

Town of Richlands
Recreation Commission
October 24th, 2023

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present:

Frances Meadows	Tony Cordle
Craig Earls	Corey Whited
Mark Gillespie	Jared Horn

Members Absent: Michelle Blankenship
Town Council: Jordan Bales
Recreation: Anthony Cox, Jessica Reynolds
Other: Tonya Hurt (LL), Brandon Goins (LL), Cynthia Hale (RYBC)
Michael Thomas (Town Attorney)

Tony Cordle called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Old Business:

Jared Horn made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25th, 2023, meeting. Frances Meadows seconded the motion. No further comments. Motion carries 6/0.

Public Comments: None

New Business:

Critterville Baseball Field Use Agreement (RYBC):

Brandon Goins: We provided a new field agreement prior for Richlands Little League. Jordan provided the MOU from TCPS, and we looked at it. It didn't have any specifics for usage, but it was more for liability purposes. Back in March, we put together a new agreement. We have modified that agreement with the new board and included RYBC for the Sr. League field at Critterville. Our agreement will be for the other 3 fields at Critterville, as well as both fields Flanary. The board would like to have expansion of the use year-round if we take care of the field. Brandon passed around the proposed agreement. Group discussion.

If Little League is responsible the entire year for the fields, they can take care of them, and will schedule them going forward instead of the town. This includes the mowing inside the fences and upkeep of the field. The group discussed the insurance requirements for the teams.

Mark Gillespie: Yes, with the TCPS MOU it is for county liability for insurance. The 8th grade baseball team will need insurance.

Tonya Hurt: I know one concern is that with one organization being in control over the fields the scheduling for other groups can be an issue. However, we will handle all the scheduling and they can always call Anthony if they have any issues, and we can work it out through the Recreation Commission. This is renewed annually but can be addressed with a new board after elections at Little League.

Tony Cordle: Yes, we have that concern with future people if they won't let teams on the fields.
Group Discussion.

Anthony Cox: I went down to the parks dumping trash and noticed that we continue to have vandalism. I picked up a ton of trash.

Tony Cordle: Are the costs still staying with the town for the bathroom, press box, etc.

Tonya Hurt: Jessica gave the bathroom supplies to us last year and put it in the press box, so we would like to do that again.

Anthony Cox: We have looked at the locks that are time based.

Cynthia Hale: The proposal is for all year, not just a period.

Jordan Bales: Yes, I think it is preferred to have it all year.

Tonya Hurt: RYBC will need a separate agreement with RYBC and the Town for the Sr. League Field agreement. Also, if any groups want to use the fields the Recreation Park will still have the application and fee collected, we will just schedule it.

The group discussed and we will review for future action. Mike Thomas wants time to review the agreement as well.

Critterville VHSL Gate Charging:

Tony Cordle: We will probably have more tournaments if we can charge at the field for entry. TCPS has in the past collected a gate there for VHSL games, but it was stopped due to conflict on if we can charge based on the agreement when building Critterville. Mike, do we have any documentation on restricting the charging at Critterville?

Mike Thomas: I have not found anything that would preclude us from charging. I have been told that the deed or a grant used to build Critterville may have some restrictions but have not seen anything that says we cannot charge a gate fee for games played at Critterville.

Anthony Cox: Called Tim Taylor (prior Town Manager) and he thinks the grant was with Virginia Bureau of Land Management. He said there should be a file labeled, "Williams Park" at the Town Hall with the details, but the organization may not be established at this point.

Craig Earls: Motion to allow entry fees to be charged for VHSL, or other approved sporting events, at Critterville. If any restriction is found by Mike Thomas on the grant, or other documentation, then those restrictions will supersede this approval for entry fee collection. Mark Gillespie second the motion. No further comments. Motion carries 5/1.

Anthony Cox: I would like to shut down the bathrooms in mid-November. Group discussed and agreed.

Jared Horn: We could rent a porta potty. That could save a lot just in electricity.

Tony Cordle: Tonya, Can you work it out together for sharing the concession stand?

Tonya: We prefer to have the concession but will work with them to schedule them with RYBC.

Recreation Update:

Anthony Cox: For the fields, who cleans them? We must work together on it.

Tonya Hurt: Yes, we must work together. It is a lot of work for Critterville. We still want the Recreation Park to provide the supplies like before.

Jessica Reynolds: We have a lady (Crystal Hinkley) who would like to put a memorial bench at Critterville. She will work with Jessica to put the bench and pay for it all.

Corey Whited made a motion to allow Crystal Hinkley to work with Jessica/Anthony on placing the memorial bench at Critterville. Frances Meadows seconded the motion. No further comments. Motion carries 6/0.

Anthony Cox: For the gym lights we are looking at doing LEDs through State Electric. We currently have bulbs that take 1000W and we can change them to LEDs at 300W, and they would be brighter. Replacement cost is from \$70 to \$270, with warranty. It will reduce electricity by two-thirds over here. The town is trying to find the money to do this.

No further discussions, meeting adjourned.

Next Meeting: November 20th at 7:00 P.M at Richlands Recreation Park.