



PARKS & RECREATION BOARD-CITY OF GAINESVILLE
MEETING MINUTES

The Parks & Recreation board met for a monthly meeting on February 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Gainesville Civic Center.

Members Present: Martin Phillips, Dick Haayan, Paula Moore, Joanie Jones, Matthew Compton, Latecia Hendricks, Joseph Christian.

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Kevin Gann, Zenia Cruz

Guests Present: Tommy Moore, Tavia Josey, Riley, Pamela Clegg

ACTION

A quorum was present.

The First item was to approve February 25, 2025 minutes. Dick Haayan made the motion to accept and Paula Moore second the motion. Passed with unanimous consent.

Recognition of Citizens with Non-Agenda Items- Pamela Clegg

DISCUSSION

Tommy Mentioned the Public Workshop was very well attended and it took them longer to go through the information and will be meeting this coming Monday.

Pamela Clegg was given time to discuss Kids Leagues for the City. She was Nominated to come to speak with the board on behalf of parents in the community. The issue presented is that the city of Gainesville residents don't have a consolidated youth sports Program or association. That they can access, yes there are spermatic sports offerings throughout the community and organization but the community lacks a single sports source authority.

She had examples of other Cites like Whitesboro, Sanger and Plano, But what they are looking for is benefits such as Individual registration the way that they leagues are set up except for Cooke County Soccer and Boys Baseball if you don't know a team or have access to one you cannot get involved which is really critical if your new to the community like if you just moved here and don't know

anyone or you home school your child or your child just decided in fourth or fifth grade that they want to try or get involved in sports. Also creating a base for developing talent in Gainesville. Because of the lack of youth sports we are not see the talent we desire in our older children.

Unfortunately the boys and Girls club is not offering sports and the last time that they did was back in 2022 and it's being noticed in our middle school aged kids. Her daughter only got one year of competitive sports there and then shut it down.

Paula mentioned that this was done not because this club chose it but because rules changed and made it so that employees had to be present for every practice and every game and that was not feasible amongst other things. So it wasn't in the control of this club or the board that runs it.

Tommy included that the previous director was trying to expand the programs and was in the process of negotiating ball fields with Parks and Recreation. Right after that the new rules and regulations took effect.

Pamela mentioned that is great information to have but it did impact the community. Current options are Ryan Kremling, trying to get sports available for the young but not a lot of information is out there for him so it might sway others in participating. Cooke County is one of the longest-standing programs in the area. You can sign up your kid and they will be put on a team. Boys Baseball of Cooke County has been around for quite a while but there are other sports that we are lacking. Basketball, we have a Sanger league and teams have been set up but it's been on the parent level. All surrounding towns have organized youth sports and all are present in the Sanger League. Football, Nathan and Kyle have got the Football Program up and running but we are playing in a league with Aubrey, Sanger, Whitesboro, and Callisburg they have all been playing for years. Again that is on the backs of parents.

In addition to this it would behoove Parks and Recreation to create a centralized System for reserving fields and being able to pay for lights. The ability to create a location where fields are reserved so that other teams can't come in a demand the field while in use. Sports and Athletics are for the kids to benefit from and teach them life skills like cooperation, leadership, communication, things our students need both in our academics and athletic careers. This goes into an economic issue for the town. Creating a workforce that has these skills and attracting families that want to move somewhere that there is a viable sports program at the schools also to get this up and running to have developed fields. We could very easily host soccer tournaments in this town. Which is an economic driver for this town. So there is more than just benefiting our youth.

Some of the leagues are run by non-profits with the help of the cities. This means that they hold the league, organize the players, schedule the games, and order the uniforms but still use volunteers as coaches. This helps the parents get those things done that they might not know how or where to look for. They are hoping for someone else to take over rather it be a City or a non-profit organization to help.

Dick asked about what the parents are hoping for. What kind of program or even a copy of Sanger or another Cities program on how they are holding these leagues in place. We would like to hear more details on what sports are need and what age groups. We do have limited resources.

Joe spoke up about being familiar with the shutdown of sports here and the lack of facilities or the non-existent ability to work something out with anyone.

Laticia mentioned the youth teams not being able to use facilities even when they did get permission or scheduled something with them, and Gainesville kids having to reach out to surrounding cities to be able to play sports.

Pamela discussed about the sponsors that are help in other cities while they use other school facilities so it is possible to work out here. Parent's top choice for youth leagues would be Basketball and volleyball.

Paula brought up that we need to get people who are in charge as far as the schools and Boys and girls club to be able to talk and hopefully work with on using their facilities.

Martin talked about the 2040 planning. These are all things that need to be on the list of things that need to be done here. We need these people to reach out. To join our Budget Meeting to make known what is needed in the community.

Pamela mentioned to charge people or teams for facilities that are being used and lighting to be able to pay for better facilities.

Kevin talked about the pricing to be able to do something like that on lights that need help.

Tommy also mentioned YMC. Reaching out and finding out if they can built here. It would need the community to support and help with something like that. Or working on a bond with the community to fix up some of our facilities. Right now we are working on patch work.

Hoping to get the community to vote on facility help for our Parks and Recreation and following steps to spread the word to the community.

Follow up on Projects. Trying to finish lighting by August on the Walking Trail. Working on proposing to counsel about replacing the playground at JC Park. Taking out the old and putting a new one in.

Paula mentioned maybe looking into help from Kiwanis about helping with that Park.

Joe asked about benches on the walking trail and not enough trash cans throughout the trail. Also Trees need to come down that are in need to come down.

Martin asked about water being pumped into Kenesto. But we are still working with Water Department fixing the pump from their end. Hoping to get it going soon. But do have a fertilizing program for the Parks.

J.C. Park are we still deciding between Pour-N-Play or Mulch. Pour-N-Play is the better option.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, February 25, 2025

Zenia Cruz
Administrative Assistant
Parks and Recreation Department



Martin Phillips 4/22/25
Chairman Date