduced a lot of activity.

Alena reviews the listing of the new classes offered at the recreation centers. She advises that, as a part of the reorganization, she is now over additional locations, including the Nation Station. She is also over the swimming programming and her monthly report includes the number of swimming participants this summer. A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between LCG and Destiny Swim was executed to staff the MLK pool. This agreement helped out tremendously with the staffing at the Girard pool. Both tennis and therapeutic programming are now under her as well. She is also over all of the rentals and the Civic Rec reservations system, which should be online for the public soon. Judy asks if there will be a public promotion of the new online reservation system. Alena explains that there will be a big public media push once the reservation system is available to the public online. Alena adds that she is also the Public Information Officer for the department. Larry suggests that a contact number be included for any issues with the online Civic Rec system. Alena confirms that it will be included.

Tim advises that the Louisiana Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference will be held in November and they will celebrate their 80th year. He and Alena will be attending the National Recreation and Parks Association Conference in Orlando in September.

Committee Reports:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Next Meeting – December 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Harold Porter motions to adjourn, seconded by Joseph Tidwell; no opposition; motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.