ST. MARY PARISH

RECREATION DISTRICT NO. 3

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The Board of Commissioners of St. Mary Parish Recreation District No. 3 met on Monday, May

22, 2023, in the meeting room at the Bayou Vista Community Center, 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Brian Head-Chairman, Lane Boudreaux, Javon Charles, Calvin Johnson, Rachel Kidder

Absent: Michael Guillotte-Vice Chairman, Dr. Jeffrey Fitter

Sec.-Treas.-Monica Lestage

Manager: Mark Richard

Employees: Jackie Romero, Simone Boyd

Guests: Gwen Hidalgo-Dist. 10- At Large Council Member, Eric Duplantis-Asst. District Attorney

The chairman called the meeting to order and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

New board member, Rachel Kidder, was welcomed.

ADA Eric Duplantis introduced himself and stated that he was asked to attend.

Javon Charles stated that he wanted to be clear, this was not an attack, but he wanted clarity concerning policies, laws, ethics and codes because any mistakes affect the entire board. The Agin Cajun program was questioned. The prior month’s minutes failed to state that the board approved $2,000.00

to get the program started. The board gave Mr. Head the authority to hire a retired teacher to facilitate community programs, beginning with seniors, and proceed forward. Mr. Charles felt that monies were being spent towards the program after notifying all board members, except him, about ordering supplies needed for the program. Mr. Charles had seen a flier advertising a June 7th ceremony and felt he was “left out of the loop” and wanted to know whom authorized it. Mr. Head explained that he did not have his current contact info and that he was not maliciously left out. The program and expenditures had been approved at the prior month’s meeting and the activities director quickly got it moving forward. Mr. Duplantis ruled that there were no violations but maybe the language used was ambiguous and could be tightened in the future. Mr. Head had spoken with Bo LaGrange and was assured that once the board gave the authority for the hire and budget amount, each board member does not have to be contacted for each purchase made. Mr. LaGrange did say a job description needs to be outlined for the activitiy directors’ position. A ceremony will be held June 7th to launch the Agin Cajun program. An organization will provide food, as a donation. Jackie reminded the board that all expenditures need to be approved by signatures from the Chairman and Vice Chairman, if not approved by the board. Gwen Hidalgo stated that the council has been discussing training for the various boards and office staff. Mr. Duplantis said that he is always open to offering any help needed.

Motion was made by Lane Boudreaux to accept the previous months minutes, as circulated. With a second from Calvin Johnson, and all in favor, motion passed.

Accounts payable was approved for payment by motion from Lane Boudreaux, seconded by Calvin Johnson and approved by all.

Mr. Richard gave the maintenance and manager’s report. Rentals have been steady, including year end school field trips. Free passes to the water park were brought to Bayou Vista Elementary. Mark has been busy keeping the concession stand supplied. The splash pad at central park has been repaired. The mowers were serviced and men’s restrooms repaired. There will be a 7-8 year old All Star Tournament June 27-July 1, 2023. The parish online auction has ended. The tractor sold. Permission was granted for Mark to list the convection oven and big stove on Marketplace as parts.

Sam’s Lawncare are working in Noah’s Ark at the present. Landscaping has been completed around the

Bayou Vista Community Center. A couple of trees will be replaced on the boulevard and the job should be complete by Friday.

Carl Blum sent an agreement to be signed for the roof and playground equipment projects.

Facility rental rates were discussed. With the new Agin Cajun program needing the building Tuesday,

Wednesday and Thursday, it was discovered that Dominique has exercise or dance classes on a lot of those days. Paying customers have always taken precedence over free events, however learning that the small amount that is being collected ties up the building a lot of days, the board will readdress this topic.

It will need to be resolved by September.

An annual budget for the senior program, moving forward, was discussed. Javon Charles offered a motion that it be set at $2,400. Calvin Johnson seconded the motion stating that it’s approved beginning June 1st. With all in favor, motion passed. Any additional expenses would have to come before the board.

Employee insurance was discussed. There is a minimum of three needed to qualify for group insurance. Mark and Brandon are in need of these benefits. Once the new office employee is hired, trained and qualifies for insurance, there will be enough for a group plan.

An employee evaluation was discussed. Donald Jaet has been a faithful employee for 10 years with

a great work history. After discussion, it was decided to increase his pay to $13 an hour by motion from Calvin Johnson. Lane Boudreaux seconded the motion. Javon Charles abstained from voting. With all other members voting aye, motion passed.

Mr. Charles discussed fund raising, grants, sponsors and donations. He stated there are generous businesses looking to sponsor events. He suggested a car show or wrestling. He will get with a grant writer to see what grants are available.

Javon Charles stated that the new employee should be knowledgeable about budgets, millages and such.

He asked the office staff “do you know your roll, and are you qualified?” He asked Mark if he knows his job as a manager? He stated that job descriptions need to be revised.

There being no further business to come before the board, motion was made by Calvin Johnson to adjourn. With a second by Lane Boudreaux, and all in favor, motion passed.

(s) Brian Head

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Brian Head, Chairman