

CITY OF CALLAWAY
SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES – APRIL 21, 2014

Vice Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robbie Robinson, Tim Legare, Jeff Munn (arr. At 6:12 P.M.),
Tim Legare

MEMBERS ABSENT: Greg McHugh

OTHERS PRESENT: City Clerk Hirth

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Member Robinson moved to approve the minutes from January 27, 2014. Committee Member Legare seconded the motion.

All ayes

Committee Member McHugh Absent

BUSINESS ITEMS

ITEM #1 CALLAWAY YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE REQUEST

Chairman Harshbarger stated the Callaway Youth Football League and the Gulf Coast Youth Football Association have requested use of the football fields at the Recreational Complex for the upcoming football season. They would also have possible cheerleading events on the fields as well.

Tina Lunsford, 119 Kimberly Circle, Callaway, FL, stated the request for use of the fields was sent a while back and the person most knowledgeable about the requested use is Jim Reese (915 School Avenue, Panama City, FL) with the Gulf Coast Youth Football Association. She said it would not only be the Callaway Rebels playing on the fields but other area football teams as well. She said Mr. Reese would be able to let the Committee know the requirements for league usage of the fields. Mr. Reese said he had been approached by Committee Member Legare several times regarding using the Recreational Complex for games. He gave background information regarding the fields they have used in the past such as Buddy McLemore Park. He stated the City of Springfield has been giving the league a hard time by not fixing the fields, repairing lights, etc. so they are seeking another option for field usage on this side of Bay County. He stated he's aware the complex was built using a grant and that it had limitations regarding usage requirements. He gave the Board the requirements needed for them to use the fields such as:

- Have to charge admission for their games because this is the way the league pays for the officials. He stated we held State tournaments at our fields in the past and they charged a donation fee which may be the way we need to go if

they use the City's Recreational Complex. He said it would be very difficult to pay \$125.00 per night. He said when they used Buddy McLemore fields they paid a flat fee per month. They would prefer to do this if we could come up with a reasonable amount to be charged. He said a fee should be charged whether or not the Callaway Rebels are playing because it would not be fair to send all the other teams out to Pete Edward's field to play which would not be fair. Board Member Munn asked the average price they paid for use at other fields. He said they do not pay for use of Bay County or Pete Edward's field except for the charge for lights and that is \$25.00/hour which is usually 1 ½ hours per night. They stripe the fields for the League and charge them for the paint used. He went on to say they paid Buddy McLemore \$300/month plus they paid for the electric and someone to line the field. They also paid for water/sewer and all totaled it cost them over \$3,000 year before last which was basically for two months. Board Member Harshbarger asked how many games are played and Mr. Reese said it will be 8-10 games per team based on the number of teams they have. He explained in detail about how many each team i.e. Peewee, etc. He said the officials are the largest cost which averages \$40/per official per game. He stated there is also a clock person who has to be paid. He said they paid approximately \$26,000 last year for officiating/time keeper. They also have to pay for the kids' insurance and everything else they need to be safe, etc. He stated they play 3-4 games on the field (Saturdays usually 4 games). He said they have games scheduled on Mondays, Tuesdays and Saturdays (2 games during the week and 4 games on Saturdays). Tina Lunsford said there are 280 games for the entire league and one-half of those would be played at the Recreational Complex (140 games). Mr. Reese said they try to start the games early enough so they use the lights as little as possible. He said Callaway Rebels or other teams such as soccer would not be allowed to practice on that particular field. He stated that practices would have to be moved to Gore Park. Mrs. Lunsford said there are 160 players (which does not include the cheerleaders). He stated it's hard to tell how many people will be attending games – usually the smaller boys' parents as well the Beach, Callaway, and Lynn Haven will draw the largest crowds. Mr. Reese stated they contract out the security for the games.

- They would station a gatekeeper to collect the donations and to control whoever is coming into the games. They collect \$2.00/12 yrs.-adult, \$1.00/children 5-12, and 5-under are free. Championship games they charge \$3.00/adults.
- Concession stands and gate charges/donations is how they receive their money.
- Lights for night games
- Perimeter fencing of the field and a 4' high fence
- Bleachers
- Restroom Facilities
- Locker rooms are not required
- Tower needed for scorekeeper/timekeeper
- Scoreboard which will need to have electricity ran out to it

Jim Lunsford, 119 Kimberly Circle, Callaway, FL, stated if they do get the Recreational Complex for the football games, they need to have the fields at Gore Park fixed. He said there are sandspurs all over the fields. He stated because they have the "Rebel House" at Gore Park, they need a dehumidifier because there was mold all over their equipment which caused some things to have to be replaced. He stated that once baseball is finished they could move the blue fence (diamond) more up towards the field. Committee Member Legare said there will be a conflict in that area due to Fall Ball being played there. Mr. Lunsford said if they have to work around it that would be fine because it's just their practice which could be broken into smaller groups plus the smaller players do not take up as much room as the guys he works with. He said they are flexible and will work around any issues.

Committee Member Legare stated he had done some quick estimating on the fencing and a 4' perimeter fence would be approximately \$8,000 for chain link. He said if they did something like a split rail it would be a lot less expensive. If it's done with 6' chain link fencing it would be approximately \$16,000. He said 12 sets of bleachers would be about \$34,000. He said with those added together you have \$58,000 just in bleachers and fence. He said he spoke with the concessionaire who has looked at the back area for concession, which is fairly small, which she would be stretched fairly tight to cover that area with the type crowds they would be expecting. He said people would have to go out of the perimeter fencing to go to the concession stand. He said these are some of the logistic things we have to be looking at. Committee Member Legare continued by saying the field use fee which is \$125/per field per day is the way the ordinance is written so this would have to be addressed also. Mr. Reese spoke again and said at Buddy McLemore Park the perimeter is fenced but the other fencing is half-field, 4' fencing – it runs from one goal post to the other goal post on each side. He asked if the gatekeeper could be located at the front gate to the Complex and in this way there would not be a need for perimeter fencing. Board Member Munn stated if he wanted to walk his dog he did not want to have to pay to get into the park. Committee Member Legare stated we would probably need to do the admitting down closer to the field because we will have soccer going on also. Mr. Reese said they use hand stamps. Chairman Harshbarger wanted to know if, since they are requesting 6 sets of bleachers, will they be full and Mr. Reese said probably not. Chairman Harshbarger asked the minimum number of bleachers they need, after discussing, it was decided that 3 sets (3 on each side) would be sufficient. Board Member Legare said they could cut the number of bleachers down to 5. Chairman Harshbarger said if more were needed for championship games, etc., they could be rented. Mr. Reese said the timekeeper/scorekeeper needs to be up high. He said this person must be able to see all of the officials over the field. Mr. Reese was asked how long the season would run for football and he said they begin practice August 1st and then after Jamboree (usually around Labor Day) their season begins and is over by the second week in November. Board Member Legare said Gore Park needs a really good top dressing and a few herbicide applications to make it better than it is. Mrs. Lunsford said they are mainly concerned since the girls are doing tumbling/stunting out there they do not want holes in the ground and want it to be level.

Chairman Harshbarger told the group present the Sports and Recreation Committee would have to inform the City Commission as to the final information arrived at for this proposal and they will have the final say in this matter. Committee Member Legare stated there is money in the Park Fund for park improvements only but this would require Commission approval to do a budget revision to move the funds to his budget. Board Member Munn stated he had been looking at this option for several years but it is a logistical nightmare with regard to collecting fees from people coming into the Recreational Complex and controlling who gets into the area to watch the games, you have soccer going on at the same time as well as other functions that would not require a gate donation, etc. Board Member Legare reminded everyone there will be a perimeter fence around the football field which will run from the pump house down along the side of the walking trail. The issue of being at the soccer game and being able to turn around and watch the football game came up and everyone stated this happens at other places too and that's what their security looks for. Board Members Robinson and Legare discussed the cost and stated the cost is still around \$39-40,000 which includes Gore Park but does not include the tower for the scorekeeper/timekeeper. They stated maybe a business would donate one. Board Member Legare said they have not addressed their request to receive a portion of the concessions. He stated the concessionaire already gives the Recreational Complex a portion of the profit which is used for all the sports activities. Board Member Robinson asked Mrs. Lunsford if they were aware that the Complex already received a portion of the concessionaire and she stated the request was more for the GCYFBA because they run the concessions at Buddy McLemore and Pete Edwards fields. Board Member Robinson also said the \$125/day covers water/sewer/power, etc. Mr. Reese stated they were paying around \$900/month at Buddy McLemore Park and here it would be \$1,500/month. Chairman Harshbarger told Mrs. Lunsford that we would need to get an accurate price on fencing, repairing the scoreboard and dirt for Gore Park and if she could get them some type of rough schedule then they can meet again to see if they want to continue to pursue using the Recreational Complex for their football games.

Committee Member Robinson moved to have Committee Member Legare get a cost breakdown of each individual item that will be needed per the Callaway Rebels' request to include the funds needed to bring the football fields up to par at Gore Park even if the field fencing does not take place so it can be a multiuse field for them to practice as well as other leagues to use.

He continued by saying for them to present a good case to the City Commission they will need how many games at \$125/day rental fee and how much it takes for them to run a week's worth of games and how many weeks those games are going to run and give this information to Committee Member Legare. He said we have to look at what we're charging, what we're spending and see how it works out. He stated they may ask them to do part of the changes this year and the other part next year. They just do not know how it will work out. This will help them to figure out the cost for field fees to be charged in order to make this a worthwhile investment.

Board Member Munn seconded the motion. Chairman Harshbarger paraphrased the motion by saying Board Member Legare will get a cost breakdown for the fencing, bleachers, scoreboard, Gore Park improvements and the special stand. Callaway Rebels will provide us with the number of games and the number of weeks so we can get a better idea on spending vs income. He asked for public comment at this time. An audience member asked if the parking lot at Gore Park could be repaired because the kids go in there and do doughnuts and make big mud holes. Committee Member Legare stated it is graded regularly and they have a plan on it but it is quite costly. We have engineering done to asphalt that area but to pave it we would have to have stormwater drainage which would be where the big pine trees are would become a pond. He said they were looking to get a Florida Wildlife Commission grant for better water access however the grant money dried up for a couple of years but they will continue to check on it. Mr. Reese said he needs some figures for his Board meeting. He asked what the \$125/day covered and Committee Member Legare said it covers everything as far as the field goes – field prep, lights, water, sewer, striping, and a maintenance person for stopped up toilets, etc. until 9:00 P.M. If the games go beyond 9:00 P.M., it's \$25.00/hour. Chairman Harshbarger told everyone concerned that Committee Member Legare researched the charge of \$125/day for fields of the same caliber around the County and around the State. Tallahassee charges close to \$200 and does not include a maintenance person. He said Frank Brown Park has just changed their schedule and he hasn't seen it. He continued by saying this is not a bad deal for what we have at our Recreational Park. He called for a vote.

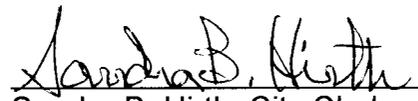
All ayes

Committee Member McHugh absent

There being no further business, Committee Member Robinson moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 P.M. Committee Member Legare seconded the motion.

All ayes

Committee Member McHugh absent


Sandra B. Hirth, City Clerk