

**AT A MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON APRIL 17, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ.**

**Attendance:**

**Gay Steffen (P)**  
**Mark Rivers, Sr. (P)**  
**Harold Bailey (P)**  
**Mary Jack Boone (P)**  
**Herb Chancey (P)**  
**Clyde Collins (P)**  
**Leroy Smith (A)**  
**Jeronda Robinson**  
**Laurel Bradley**  
**Beryl Wood, Deputy Clerk**

**1. Meeting Called to Order/Welcome**

Mr. Collins welcomed everyone to the Advisory Meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

**2. Introduction of Members**

Everyone across the dais introduced themselves by giving their name and a brief history of their recreation background.

**3. Overview of Purpose and Duties of the Advisory Board**

Mr. Collins gave an overview of the purpose and duties of this Advisory Board. The Board shall advise the Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation Department on issues presented to the Board related to the study and planning for the operation of the parks and recreation program and the creation and operation of County parks, playgrounds, and recreation areas. He said the functions of the Board shall be: to encourage citizen participation; to present or discuss policies and programs affecting parks and recreation; to study issues; to provide input on the values, goals, and objectives of a program; to develop program plans; and to contribute to continuous feedback; and make recommendations to the County Commission for overall quality program/service deliveries.

4. **Election of Chair/Vice- Chair**

Mr. Collins commented that before they proceeded they needed to elect a Chair and Vice – Chair.

**CHAIR**

**UPON MOTION BY MR. BAILEY AND SECOND BY MR. RIVERS, THE COUNCIL VOTED 5 -0, BY VOICE VOTE, FOR APPROVAL OF MS. STEFFEN AS CHAIR TO THE PARKS AND REC ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

**VICE - CHAIR**

**UPON MOTION BY MS. STEFFEN AND SECOND BY MS. BOONE, THE COUNCIL VOTED 5 – 0, BY VOICE VOTE, FOR APPROVAL OF MR. BAILEY AS VICE – CHAIR TO THE PARKS AND REC ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

***Chair – Ms. Steffen; Vice – Chair – Mr. Bailey***

5. **General Discussion**

Chair Steffen asked for goals, she said she felt it was important to have the meeting, but they should have something outlined, such as further down the line camps with things for the kids to do over the summer. St. Hebron Community Park that will be all inclusive, also one on the other side of the County as well. She said maybe in the Pat Thomas Park at the lake area where they hold events, anything that promotes the County that involves recreation, playground equipment, grants, etc. and to come up with ideas to make the County better.

Ms. Steffen asked about resources that were out there now. Mr. Collins said yes, they could set up a trip to see the parks and make available a parks budget.

Ms. Bradley said they could get a list of all parks and she would send that information out.

Chair Steffen asked about personnel with the parks. Mr. Collins said they rely on inmate crews; Mr. Chancey was in charge. He said they could do better in that area. He said maybe a recommendation of a Recreation Director. Chair Steffen said it was important to have staff.

Mr. Bailey discussed an 18 League which the Gadsden County Cardinals Baseball Team will be a part of. He said in order to make this happen they have to have leadership and they have three great leaders that will put this team together. He said they have the approval for Corey Field to be the home field. He said that was already in process of scheduling games, four of which were rained out Sunday, the Baseball Showcase Classic, which was hosted by the Gadsden County Cardinals. He said in order to have a baseball team of this nature, had to make contact with

other local baseball teams such as the Jackson County Jay, Liberty County Diamond Dogs, Bay County, Washington County and others. Mr. Collins asked was the Quincy Dodgers still in effect and he said they were.

Mr. Bailey introduced James Travis who was present and Alvin Bush who was not as the Coaches to the Cardinals and Randall Estelle as manager of the team. He said they will put together a time for tryouts.

Mr. Collins commented to keep budgets maintained. He said the Board would need to appropriate funds, (franchise fees, a great asset for the children and people of Gadsden County. He said they are on the road to having something good. He said they just have to make a presentation and give it to the Board. He said he believed if it was built it, they would come.

Mr. Travis said they have a field to play at Corey Field. He said the league is for 16 & up, an adult league.

Ms. Bradley asked would they be able to try out for this team or if decisions had been made on who would be on the team. Ms. Boone discussed the importance of advertising that would create a versatile team. She said Monroe, Tallavana, and other schools have youth that she felt would be a great addition along with the adults.

Mr. Bailey said his job was publicity and promotion for the team.

Mr. Collins asked for them to bring their ideas to this meeting concerning recreation and making it fun again for all.

Mr. Rivers said that he had served on Committees in the past. He referenced his time serving as the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Quincy that they would come up with ideas take it to the Board and sometimes they would vote in favor and other times they would not. Mr. Collins commented that this is an advisory meeting and it was an open meeting and the public was welcome to come, it was advertised and bring ideas forward to the BOCC.

Mr. Rivers said he wanted to know the format. He said with Recreation in the County, he worked under Mr. Joe Ferolito and learned a lot. He said for the last 20 years he has been involved in Recreation in this County and knew he did traveling teams throughout the County with youth. He said he is excited because there was a need in this county. He said he wanted to be a vessel. He said baseball in this County was needed.

Ms. Boone recalled when baseball was great in the County. She said this was great and the setup and try to bring back, get back with the league.

Mr. Rivers recalled the 2010 records in Lake City with baseball. He said those families travel with the youth and people need beds and that was revenue. He said that would be a great program for this County. He said a Sunday afternoon league was a great idea. He said people from all around love our parks and we have some of the best outdoors in the south.

Chair Steffen mentioned that they don't want to leave the girl leagues out.

Mr. Rivers commented on goals and partnerships where they all can work together with baseball. He said going forward feels really good.

The consensus was that the starting point would be to get the list.

6. **Discuss Next Meeting Date and Time -**

Chair Steffen said they would like to have the touring trip before the next meeting to access all the county parks.

Mr. Bailey inquired about getting on the BOCC agenda.

Ms. Bradley said you can come as citizens to be heard for tonight and you will get 3 minutes to speak, but they will probably direct you to meet with Mrs. Jackson first. She said you can also do a formal request for help with uniforms for the Cardinals. He commented the price was \$62.08 for full uniforms (20) total. She stated based on the Bylaws they meet once a month the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month and the next meeting was scheduled for May 8, 2017, at 10:00 am.

**May 2, 2018, for a look at parks at 10:00 am**

Citizens requesting to be heard on Non –Agenda Items

There was no additional citizen's requesting to be heard.

**Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING  
ADJOURNED AT 11:04 A.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**GAY STEFFEN, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk of Court**