

City/Parish Recreation Advisory Commission
October 13, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

Commission:

Harold Porter	Judy Placer	Joseph Tidwell	Thaddeus Shelvin
Patti Carter	Johnafort Bernard	Raymond Mallery	Kristopher Harrison
Matt Hulin			

Staff:

Rachel Godeaux	Joshua Gary	Eric Mouton	Christopher Arceneaux
Todd Robertson	David Gary	Alena Fields	Nourine Lanerie

Opening Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance:

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Vice-Chairperson Harold Porter. Opened with a Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Guests/Staff Members:

Vice-Chairperson Harold Porter welcomes the guests in attendance: former Councilwoman Nanette Cook; and, Barbara Gauthier with Scott Area Team Sports (SATS).

Correspondence/Announcements:

None.

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

Monthly reports for August and September 2025 had been emailed. Judy Placer motions to accept the monthly reports; seconded by Kristopher Harrison; no opposition; motion passed unanimously. Johnafort Bernard motions to accept the previous meeting minutes as written, seconded by Judy Placer; no opposition, motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson's Report – Harold Porter:

Harold asks Rachel Godeaux to provide an update on the department.

Director's Report

Rachel advises that she is filling in for the Interim Director of PARC, Brian McGrath. Due to the resignation of Timothy (Tim) Sensley on September 30, 2025, Brian McGrath was appointed as the Interim PARC Director on October 1, 2025.

Update on PARC Director

Rachel advises that the resignation of Tim Sensley was unexpected and the transition was not exactly how she wanted to see it happen. She does not want to discuss the details publicly, out of respect for the privacy rights of everyone. She does have a copy of the resignation letter submitted by Tim and is willing to share it with the commission. The expectation and hope is to have a Director in place sooner than later to bring stability and continued progress within the department. The mission and objectives of the department have not changed; the goal is to continue to move forward. She met with all of the departmental managers and openly communicated the goals and objectives of the department. She is willing to answer any questions after the meeting or at a scheduled time with any commissioners.

Rachel reviews the financial report for the month of October. She advises that the new fiscal year will begin on November 1, 2025. The budget was passed and it is a good healthy budget for the department.

There were new positions added within the Operations and Maintenance Division and the golf courses. The goal is to keep this department moving forward. There are a lot of great opportunities that were announced recently, including the Heymann Park Amphitheater and the continued renovations of the existing capital projects that have been carried over from year to year.

Johnafort requests a copy of Tim Sensley's resignation letter. He advises that he heard the news from the community. He is a commissioner and he feels that the commission should have been notified of the resignation. He believes that the way the situation was handled is in poor taste. He has been through numerous Administrations and he is never seen things handled this way. He would like to know what occurred. Rachel advises that she had a conversation with Johnafort at the Heymann Park Amphitheater groundbreaking. As a result of their conversation, she sent out an email to all of the commissioners to update them. She apologized to him in particular for the lack of communication. Rachel adds that she would like to publicly apologize for not communicating with the commission sooner. The matter was being handled by Human Resources. Out of respect for everyone's privacy, she will not go into the details. However, she would like the commission to know that Tim resignation was an amicable transition. He left on his own accord and with a high regard for the Administration. Johnafort advises that he does not understand how an organization could handle the situation so poorly. This commission tends to departmental matters and should have been notified, instead of hearing it from the community. His concern is that LCG had only two minority directors, the Fire Chief and the Director of PARC. He believes that the search should be for a minority Director. Rached encourages him to share his concerns with the Mayor-President. Rachel adds that the Administration recognizes that it is very important to the community and she understands what he is saying.

Judy thanks Rachel for the email that was sent out to the commissioners. She understands that the resignation happened very quickly and she is grateful for the prompt communication from Rachel. Judy advises that this department has had a lot of turnover in leadership and is in need of someone that will stay and be a good leader. Rachel agrees and advises that the goal of the Administration is to appoint a Director who will stay and provide stability.

Thaddeus advises that the McComb-Veazy Coterie reached out him regarding some concerns they have with the Heymann Park Amphitheater project. The fence that was the safeguard for all of their equipment was removed when they the construction crew tore down the baseball fields. Therefore, there are thousands of dollars in equipment that is no longer secure. Rachel advises that she will look into this and follow-up with the commission.

Judy advises that she received an email from Calvin Kemp regarding a groundbreaking at the Thomas Park tennis courts on October 27th. She asks for an update on the project. Rachel explains that the courts are being reconstructed. Judy encourages the commissioners to attend the groundbreaking. Discussion follows.

Judy asks for an update on the sign presentation from Roxana Usner from the last commission meeting. Nourine advises that a hard copy of the presentation is included in the binders tonight. Joshua adds that he is working with Roxana on all of the signage within the parks.

Thaddeus asks for an update on the completion of Moore Park. Rachel advises that the ribbon cutting should take place sometime in November. Thaddeus asks if the facility will be able to house football games in addition to soccer. Rachel advises that it is something they are exploring. Thaddeus adds that his son plays football for a private organization and Moore Park could be a great place to host football tournaments. Rachel advises that coordination would need to take place with the soccer organization to make sure that football does not overlap with the soccer season.

Judy asks for an update on the naming of the Deanna Bostick Moore Park Soccer Complex. She was the name of soccer and if it wasn't for her, there would not be soccer in Lafayette Parish. Joshua explains that he is currently working with Gerald Boudreux and he would like to have something ready for the ribbon cutting. Judy adds that she did so much for soccer and deserves to be honored. Discussion follows.

Johnafort asks for clarification on the resignation later, specifically the statement, "after much thought, discussion and prayers, I have decided to act on your advice and suggestion and resign as LCG's Director of PARC." He would like clarification on whose advice Tim was acting upon. Rachel advises that many conversations and consultations took place with Tim and it was suggested that his resignation would be a good way for him to transition. It is a private matter that she cannot disclose. If there is a concern for Tim, she encourages the commissioners to reach out to Tim personally. Johnafort adds that he has concerns regarding the whole system, not just Tim. There is a whole organization involved, not just Tim. Harold advises that Tim may not take phone calls right now.

Divisional Presentations

Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal Golf Course – Christopher Arceneaux

Chris advises that everything is going well at the course, especially with all of the good weather. Revenues and golf rounds are up from October of 2024. There is a trash issue along Louisiana and the golf course, so the staff stays busy picking up trash on a weekly basis. He launched a campaign a few years ago to put trash cans along Louisiana Avenue, and he may have to do that again. There is also an issue with car accidents on or around the golf course. Hopefully a solution will be found soon. Chris adds that he is gearing up for the 100-year anniversary of the golf course in September of 2026.

Judy asks if the police could patrol the area more frequently to help enforce the trash laws. Chris advises that he has put additional trash cans in the area and they stay full. He is blessed with many volunteers who pick up trash in the area and he is working on another campaign regarding the trash in the area. Harold suggests that the trash service company who has the contract with LCG install additional trash cans in the area. Rachel explains that there was an issue with additional dumpsters in the area recently due to it being an overlay district; however, she can look into additional trash cans. Thaddeus suggests that the Streets Department within LCG clean the streets in the area on a weekly basis. Rachel advises that the Johnston Street Corridor Initiative, including Louisiana Avenue, is an area of interest. The goal is to improve the overall look of the corridor and improve safety in the area. The immediate solution may be to put up guard rails. Discussion follows regarding installing trash cans and/or dumpsters in the area.

Les Vieux Chenes – Todd Robertson

Todd advises that the golf course revenues are up due to the great weather. Golf tournaments are underway and the Hall of Fame Golf Outing for the USSSA honoring Robert Boudreux, the late Teurlings High School Golf Coach. Robert was instrumental in bringing the high school state championships to the LCG golf courses. Todd advises that all three golf courses are busy with golf tournaments, specifically on Fridays and Saturdays; however, they make sure that all three golf courses are not closed at the same time. Todd advises that football season plays a part in the attendance at the golf courses on the weekends.

The Wetlands Golf Course – David Gary

David advises that the revenues and rounds for September 2025 increased by about 10% from September of 2024. The golf course is in good shape and the greens will be overseeded tomorrow. This prepares them for the winter months and into the spring season. The month of October is busy with golf tournaments and there are also a few new ones. He adds that it might be time to start thinking about increasing golf tournament fees.

David advises that he meets regularly with his staff regarding customer service and dealing with the public. There are still a few personnel vacancies; however, the process is underway to get the positions filled. There is a lot of detailed work that needs to be done, and the slow grass mowing season is a good time to get it done. The Golf Course Superintendent, Thomas Eschete, is doing a great job in keeping up with the maintenance on the course along with the personnel issues. Judy asks for details on the "Smoke and Stroke" tournament. David explains that it is a golf tournament to raise funds for pediatric cancer.

Harold advises that he agrees with the increase of the golf tournament fees, especially with the demand for so many tournaments. Patti asks for a breakdown of the current golf tournament fees. David advises that the charge at The Wetlands is \$65/player for weekday tournaments, and \$70/player for weekend tournaments. Todd adds that Les Vieux Chenes and Jay & Lionel Hebert Municipal charge \$55/player for weekday tournaments and \$65/player for weekend tournaments. There is also a minimum number of 72 players required to host a tournament. Discussion follows.

Matt advises that the budget for this fiscal year shows a decrease in revenue for all three courses. David explains that the costs have increased; however, the rates have stayed the same. Chris advises that weather plays a big part in golf course revenue. Todd adds that Les Vieux Chenes is on track to have the second-best year in course history. Discussion follows.

Athletic Programs – Eric Mouton

Eric advises that the fall sports season is underway. Cajun Sports Association (CSA) is playing in house; they have 136 volleyball players and 17 teams. Scott Area Team Sports (SATS) has 104 volleyball players and 15 teams. Carencro Area Youth Sports (CAYSI) has 38 volleyball players and four teams. The gyms have been full on Saturday and the post season is scheduled for November 15th.

Eric advises that the tackle football season started on October 7th. Games were moved from Saturdays to Tuesday nights at Clark Field. There are eight total teams between CSA, SATS and CAYSI, and the Turkey Bowl is scheduled for November 22nd. Ochsner General Health is providing an onsite trainer for the games and Bon Temps Grill is providing concessions. Eric advises that the department partnered with America's Flag Football for the first time, and games are played on Mondays at Beaulieu Park and on Thursdays at Lafayette Christian Academy. There were about 100 kids that signed up to play and he plans to get feedback from the parents at the end of the season. The feedback will help in the decision-making process regarding continuation of the partnership.

Eric advises that a basketball meeting was held on October 1st and was well attended by all of the youth associations. Basketball registration is open and underway through the youth associations.

Eric advises that the baseball and track season will be held in the spring. He also received a request from a flag football organization, Football Night in America, to rent Neyland Park in the spring. The park has been abandoned by the youth association for the last few years, and the plan is to get it up and running.

Eric advises that the Athletics staff is working on updating the Youth Athletic Guide. He welcomes input from the commissioners as the process continues. He would like to have something in place to present to the new Director.

Judy asks if the Tuesday night tackle football games are working out well. Eric advises that the night games are going well. The heat during the day games on Saturdays was tough on the kids. Kristopher asks if there are AED defibrillators available at the youth athletic events. Eric explains that the Athletics staff is CPR certified and Ochsner has partnered with the department to stay on top of the health and safety of the kids. Alena adds that all of the recreation centers are fitted with defibrillators. Ms. Cook asks if any defibrillators are needed; she is connected with an organization who will be donating some portable defibrillators. Eric

advises that the Athletics Division would be happy to receive them. Thaddeus asks if defibrillators have been installed at Brown Park. Joshua advises that the plan is to have them installed at Brown Park soon.

Operations & Maintenance – Joshua Gary

Joshua advises that tremendous strides have been made at Brown Park. Organizations are looking to rent the park for upcoming tournaments and there are currently 24 weekends booked. The first major tournament will be held on November 8th by USSSA Softball.

Joshua advises that the pre-handover walkthrough was held at Moore Park. There were some corrective actions implemented through the construction team and should be completed in about six weeks. Weekly walk throughs will be held to keep on top of things. The first tournament at Moore Park is tentatively scheduled for the end of December. He is also working with the staff at The Wetlands regarding the maintenance plan and the equipment needed for Moore Park.

Joshua advises that the Heymann Park Amphitheater groundbreaking was recently held and everything went well. He has noted the fence concern and will follow up with an update.

Joshua advises that he is working with the youth association at Judice Park regarding improvements to their park. They recently had their storage shed broken into, and the plan is to install cameras there in the new budget season.

Joshua advises that he is working with the Drainage Department regarding issues at Acadiana Park.

Joshua advises that a major initiative was completed at Beaulieu Park regarding the lighting issues. Joshua advises that he is moving forward with the plan for OJ Mouton Pool and he will provide updates as the process continues. The Debaillon Park Cricket Field project is underway. Joshua adds that the Debaillon Park is the only remaining park being cut by Geaux Mow.

Joshua advises that sprinkler repairs are underway at Bowles Tennis Center. The grounds maintenance crew is also taking on a bigger role to service the Bowles Tennis Center. Judy advises that there is a safety issue on the rubico court that is causing tennis players to fall. Joshua advises that he will meet with Calvin Kemp to address the issues.

The Thomas Park tennis court project groundbreaking was held recently. Additionally, the one-year warranty walk thru of the Thomas Skate Park was conducted. The only major issue is erosion in a few areas. Joshua adds that the Skate Park Association is doing a great job in keeping up the facility.

Joshua advises that the Clark Field LED Lighting Project should be kicking off soon. Joshua adds that the Girard Park pond issue is being addressed and funds have been allocated in the budget to completely dredge the pond. Thaddeus asks if the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is still stocking the pond at Girard. Joshua confirms that they are still stocking it. Discussion follows.

Thaddeus asks for details on the Grand Slam tournament that is scheduled at Brown Park, specifically information on the age groups that will be playing. Thaddeus adds that the fields are not big enough to host the older age groups. Joshua advises that Grand Slam did a walk-through of the park and is aware of the field sizes. He has received some requests to increase the base lengths; however, that would put them outside of the infield. Thaddeus explains that the same issue came up during the Brown Park Association baseball season. He asks if there are any plans to transform the field in the back of Brown Park into a bigger playing field. Josh advises that there are some ongoing conversations regarding that possibility. The goal right now is to get the current fields rented as much as possible.

Judy asks for an update on how Bon Temps Concession is doing at Clark Field. Eric advises that they are doing well out there.

Matt asks for an update on Picard Park, specifically regarding when it will be completed. Joshua explains that he does not have a timeline. There have been some issues with the pickleball court that are causing delays. The elevation on the pickleball courts does not meet the code standards; therefore, the courts will have to be reconstructed. Matt asks if anything has been constructed yet. Joshua advises that the concession stand is under construction, as well as the parking lot.

Johnafort asks if there have been any accidents or injuries reported while pickleball is being played. Joshua advises that he is not aware of any. Alena adds that there was one incident at Thomas Recreation Center; one participant passed away while playing pickleball due to a heart issue. The staff stepped up and used the defibrillator that was onsite.

Joshua advises that the Girard Park pond issue is being addressed and funds have been allocated in the budget to completely dredge the pond. Thaddeus asks if the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is still stocking the pond at Girard. Joshua confirms that they are still stocking it. Discussion follows.

Judy advises that she noticed the dumpsters were completely full when she drove up tonight. This must mean that Festival Acadiens was a great success. She adds that Girard is a beautiful park and we have a lot to be proud of. Patti advises that she had a call from someone regarding the height of the swings at Girard Park. Josh advises that he would look into it.

Centers & Programs – Alena Fields

Alena advises that the monthly report includes the October calendars for all of the recreation centers and the senior centers. She also outlines a few of the new classes being offered at the centers, most notably the new Mahjong class added at the Comeaux Recreation Center. A “Fall into Fit” promotion was launched in September and the first week of classes was offered at no charge.

Alena advises that the generator for the Dupuis Recreation center was secured through a grant. Additionally, the resiliency grant for the Martin Luther King Cetner was approved and plans are underway.

Alena advises that the senior centers recently had a fashion show and the oldest participant was 93 years old. The PARC Pink Picnic will be held this Friday at the Girard Park Pavilion. The plan is to bring the community into our spaces to bring awareness and to show solidarity and have some fun. The Lafayette Economic Development Authority (LEDA) will host the STEM Festival at the Dupuis Recreation Center.

Alena advises that a Domestic Violence Vigil will be held at Brown Park at the end of the month. LCG partnered with Faith House to host this event. Alena adds that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Alena advises that she has started preparing for the 2026 summer camp. The goal is to have five locations; therefore, the planning process will have to start much earlier. She has also started planning for the swim season next year.

Alena advises that the Nature Station activities are highlighted in her monthly report. She has also highlighted the swimming and tennis highlights. Therapeutic Recreation meets twice a week and the goal is to expand the programming. She has added additional temporary staff and hopes to expand the programming.

Alena advises that the Civic Rec online reservation system is going well. The public is able to see what is available for rent. The reservation numbers have grown in all areas since the public launch of Civic Rec. The platform is more user friendly both internally and externally. The goal is to expand online reservations to the Acadiana Campground and the Nature Station.

Alena advises that she is also handling the public information for the department. This is an additional role assigned to her in the recent reorganization of the department. She is partnering with the Communications Department to get the word out and she meets with them weekly. Judy asks if the Civic Rec online link is posted anywhere. Alena advises that she will send the link out. Discussion follows.

Patti asks if the payscale is the same for all temporary casual staff. Alena explains that it is hard to go through an external agency. She hires the temporary staff through paper applications submitted to HR. This is more affordable than using a staffing agency; however, the temporary casual employees are limited on the number of annual hours they can work. Therefore, a staffing agency may be used when someone has exceeded their hours.

Johnafort asks for details on the process to hire lifeguards. Alena explains that she works closely with Jennifer Simms with Destiny Swim International. She trains lifeguards year around and she was contracted to run the MLK pool. The goal is to have the staffing in place sooner for the upcoming season. Alena adds that Ms. Simms is Red Cross Certified and can train lifeguards.

Committee Reports:

None.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Johnafort thanks Rachel Godeaux for coming tonight and for providing the requested information.

Thaddeus advises that Brown Park will host a skills and agility camp for ages five to fourteen on October 25, 2025, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. The camp is free of charge and food/beverages will be provided. Thaddeus adds that a lot of the kids in the recreation program cannot compete; therefore, this is to help them improve.

Rachel advises that she is in the process of finalizing the scope of work for the PARC assessment. The assessment aims to look at all of the facilities and understand what they need. It will always help facilitate a true maintenance plan through City Works. There will be a lot of recommendations coming out of the assessment in terms of moving forward with the facilities and leveraging what is in place today. Discussion follows.

Nourine advises that she has communicated with the Clerk of the Council regarding the expired appointments. The reappointments should be on the upcoming Council Agendas. Discussion follows.

Harold advises that the Commission/Youth Neighborhood Association Christmas Social will be held on December 8, 2025. Judy Placer, Joseph Tidwell, Harold Porter and Nourine Lanerie will serve on the committee. Judy advises that donations are needed for the door prizes. Johnafort suggests that each commission member donate a door prize. Discussion follows.

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

Matt Hulin motions to adjourn, seconded by Thaddeus Shelvin; no opposition; motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Matt Hulin motions to adjourn, seconded by Thaddeus Shelvin; no opposition; motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.