

BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES

Mr. Bob Brotherton, Chairman  
Mr. Keith Sutton, Co-Chairman  
August 21, 2024

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the Bossier Parish Police Jury met on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2024, immediately following the Capital Improvements/Building and Grounds Committee, in the Police Jury Conference Room, Bossier Parish Courthouse, Benton, Louisiana. Mr. Bob Brotherton, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m., with the following members present: Mr. Bob Brotherton, Chairman, Mr. Keith Sutton, Co-Chairman, Mr. Glenn Benton, Mr. Chris Marsiglia, Mr. Doug Rimmer, and Mr. Tom Salzer.

Others present for the meeting:

Mr. Jimmy Cochran

Mr. Julian Darby

Ms. Ashley Ezell

Ms. Stacie Fernandez

Mr. Butch Ford

Ms. Julie Gill

Ms. Pam Glorioso

Ms. Monica Grappe

Mr. Patrick Jackson

Ms. Megan Ramos

Mr. Warren Saucier

Mr. Rod White

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Mr. Warren Saucier, Parks and Recreation Director, stated that Mr. Charles McKinley, Houghton Athletics, cannot be here today due to work commitments. He stated he will reschedule a meeting of the committee to discuss proposed improvements to the baseball fields at the Lawson “Bo” Brandon Sports Complex.

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Mr. Saucier stated that there is Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) property at the Tall Timbers Park, which is currently maintained by his department, and advised that there is not presently a determined use for this property. He stated that a walking path has been discussed for this area, but no further action has been taken on those discussions. He further stated that a resident of the Tall Timbers neighborhood has asked if the parish might consider constructing a frisbee golf course for this area. Mr. Saucier stated he advised the gentleman that he does not know much about frisbee golf as a sport but requested some additional information to present to the police jury. He stated that the extent of his knowledge of frisbee golf is that it is played much like golf, but with a frisbee in lieu of golf clubs and a golf ball. He further stated that there are frisbee golf tournaments, as well as those who travel to play in these tournaments. Mr. Saucier stated that he is unaware of the crowd size generated for these events.

Mr. Saucier stated that there are contractors who design and construct frisbee golf courses,

and he has provided committee members with a copy of one proposed course layout. He stated that the estimated cost for construction is approximately \$30,000. He further stated that per Mr. Glenn Benton's request, this resident talked with all the residents of Tall Timbers to ensure that there is no opposition to this proposed development. Mr. Saucier stated that the resident went a step further and obtained signatures in support of this project from every resident except one, who said she was neither for nor against the project. He stated that with budget season approaching, he wanted to bring this proposed project to the committee for further discussion before committing more time to development.

Mr. Chris Marsiglia asked if the Parks and Recreation Department is currently cutting the grass on this property. Mr. Saucier stated that his department takes care of this area, along with the others. Mr. Marsiglia stated that if this area is developed as a frisbee golf course, continuing to maintain it is no extra expense to the department. Mr. Saucier stated that it is no extra expense to maintain the grass if developed, and advised that the cost of building the course is the additional expense not currently budgeted.

Mr. Doug Rimmer stated that frisbee golf is a growing sport and advised that he has friends who are of an advanced age who play regularly. He stated that there are certain clubs used, set rules, and those who play are very serious about the sport.

Mr. Benton asked Mr. Butch Ford, Parish Administrator, if portions of the property presented today are wetlands. Mr. Ford stated that the parish constructed a levee in this area, and wetlands credits were needed to complete the project. He stated the area of some of the proposed frisbee golf holes are in wetlands areas and advised they cannot be developed. Mr. Benton stated that the proposed plan may need some revisions to comply with the wetlands designation. Mr. Saucier asked for clarification on the property lines for Tall Timbers Park. Mr. Ford stated that there is a road that leads to the oxidation pond behind the levee, and advised there is one home there that the parish does not own, and we cannot access that property. Mr. Benton stated that the parish owns the next lot but advised that the neighbors have maintained it so we cannot interfere with that.

Mr. Saucier stated the proposal can be adjusted to accommodate those wetlands areas and asked if the committee is interested in him exploring this further. Mr. Benton stated that if the neighborhood is agreeable with this plan, there will be no traffic in the neighborhood, and there is space for parking for the events, he does not have an issue with proceeding with this proposed use.

Mr. Saucier stated that the gray parking area by the kids park can be utilized, and advised that no cars will be in the neighborhood.

Mr. Rimmer stated that there are frisbee golf courses at Ford Park and Clyde Fant Parkway in Caddo Parish. Mr. Ford stated that the South Bossier Park may be another option to consider, advising that there is plenty of room for potentially a 27-hole course at that location.

Ms. Pam Glorioso asked if there are any land and/or water grant funds available for this type of project. Mr. Saucier stated that he has not explored that possibility yet and advised that he wants to get the consensus of the committee prior to any further research. Mr. Rimmer stated that he may be open to contributing discretionary funds to bring this project to fruition. Mr. Brotherton asked for a consensus of the committee. It was the consensus of the committee to approve the plan and to authorize Mr. Saucier to move forward with research and developing plans for a frisbee golf course at Tall Timbers Park.

Mr. Benton asked Mr. Patrick Jackson, Parish Attorney, if a public hearing will be required for this project. Mr. Jackson asked if the parish will allow some outside entity exclusive use of the management of the course, or if we will continue to own and maintain the property. Mr. Saucier stated that the property will remain under the care of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Jackson asked if there will be an outside party involved in the management of the course. Mr. Saucier stated that an outside company will construct the frisbee golf course but stated that the Parks and Recreation Department will continue to maintain and operate the property. Mr. Jackson stated that if the only third parties are construction contractors similar to any other parish project, there is no issue moving forward.

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Mr. Saucier stated that since improvements at Parish Camp are now complete, his goal is to continue to improve the atmosphere and reputation at the property. He stated that there are still certain actions at Parish Camp which he has continued to address, including removing squatters from the property and preventing visitors from coming to the park solely to utilize the showers. He further stated that he has no issues with those who wish to tent camp at Parish Camp for a set period of time, and suggested instituting a nightly fee of \$10.00 for camping to help combat abuse of the property.

Mr. Rimmer stated that Bodcau Dam charges a nightly camping fee. Mr. Saucier stated that a lot of parks charge a nightly camping fee, advising that there are four or five spots at Parish

Camp which are utilized frequently. He stated that if the area is expanded and improved further, there will likely be more spots available, and advised that if the RV area is developed as planned, a nightly fee will be charged for those spots as well. Mr. Marsiglia asked who collects the money. Mr. Saucier stated that a box is installed for nightly fees and advised that he and his staff are at Parish Camp every one to two days. Mr. Marsiglia asked if Mr. Saucier proposes a limit on the number of consecutive nights a person can camp. Mr. Eric Hudson, Parish Engineer, stated that most campgrounds have a limit for the total number of consecutive nights allowed.

Mr. Benton asked if Mr. Saucier proposes a fee for day visitors who may come in to fish and visit the park. Mr. Saucier stated that he only proposes setting a fee for nightly campers, and advised that he believes day visitors and boat launching should remain free of charge.

Mr. Benton asked Mr. Saucier how many instances of asking someone to leave the property for squatting have occurred over the years. Mr. Saucier stated that over ten years, he has only had a few situations arise that warranted asking someone to leave. Mr. Benton stated that if there is any illegal activity occurring in the park, such activity should be reported to the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office. He stated that he is not in favor of charging fees for a park that the parish provides to the public. Mr. Rimmer stated that if the RV park is developed, a fee system must be established. Mr. Marsiglia stated that a time limit may be a better deterrent than a fee. Mr. Benton stated that he believes Parish Camp is utilized by those who do not have the funds to go to other campgrounds. Mr. Saucier stated that he visits Parish Camp approximately three times a week and makes contact with campers staying in the park. He stated that the visitors coming in solely to use the showers is a totally different situation. Mr. Saucier stated that some have entered the park daily with their bags, utilized the shower facilities, and left the property.

Mr. Brotherton stated that he is in favor of charging a nightly camping fee due to campers utilizing the restrooms, showers, and other amenities. Mr. Marsiglia asked if the fee applies to anyone entering Parish Camp, even if only to use the restroom or turn around. Mr. Brotherton stated that only those setting up camp will be charged a nightly fee, and suggested instituting a ten-day limit for tent camping, like most state parks. Mr. Brotherton stated that if a camper wishes to stay past ten days' time, they must move to another location in the park. Mr. Rimmer stated that it is a similar process at Ivan Lake, which is popular during hunting season. Mr. Saucier stated that hunters have called him for that reason, as well. He stated that he appreciates the flexibility the jury has given him to allow continued use of the campground if there is no waitlist for a spot, and

that he believes those who truly wish to camp and enjoy the park will not have an issue with a fee. He further stated he believes it will be a deterrent to those who wish to use the campground for unscrupulous reasons.

Mr. Keith Sutton stated that he believes this fee is to keep Parish Camp family friendly. He stated that if we do not take steps to ensure that atmosphere, families will not want to visit the area if they do not feel safe. Mr. Saucier stated that the reputation of the park has improved over the years and advised that he wishes to continue to improve the atmosphere. Mr. Sutton stated that if someone is paying a small fee to camp, they are less likely to create problems.

Mr. Saucier stated that approximately a month ago, he had a camper who claimed to own a local roofing company and live in Bossier City. He stated that the camper advised that his business was slow at the time, and he decided to camp and enjoy nature. He further stated that he observes the campers and during visits with them, he can generally get a sense of who is a legitimate camper and who is not. Mr. Saucier stated he advised the camper that living at the campground is not allowed, but camping to enjoy nature and for a vacation is acceptable. He stated that after he visited with this camper, he left the campground the next day.

Mr. Rimmer asked if Cypress Lake charges a nightly fee. The committee members stated that there is a charge at Cypress Lake, as well.

Mr. Brotherton called for a vote on the proposal of charging a nightly camping fee. Mr. Rimmer asked if there will be a limit on the number of days attached to the fee. Mr. Saucier stated that he will do additional research and bring a suggestion back to the committee. It was the consensus of the committee to approve the institution of a nightly camping fee, with Mr. Benton opposing.

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Mr. Ford stated that the parish is receiving \$366,000 for the Kingston Road Park, \$193,000 for the South Bossier Park, and an additional \$125,000, for which staff is currently working on identifying needs for that funding, including Parish Camp. He expressed appreciation to Senator Adam Bass, Representative Dennis Bamburg and Representative Dodie Horton, for their efforts to secure these funds for parish improvements. He further stated that the parish also received \$1,000,000 to begin the design work for Hwy 157, for which an item is on today's regular meeting agenda.

Mr. Sutton asked if the funding secured by Representative Bamburg includes funds

specifically for South Bossier. Mr. Ford stated that Representative Bamburg advised him that he would like to see \$25,000 used for Parish Camp and stated that the remaining \$100,000 was not specified. Mr. Sutton stated that he believes Representative Bamburg intended for the funds to be used within his district.

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Mr. Brotherton stated that he has received several complaints regarding dogs running loose, especially bulldogs, at Parish Camp. Mr. Brotherton asked Mr. Jackson if there is a parish-wide leash law to be enforced. Mr. Jackson stated that there is no parish-wide leash law, but advised it is enforced by subdivision. He stated that the parish can identify the area at Parish Camp to require a leash law and advised that the subdivision ordinance can be amended to add all parks, or certain parks by name. Mr. Saucier stated that he suggests all parks be included in the leash law requirement. Mr. Jackson stated that he will prepare documents for an agenda item for the next regular meeting.

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Mr. Rimmer asked about the plan for an RV park at Parish Camp and the timetable for that project. Mr. Ford stated that is currently being reviewed in light of the state funding received through our local delegation this year. Mr. Saucier stated he is also reviewing opportunities for grant funding. Mr. Ford stated it will be an expensive project to complete, advising that it will require construction of roads, electrical service, and water and sewer service.

Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Ford what the biggest expense is for the RV park. Mr. Ford stated the road construction will be the biggest expense, followed by construction of pads for the RV's to park. He stated the next expenses are electrical service to each site, along with the installation of water and sewer lines, advising that all of those items are expensive. He further stated that having an RV park at Parish Camp has always been part of the plan and advised that the parish will begin searching for any available grant money for the project.

This concluded the meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by Mr. Bob Brotherton.

MEGAN C. RAMOS  
INTERIM PARISH SECRETARY

BOB BROTHERTON, CHAIRMAN  
BOSSIER PARISH POLICE JURY