

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP MINUTES – RECREATION DIRECTOR
APRIL 9, 2018**

PRESENT AND ACTING:

**GENE BAILEY, VICE-CHAIRMAN
DARRELL MCDUGALD
JERAL HALL
DENNIS JONES**

**CARLA A. HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER
SARAH WILLIAMS, CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

Vice Chairman Bailey called the workshop held in the regular Board meeting room to order at 5:00 P.M., CT.

Vice Chairman Bailey opened the floor for discussion about the use of Calhoun County parks and a Recreation Director.

Mr. Jerrod Waldron stated they would like to pick back up where they left off at the last Board meeting and discuss if or when a recreation director could be hired or someone to help with maintenance, if the forty-five (45) day rule to reserve the park would be dropped or reduced, and if there would be any upgrades done at Sam Atkins Park ballfields. Commissioner McDougald stated he thought Mr. Waldron did a good job at the Board meeting explaining the needs they have at the park, but a funding source would need to be found in order to accomplish much of what has been requested. Commissioner McDougald stated he did not know anything further to do at this point, as the Board is not entering into a new budget cycle yet. (Commissioner Jones joined the workshop at this time) Vice-Chairman Bailey stated he has had several calls concerning the use of the park. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated when he first read Resolution 2016-7 before he came on the Board; he had an issue with the forty-five (45) day rule and would like to see it changed. Commissioner McDougald stated the rule was placed in the Resolution to give plenty of time for events to be scheduled and organized, but he does not mind changing the Resolution. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated he feels the Resolution should be changed to a seven (7) day notice with stipulations included to reflect that children and youth events and tournaments have priority over other events, and for a \$300 refundable clean-up deposit to be submitted to the Clerk's Office. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated the resolution could have a segment relating to ball tournaments since that is the main use of the park. Vice-Chairman stated the Maintenance Department could check the park after tournaments and events, and if the park were cleaned-up satisfactorily, the Clerk's Office would refund the clean-up deposit. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated he would like to see the park utilized for tournaments, which could make money for the ball teams. There was further discussion about the use of the park.

Mr. Ricky Silcox stated reducing the forty-five (45) day rule would really help with scheduling tournaments in Calhoun County at Sam Atkins Park. Mr. Silcox stated these tournaments could bring money into the County, not only at the park but also at businesses within the County. Mr. Silcox stated if tournaments are held, some of the money made could be given back to the County to spend on field maintenance during the off-season to make improvements. Mr. Silcox stated while there are good fields, improvements could be made. Mr. Silcox stated he is aware there is only so much Mr. Jenks can do at

the park, and more inmate labor from the prison is needed. Mr. Silcox stated he knows the County depends on inmate labor to get things done, and unfortunately, over the past few years the prison (the State) has not provided adequate crews. Mr. Silcox stated it would do the County no good to call the prison; the only way to get results would be to call Tallahassee. Mr. Silcox stated when he worked at the institution his priority was to get more inmates outside the fence working, but was unable to do so because the prison is worried about overtime and budgets. Mr. Silcox stated when the institution was built in Calhoun County, the promise was made that inmate labor would be provided to help the County. Mr. Silcox stated Sam Atkins Park could be improved by holding tournaments and setting up a committee to create a plan of what improvements are needed and how to make the improvements. Mr. Silcox stated if tournaments are held throughout the ball season and some of the money made has been turned over to the County, some improvements could be made with the funds and would not have to be spent out of the County budget. Mr. Silcox stated he would love to see a recreation director for Calhoun County, but knows this position would cost the County salary and retirement. Mr. Silcox stated Liberty County has a recreation director and many Calhoun County kids leave to play sports in Liberty County because they have more programs than Calhoun County. Mr. Silcox stated he would like a plan to improve and bring in more programs to the park in Calhoun County. Mr. Silcox stated a list of priorities and a plan needs to be created to improve and grow the park from year to year. Mr. Silcox stated the park ballfields need to be maintained year round instead of three (3) weeks before the season starts, but he knows the County does not have the work force to do this. Mr. Silcox stated inmate labor is there to help, but instead of calling the institution, the County needs to call the State office for changes to be made. Mr. Silcox stated lessening the time for reserving the park is a good step in helping them be able to put on more tournaments at Sam Atkins Park. There was further discussion about tournaments. Mr. Silcox asked who they could call when scheduling tournaments at Sam Atkins Park. Mr. Silcox stated there are some things that need to be done to the ball fields as well, such as shaving the fields. Mr. Waldron stated shaving the fields is something that would need to be done in the off-season. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated he would like to see all the coaches get with Mr. Jenks after the season is over to help with some of the maintenance projects. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated Mr. Jenks has a tiller or anything else that is needed and would do anything within reason to help with the fields, and does an excellent job. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated he does not mind looking into what a part time recreation director would cost the County in the upcoming budget cycle. Vice-Chairman Bailey asked Mr. Jenks if he would be the point of contact for scheduling tournaments at the park. Mr. Jenks stated he could be the contact. Mr. Jenks stated he has put in a request to speak with the new major at the prison to talk to him about inmate labor, but he has not had a response yet. Mr. Jenks stated he has not had much inmate help lately. Mr. Jenks stated it would help if there were someone designated to spend more time at the park than he is, because he has much to take care of throughout the County. Mr. Waldron asked if there is a plan in place for maintaining the fields if inmate labor is lost for an extended period during ball season. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated the County does not have a dedicated workforce to send to the park, and volunteers would be needed to step up to help and fill in on days when inmate labor is not available. Mr. Waldron stated there could at least be someone dedicated to work all day at the park in these instances. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated enough tournament money would need to be raised to pay this position. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated a position could be looked into during the next budget cycle, but one person is not going to make up for eight (8) inmates working at the park. There was further discussion about inmate labor. Commissioner Bailey stated he would like to see more non-DC inmate work squads, but this would still not solve the problem of relying on inmates to complete work in the County if the prison is locked down and not allowing prisoners out. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated even if there is one (1) person dedicated to the park that person could not do all the work and volunteers would still be needed. Mr. Silcox asked if there is anything they need to do in order to amend the

resolution to reduce the period to reserve the park. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated the change must be made in a Board meeting. Commissioner McDougald stated this change could be made soon.

Mr. Travis Smith asked what would be needed to schedule a Dixie Youth baseball tournament on May 12. Commissioner Bailey stated they would need to schedule with Mr. Jenks, and go ahead and take all their paperwork to the Clerk's Office now. Ms. Heather Ellerbee asked what paperwork needs to be filled out, or if she just needed to go speak with Clerk Hand. Commissioner Bailey stated the Clerk's Office would need their 501c non-profit paperwork and insurance. Mr. Smith asked what the difference is between having regular games on a Friday night and a tournament on the weekend. Commissioner McDougald stated the difference is admission is charged for tournaments but not for regular games. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated the County furnishes the lights for the park, and there needs to be someone the County can send a letter to so someone is held accountable when the lights are left on all night. Mr. Waldron stated the letter should be sent to who is in charge of the park. Vice-Chairman Bailey and Commissioner McDougald stated this responsibility should go to the last person to leave the ball fields. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated he would hope that those who are over all the teams playing would instill in all the coaches that they need to turn the lights off when they leave. Mr. Smith asked if timers could be placed on the lights instead of a light switch so they would automatically shut off at a certain time. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated he was asked about this idea today, and it could be looked into in the future. Vice-Chairman stated this could be one of the items that could be bought with money raised from tournaments. There as further discussion about turning off lights.

Mr. Silcox asked if anyone knows how Liberty County covers the cost of their recreation director. Clerk Hand stated the salary is paid mostly from their ad valorem taxes because they do not make enough money from holding tournaments to pay the full salary. There was further discussion about the recreation director and tournaments. Mr. Silcox thanked the Board for their time and consideration for their concerns. Mr. Silcox stated changing the period for scheduling would be a big step in helping them schedule some tournaments. Commissioner McDougald asked Clerk Hand if Attorney Fuqua could draft the changes to the Resolution for the Board meeting tomorrow night. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated the Board should discuss it in the regular Board meeting tomorrow night. There was further discussion about scheduling tournaments.

Mr. Silcox asked whom a business would need to contact if they wanted to donate a structure, like a batting cage, to the park. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated they would need to contact someone on the Board of County Commissioners. Vice-Chairman stated he did not believe any of the Board members would be opposed to a donation.

Mr. Waldron asked the Board if any other funding, other than money raised at tournaments, would be provided for the park. Vice-Chairman Bailey asked Mr. Jenks how much money is spent on the park each year. Mr. Jenks stated the County spends about \$35,000 per year currently on the park. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated the budget was increased some last year. Mr. Smith asked about the FRDAP (Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program) grant. Commissioner McDougald stated the County usually gets this grant every few years, and Ms. Snowden has been optimistic about the County receiving money through the FRDAP grant this year. Mr. Smith asked whom they should go to about things that need to be upgraded at the park. Commissioner McDougald stated he believes there is a committee that decides on what is needed at the park and makes recommendations for the grant. Mr. Waldron asked if the money received has to be used on one park, or if it could be split between parks. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated the County rotates parks when applying for FRDAP grants. Mr. Jenks stated

the next park in line for a FRDAP grant is Hugh Creek Park and then Mossy Pond Park. There was further discussion about the FRDAP grant.

Mr. Silcox stated Gulf County holds an event each year called White Trash, where citizens can leave their old stoves, ovens, and washers by the road where they can be picked up by the County, and then sell the scrap metal from the appliances and the money goes back into the County. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated maybe Calhoun County could do something like this in the future to generate money to go back into the park.

Vice-Chairman Bailey asked how much it costs a parent with three (3) children to play ball. Mr. Waldron, Mr. Smith, and Ms. Ellerbee responded the cost is \$180 for three (3) children. Vice-Chairman Bailey asked how the registration money for the teams is spent. Ms. Ellerbee stated all the money goes back into the program, and is spent on balls, uniforms, umpires, insurance, other fees, and other equipment that is needed. There was further discussion about funding for the program. Ms. Ellerbee stated they have team sponsors, and asked whom they needed to talk to about hanging a board at the park to recognize their sponsors. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated this would need to be discussed with the County Attorney. There was further discussion about recognizing sponsors. Ms. Ellerbee asked if they got together and made a list of priorities for improvements to the park, what time of year they should come to the Board and request assistance with accomplishing one or more of the improvements on their list. Vice-Chairman Bailey stated they should submit a request by June. Clerk Hand stated there is a balanced budget presented to the Board at the beginning of July. There was further discussion about the park.

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 5:52 p.m.



GENE BAILEY, VICE-CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:



CARLA A. HAND, CLERK