

HAMMOND AREA RECREATION DISTRICT #1

RECREATION DISTRICT BOARD

Jeffrey Cooper, Chairman
Guy Recotta, Vice Chair
Robert Williams
Jessica Bennett
Duane Shafer

DIRECTOR
Ryan Barker

DEPUTY DIRECTOR
Amber Andrews



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CHAPPAPEELA SPORTS PARK
19325 HIPARK BOULEVARD
Thursday, February 26, 2026
5:00 p.m.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman, Jeffrey Cooper called the meeting to order at 5pm.
- II. **Board of Directors Roll Call:** Jessica Bennett (P), Robert Williams Jr. (P), Duane Shafer (P), Guy Recotta (P), Jeffrey Cooper (P)
- III. **Approval of Minutes: January 22, 2026:** There was a motion by **Duane Shafer** and seconded by **Guy Recotta** approving minutes of January 22, 2026.

Vote: Jessica Bennett (Y), Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- IV. **Reports:**
 - A. Director's Report (Ryan Barker)

PROGRAMS

Registration is closed starting baseball, & spring soccer. There are 19 participating in the North Oaks strengthen conditioning program. Spring Soccer 430 registered with a waiting list. 535 Baseball, Softball, & Tee Ball with about over 50 on waiting list.

CP Mitchell: Basketball- 70 registered 22 participated.

Registration that's opened are the following: training tots, adult & youth sand volleyball. Off Season Tackle football, & North Oaks sports performance spring session. Program information includes all three parks Chappapeela, CP Mitchell, & Zemurray.

PROJECTS

Fencing around playground A. Ryan, stated will walk site with Mr. Roy and contractor to sign off on punch list tomorrow. Hopefully playground will open on tomorrow.

Batting Cages are now opened.

Parking lot has been opened past two weekends and received multiple compliments about the sidewalk in the area.

Adding additional batting cages to Olive Branch

B. Operating Account Budget Status (Ed Burns):

Operating Account funds down 181,496.98 compared to last year 628,331.54. Mr. Burns informed the board that it's about 2 to 3 months of reserves. Tax Revenue increased 1,215,764.77 compared to last year. Capital Project fund down 7,310,776.66. Debt service fund down 2,200,000 funded in January. Accounts receivables up 25,472.50. Tax Revenue receivables increased 492,453.52. Accounts payables -1,285,353.25, and Retainage payable up 149,269.34.

Profit & Loss compared to last year Revenue down -69,266.88 last year 203,417.02 and January 2026, 134,130.14. Total operating expenses increased 8,313.00 over the last year.

Profit & Loss Vs Budget

About 10% of budget 8% end of the year. Positive variance compared to budget for the month of January.

Mr. Burns Informed the board if there are any questions, please feel free to contact him.

C. Financial Committee Report (Jessica Bennett) **NONE**

D. Executive Committee Report (Duane Shafer) Informed the board that the Executive committee met. Ryan evaluations came in exceptional. Mr. Barker provided a salary study to the committee. The Salary study provided salaries of other park Directors positions in the state. The committee reviewed the study and took the increase into consideration.

There was a motion by Guy Recotta and seconded by Jessica Bennett approving the salary increase to Director, Ryan Barker.

Vote: Jessica Bennett (Y), Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y). **Approved 5-0**

v. **Old Business: NONE**

vi. **New Business:**

- A. Seeking approval for Richard Murphy Hospice Gala to serve alcohol on October 3, 2026 from 6:00 pm -12:00 am at Chappapeela Sports Park ,19325 Hipark Blvd., Hammond, LA 70403.

There was a motion by Robert William Jr., and seconded by Duane Shafer approving Richard Murphy Hospice Gala to serve alcohol on October 3, 2026 from 6:00 pm -12:00 am at Chappapeela Sports Park ,19325 Hipark Blvd., Hammond, LA 70403.

Vote: Jessica Bennett (Y), Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- B. Substantial Completion of Contract C – Playground A & B Improvements. (Honey B Construction)

There was a motion by Jeffrey Cooper and seconded by Guy Recotta approving substantial completion of Contract C - Playground A & B Improvements.

Vote: Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y), Jessica Bennett (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- C. Approval of Requisition #51 - \$43,322.00 to Will Hammack & Associates for “Baseball Batting Cage Roof”.

There was a motion by Jeffrey Cooper and seconded by Robert Williams Jr., approving Requisition #51 - \$43,322.00 to Will Hammack & Associates for “Baseball Batting Cage Roof”.

Vote: Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y), Jessica Bennett (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- D. Approval of Requisition #52 - \$1,005.50 to K & L Testing, INC., for testing /QA/QC on “: Contract A-NE Parking Site and Improvements”.

There was a motion by Duane Shafer and seconded by Jessica Bennett approving Requisition #52 - \$1,005.50 to K & L Testing, INC., for testing /QA/QC on”: Contract A-NE Parking Site and Improvements”.

Vote: Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y) Jessica Bennett (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- E. Approval of Requisition #53 - \$38,400.00 to M&R Resources for "Lighting LED Replacement".

There was a motion by **Robert Williams Jr.**, and seconded by **Jessica Bennett** approving Requisition #53 - \$38,400.00 to M&R Resources for "Lighting LED Replacement".

Vote: Jessica Bennett (Y), Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- F. Approval of Requisition #54- \$ 651,108.21 to Brunt Construction, Inc. for Contract B Gymnasium Annex".

There was a motion by **Jessica Bennett** and seconded by **Duane Shafer** approving Requisition #54- \$ 651,108.21 to Brunt Construction, Inc. for Contract B Gymnasium Annex".

Vote: Jessica Bennett (Y), Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- G. Approval and authorization to pay Milton Fence in the amount of \$26,350.00 for fencing around Playground A. The cost will be covered using funds from the line-item appropriation received from the State of Louisiana.

There was a motion by **Robert Williams Jr.**, and seconded by **Jessica Bennett** approving and authorizing payment to Milton Fence in the amount of \$26,350.00 for fencing around Playground A. The cost will be covered using funds from the line-item appropriation received from the State of Louisiana.

Vote: Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y) Jessica Bennett (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- H. Approval to pay Chappapeela Park Services in the amount of \$6,000.00 dead tree removal and mulching North Grove property. AWR FM8.

There was a motion by **Guy Recotta** and seconded by **Robert Williams Jr.**, approving payment to Chappapeela Park Services in the amount of \$6,000.00 dead tree removal and mulching North Grove property. AWR FM8.

Vote: Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y) Jessica Bennett (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- I. Authorization to transfer all remaining funds except for \$200.00 from the Tax Revenue Account to the Operating Account in the amount of \$1,030,228.18.

There was a motion by **Duane Shafer** and seconded by **Robert Williams Jr.**, authorizing transfer to all remaining funds except for \$200.00 from the Tax Revenue Account to the Operating Account in the amount of \$1,030,228.18.

Vote: Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y) Jessica Bennett (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- J. Approval of “Accounts Payable – Operating Account, January 2026.

There was a motion by **Guy Recotta** and seconded by **Duane Shafer** approving “Accounts Payable – Operating Account, January 2026.

Vote: Robert Williams Jr. (Y), Duane Shafer (Y), Guy Recotta (Y), Jeffrey Cooper (Y) Jessica Bennett (Y). **Approved 5-0**

- K. Other business brought before the Board. Next scheduled board meeting
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 @5pm

VII. **Public Comments: NONE**

- VIII. **Adjournment:** There was a motion by **Jeffrey Cooper** and seconded by **Guy Recotta** to adjourn the meeting. All board members were in favor of adjourning.

JEFFREY COOPER, CHAIRMAN
(Name and Position of Authorized Person)
HAMMOND AREA RECREATION DISTRICT #1
(Name of Taxing District)
(985) 543-6767
(Telephone #)