



**Baldwin County Board of Commissioners**  
**Work Session**  
**July 1 , 2025**  
**1601 N Columbia St, Suite 220**  
**5:00 PM**

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MINUTES

PRESENT

Andrew Strickland, Chair  
Kendrick Butts, Vice Chair  
Sammy Hall  
Emily C. Davis  
Scott Little

OTHERS

Dawn Hudson  
Brandon Palmer

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Andrew Strickland called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

ADMINISTRATIVE/FISCAL MATTERS

Recreation Department Policies

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson gave an overview of the recreation department policies stating the policies were developed in 2008/2009 when the department was functioning differently. The policies were updated in 2014 and haven't been reviews since.

The floor was opened for discussion.

Commissioner Hall recommended that the recreation policies be discarded and that they start over; there were many issues that had not been addressed properly.

Commissioner Butts expressed his concern about opening up pickleball before voting on rules. Commissioner Hall responded that they could open the pickleball courts based on the current rules and policies and they could operate under them until other policies were adopted.

Commissioner Strickland stated that much of the existing policies dealt with sports organizations that didn't exist anymore; previously organizations ran the programs and collected money. He felt the current policy fell short and the recreation committee should get input from the stakeholders then develop a policy that best served the public and one that would give the staff the tools to execute the policy.

Commissioner Davis stated that staff from the Recreation Department needed to be included in the meeting.

Commissioner Little agreed with the statements made.

Chairman Strickland opened the floor for public comment.

Molly Jones spoke on behalf of Coach Havier. She asked if there were plans to put up shotput and discuss cages, asked if the banners with the team's achievements would be back up in the gym, and asked about the possibility of renting the recreation center for tournaments.

There was a discussion about including policies for renting facilities for tournaments and hanging banners.

Former Commissioner Henry Craig spoke about the pickleball facilities stating there should be no user fees; citizens should always have free play areas with any user fees charged to reserve courts. Mr. Craig discussed keeping vehicles off the grassy areas that were not meant for parking, providing more trash receptacles, and waiving all recreation fees for citizens who committed their lives to the community. He asked that there be programs available for senior citizens.

Cynthia Ward Edwards spoke stating she was a proud retiree of the Baldwin County Recreation Department and that she spoke on behalf of the local chapter of the NAACP to address concerns about the aquatic center being affordable and accessible to all citizens. She discussed the proposed \$10.00 fee and asked what that fee covered. She stated the commissioners were on a good start. She thanked Commissioner Craig for what he had done as commissioner.

There was a discussion about the fee and that it was based on Dublin's Center, estimating the cost for running the facility, and that the final policies including the fee were not final.

There was a discussion about \$6 million in grants being used to build the facilities and charging user fees to cover the operational costs to keep the facilities from failing.

Steve Franks thanked the commission for the pickleball facilities and discussed the progression of the program. He thanked Commissioners Westmoreland and Craig.

Someone from the audience asked when the pickleball court would be opened. Recreation Director Traci Rollins responding it should be done within the month and the contractor had the punch list.

Donna Holick asked that there be an opportunity for the public to discuss the policies and having an opportunity to teach.



There was a discussion about the procedure for the members of the recreation committee to get input from the stakeholder, that the commissioners would ultimately make the final decision, and that the policy would apply to all the recreation facilities – not just the pickleball courts.

Nita Reeves expressed her concern about the \$10.00 fee for the pool and asked how a family could afford it.

There was a discussion about the aquatic center fee, offering a family pass, appointing a member of the community on the recreation committee, getting input from the community, allowing participants from the different sports programs input into the policy, and installing additional trash cans throughout the facility.

There was a discussion about the cost of operating the aquatic center and setting a fee that would not make a profit but would allow the facility to pay for itself.

Commissioner Butts stated there would be a cost to run the aquatic center, they would be looking at the numbers again, and they would work it out as board and make it reasonable for everyone in the community.

There was a discussion about negotiating with the City for the cost of water usage.

#### ADJOURNMENT

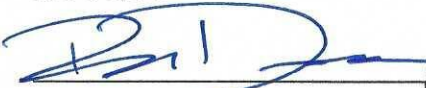
Commissioner Davis made a motion to adjourn at 5:58. Commissioner Butts seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Submitted,



Andrew Strickland, Chair  
Baldwin County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Bo Dantuser, County Clerk  
Baldwin County, Georgia

