

## MINUTES

### *Recreation Advisory Board/Tree Board/Little League Board Department of Parks and Recreation*

The Recreation Advisory Board/Tree City USA Board/Little League Board met in a scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 17th, 2025, at 12:00 pm.

Upon a call the following members were present:

Bob Miller, Linda Long, Johnny Coffman, Ron Starr, Moises Contreras, and Larry Rhodes

Upon a roll call the following members were absent: Mary Scudder

The following guests and staff members were present:

Matt Siniard, Derek Phillips, Reya Joseph, and Shellie Stephens

The following decisions were made and ordered as part of the records of the Recreation Advisory Board/Tree City USA Board/ Little League Board.

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## MINUTES

*12:03pm-* Minutes for meetings held on March 6th, 2025, were handed out and reviewed with no changes suggested.

Motion made by Bob Miller, seconded by Larry Rhodes to approve the minutes.

Motion Carried.

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## NEW BUSINESS

### *Little League Opening Day & Impact- 12:05pm*

Matt Siniard gave an update on Little League Opening Day. Athens Regional Park, which has 550 parking spaces, was completely full due to overlapping events, including AYSO soccer and an Autism Walk. As a result, many attendees had to park along roadsides and in overflow areas. This season, the league has 430 players, slightly fewer than in 2024, but still the second-highest registration on record. Every team participated on Opening Day, from T-Ball up to the 10/11/12-year-old division, with 25% of players registered in the 4/5/6 age group. Concession stand revenue for Opening Day totaled \$3,000, and it is averaging between \$600 and \$800 on weeknight games. Recent price increases at the concession stand were reviewed and deemed necessary to improve profit margins. Ron Starr raised questions about umpire staffing for the season and suggested exploring an additional entrance or exit to improve traffic flow at the park.

### *Turf Infields at Regional Park- 12:23pm*

Derek Phillips addressed the challenges wet fields pose for Little League games, noting that dirt infields combined with unpredictable spring showers make it difficult to dry fields in time for play. While products like Sure Dry are used to help with drying, they are expensive. Many parents assume the fields will be playable after some sunshine, but turfing the infields would allow for quicker turnaround with just a bit of sun and wind. There was also discussion about losing tournaments to Bicentennial Fields, which have turf and are more playable in wet conditions. Quotes for turfing full fields and just the infields were shared, along with comparisons between different companies. The possibility of using

grants to help fund the project was mentioned. Moises inquired about the return on investment for turfing the fields, and it was noted that income from future tournaments and concessions should more than cover the majority of the costs.

*Budget Overview- 12:53 pm*

Matt provided an overview of the department's 2025–2026 budget, highlighting various categories and noting how rising costs have impacted many line items, including chemical supplies and maintenance. He explained that staff currently manage and pay for these recurring needs, some of which could be reduced or eliminated if turf infields are installed before the 2026 season. The Board was invited to share comments and questions. Linda suggested updating all parks simultaneously to avoid leaving any behind in the rotation. Matt responded by outlining the budgetary limitations and practical considerations that make it unfeasible to fund and upgrade all 10 parks at once.

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REPORTS

*No reports.*

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:18pm.