



**KINSTON/LENOIR COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019  
5:30 PM – KINSTON COMMUNITY CENTER**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Nicholas Harvey, (Chair)  
Amanda Sawyer, (Vice-Chair)  
Rosalyn Yarus  
Nathan Perry

Kelly Jarman  
Steve Saint-Amand  
Dr. James Sylvia  
Ed Futrell

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Laura McPhaul  
Felicia Solomon  
Sonya Berry  
Christopher Bradshaw  
Glenn Whitley

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The January, 2019 meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mr. Nicholas Harvey. The December, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion–Futrell; Second – Sylvia; Vote –Unanimous.

Mr. Harvey updated the commission on the hiring of the new Parks & Recreation Director. He stated that the previous candidate who had been offered the job accepted another position in Alabama. He informed the commission that another candidate was being considered. The commission recommended putting the interview process on hold for six months.

The commission made a motion to appoint the 2019 slate of officers (Chair and Vice-Chair). A motion was made to appoint Nicholas Harvey as Chairman and Amanda Sawyer as Vice-Chair for the 2019 year.

Motion- Perry; Second – Saint-Amand; Vote – Unanimous.

Scott Alston requested that the commission approve changes in recreation youth baseball in Lenoir County. A proposal of the changes was distributed to the commission (attached), which includes changing affiliations from Babe Ruth to Little League Baseball. A previous meeting was held at the Kinston Community Center, which consisted of several area high school baseball coaches and the department’s athletic staff. They discussed the declining numbers in youth recreation baseball and what can be done to change it. After much discussion, it was recommended by this group to implement the changes listed on the attached sheet. The commission feels that something needs to be done to get the participation increased. Girl’s softball and tee-ball can either change affiliations or stay the same. The only problem with changing to Little League affiliation in youth baseball would be with the appeals process and the parent who wants their child to move up. The commission recommended adding to the rule: *“after the child plays two games in the minor league they are unable to request the option of moving up and the coach must sign the appeal stating that he/she agrees with the child moving up. If approved, the child that moves up will be*

*evaluated by staff and placed on the major league team that has the least amount of players”.*

A motion was made to accept the youth baseball changes as written with the exception of adding *“a parent has the right to appeal the child to be moved up **before the child has played two games** and the coach of the child’s current team has to sign the appeal stating the child should be moved up”.*

Motion – Jarman; Second- Sawyer; Vote – Unanimous.

Thurman Pate, Athletic Supervisor was present at the meeting to discuss the department’s tournaments and concessions at recreation facilities. Mr. Pate stated that he felt charging a percentage at the gate for tournaments would cause fewer tournaments to want to come to Kinston. He was in favor of charging a set fee, which is what the current Fees and Charges state. Amanda Sawyer stated that she feels charging a percentage of the gate will bring in more money than a set fee. Thurman Pate questioned how the department was going to keep up with the number of participants that attend the tournaments since the tournaments hire their own employees to run the gate and he was told that tournaments would have to be on the honor system and monies should be collected no later than ten days after the tournament. Thurman also questioned what the department’s responsibility is going to be for baseball/softball benefits that are held on city/county fields. He questioned whether a fee was going to be charged and if the department was supposed to line/mark off the fields. The commission stated that if the tournament was a legitimate benefit game, there would be no charge for use of the fields or for lining/marking off the fields.

Scott Alston asked the commission to approve the current basketball tournament fees that are held in the department’s gyms and facilities. He stated that the department already has fees for the rental of gyms and facilities in place and these fees have already been approved by the City Council. Over the years, however, these fees were allowed to be waived or decreased by the department. Scott made the commission aware that when these individuals hold tournaments with the waived/discounted fee at the Recreation Department’s gyms/facilities, the Recreation Department still has to pay staff for cleaning the facilities and keeping the facilities open during the tournaments. It also eliminates the gyms/club rooms for being booked at the correct rate for family reunions, parties, etc. and results in lost income for the city. Also, most of the basketball tournaments held in the gyms charge an admission fee and also sell concessions, which is kept by the individual holding the tournament.

Kelly Jarman recommended not changing the current basketball tournament fees, which is in the Parks & Recreation Department’s Fees and Charges Manual. The current fees are \$300/day (5-10 hours)per site. A motion was made to accept Kelly’s recommendation.

Motion – Saint-Amand; Second – Sawyer; Vote – Unanimous.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Motion – Whitley; Second – Jarman, Vote – Unanimous.