

**Minutes of the Fairhope Recreation Board
December 17, 2014**

The Fairhope Recreation Board met Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 5:15 p.m. in the tennis center building at the Fairhope Tennis Center/Courts.

Present were Mike Ford, Sherry Sullivan, Derek Thomas, Michelle Smith, Charlie Langham, Tom Kuhl, Cathy Hudson, Vann Saltz and Jenny Douglass. Diana Brewer and Bob Keyser were absent. Gayle Fogarty took the minutes. Guests: Vern Huntings, Several members of the Fairhope Tennis Association.

The meeting was called to order by Vann Saltz. The minutes of the November meeting were considered and approved on a motion by Charlie Langham, seconded by Cathy Hudson, none opposed.

Discussion of New Tennis Courts - There was a great deal of discussion between the Recreation Board and the Fairhope Tennis Association members, as to the benefits of hard courts vs. soft courts. The Fairhope Tennis Association feels strongly about having soft courts installed over hard courts, they would like at least two soft courts installed. The FTA members believe the benefits of the soft outweigh the hard when it comes to the give of the surface on your joints.

Sherry Sullivan informed the group that at this time the City of Fairhope plans to install six hard courts, based on the budget available. She stated that the City may be able to look at soft courts down the road, when more funds become available. The bid specs are going out in January of 2015. Sherry also added that she is going to check with the City Council about the possibility of looking into bidding out an alternative (deco turf) in addition to the hard courts.

Fairhope Tennis Center Rules – Sherry Sullivan provided a draft of a City of Fairhope ordinance that protects the health, safety and general welfare of the people. This ordinance will be used to assist in establishing a policy for children while they are in City buildings. The group reviewed the draft and agreed to consider and discuss in more detail at the next Rec Board meeting on January 21, 2015.

Tennis Center Update - Tom Kuhl updated the group on the construction of the new tennis courts. Tom provided information on soft courts. He shared his concerns regarding the maintenance involved in having soft courts vs. hard courts. Tom also shared information on the Manley project stating that there will be a construction manager meeting soon, there will be 4 presentations.

Manley Road Soccer Complex – Tom Kuhl provided an updated on the soccer complex stating that Preble-Rish is working on a re-design of the soccer complex, due to reducing the number of fields.

Updates – Tom Kuhl informed the group that the AED units have arrived and will be installed at the soccer & football fields. He also noted that the child endangerment classes are coming up. The Team summit will take place at the end of January 2015. Tom stated that the Coke bid came in - Pepsi and Coca-Cola were the only bids that were submitted. Coca-Cola will be awarded the 3 year contract by the City of Fairhope.

Swim Update - Cathy Hudson provided an update on swim stating that the boys placed 7th overall and girls placed 13th overall. She added that Helen Legg is the AHSAA State Diving Champion for third consecutive year. Michelle Smith added that she is working on a franchise agreement with the City of Fairhope and plans to have more to report at the January 21, 2015 Rec Board Meeting.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.