



BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

October 3, 2023
1601 N Columbia Street, Suite 210
4:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Emily Davis
John Westmoreland
Kendrick Butts
Henry Craig
Sammy Hall

OTHERS PRESENT

Brandon Palmer
Carlos Tobar
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Emily Davis called the Work Session to order at 4.00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE 1 FISCAL MATTERS

Recreation Department

Assistant County Manager Dawn Hudson reported the Milledgeville Pickleball Club has offered to help the County resurface the pickleball and tennis courts by raising \$80,000 which is onehalf the estimated cost of resurfacing all the courts and replacing the nets. Ms. Hudson stated they are requesting the County match dollars raised by the Club in order to complete the renovation of the courts. She also reported the Pickleball Club has presented a proposal to the County to assist with pickleball activities, and this proposal has been given to the County Attorney for his review.

Recreation Director Traci Bowden reported the Club has approached her about a Partnership Agreement whereby a group of volunteers will assist in managing the pickleball program. She stated the County Recreation Department has historically worked with associations to help run various programs at the department.

Commissioner Henry Craig stated he has no objection to a financial partnership with the Pickleball Club to refurbish courts; however, he is opposed to the Club helping manage the Recreation Department pickleball activities. He stressed all scheduling should be done through the Recreation Department; and unless the courts are specifically reserved, everyone should have access to the County courts.

Commissioner Sammy Hall agreed that all programs and activities should be approved by the Recreation Department staff prior to taking place. The Department must control all recreation activities.

Commissioner John Westmoreland agreed everyone should be allowed access to County facilities.

Mr. Donald Smith addressed the Commissioners stating the Club gets approval from the Recreation Department prior to activities, and no one is denied access to the courts to play.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts stated pickleball activities by the Club should be handled as other activities, i.e., liability insurance and security to be provided by the group. He reported he has not seen the proposed agreement and would not speak on it.

Mr. Steve Franks stated the morning group of players are interested in recreational play rather than league / tournament play. He asked that the recreational players be allowed access for

afternoon and evening play.

Assistant County Manager Hudson stated the agreement is not being presented for discussion at this time since the Board and County Attorney must review it and make any changes / corrections.

Commissioner John Westmoreland stated he does not agree with any stipulations being attached to funds for resurfacing.

Ms. Harriett Morris stated she has an active interest in the program as a recreational player. She feels everyone should be given equal opportunity for play and is opposed to anyone other than the Recreation Department having influence or control of the program.

Commissioner Kendrick Butts stated there are two Commissioners on the Recreation Committee and they should be involved and informed about what happens with the Department.

Mr. Dave Morris expressed his concern with the proposal to operate and manage programs at the facility. He stated there should be a reasonable solution for all.

Director Traci Bowden commented she felt both groups could work together, and the Department would be able to handle scheduling of activities and availability of courts.

Assistant County Manager reported a recommendation was made to relocate the tennis courts to the future park at the Government Building. She stated the plans for the future park would only accommodate one tennis court. Commissioners Butts, Hall and Westmoreland voiced opposition to moving the tennis courts from Recreation Department. They recommended refurbishing all courts and leave two courts for only tennis and the others could be used for pickleball.

Track

Chair Emily Davis requested that the track be dedicated to an individual who has been involved with the track program for many years.

Commissioner Sammy Hall responded the County has a policy to address naming County facilities, and it states that facilities are not named after living persons. He asked the County Attorney to research options to recognize individuals for such.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Work Session at 4:50 p.m. Vice Chair John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Emily C. Davis in blue ink.

Emily C. Davis
Chair

Handwritten signature of Cynthia K. Cunningham in blue ink.

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk