



**SULPHUR PARKS AND RECREATION (SPAR)**  
**Regular Board of Commissioners Meeting**  
**Held at the SPAR Recreation and Aquatic Center Multipurpose Room**  
**933 W. Parish Road, Sulphur, Louisiana 70663**  
**Tuesday, August 16, 2022, 5:30 pm**

The Board of Commissioners of Sulphur Parks and Recreation (SPAR) met at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, in the multipurpose room at SPAR Recreation and Aquatic Center in Sulphur, Louisiana for a regular scheduled board meeting. The meeting was called to order and a roll call was taken. Board members present were David Devall, Doug Como, Mike Boyette, David Couvillon, and Len Lemelle.

The board welcome newly appointed board member, Mr. Len Lemelle. Executive Director, Laurie Koelzer, welcomed Mr. Lemelle and thanked him for providing his service to the community and to SPAR.

The board recognized former member, Mr. Mitch Bowers, and welcomed his comments. Mr. Bowers' comments were as follows: "I like to speak on this if I can. Mitch Bowers, 2049 Louise Street, Sulphur, Louisiana. Man, it's been an honor and a privilege to work with you guys, to work with the staff. Appreciate all the years I've been here. You guys are a great board. I've loved hanging out with you guys even getting roasted from time to time. But you guys, you know, I'm gonna miss you guys. The camaraderie that we have. Laurie, I got no doubt in my mind, you're gonna do a fantastic job with the director role. To the staff, thank you guys for a great eight years has really been awesome working for you guys. You guys are a great staff. Keep up the good work. To the board, keep doing what you're doing, man. Everything's, everything is going well. Be strong in your decisions. Stand in your decisions. Mr. Lemelle, welcome to the board, I have no doubt that you're going to do a fantastic job. I can't wait to see what you guys do in the future. And if y'all don't get Center Circle Pool up and running soon, I will be the first to blast you guys on Facebook. And say that this is not because of me. It's because of you bozos. Anyway, it's really been a pleasure. Thank you, man." The board thanked Mr. Bowers and shared their appreciation for the time they served together. Mr. Lemelle thanked Mr. Bowers for the phone call on the day of his appointment and commented that he looked forward to continued communications.

The board nominated and appointed Mr. Mike Boyette to serve as the President and Mr. David Devall to serve as Vice President for the remainder of 2022 on a motion by Mr. Como, seconded by Mr. Couvillon, and carried.

On a motion by Mr. Como, seconded by Mr. Couvillon, and carried following a roll call vote, the board adopted a resolution authorizing staff and board members to sign financial and business instruments as necessary to complete SPAR business transactions. The roll call vote was as follows:

**YEAS (5)** David Devall, Doug Como, Mike Boyette, David Couvillon, Len Lemelle  
**NAYS (0)**  
**ABSTAIN (0)**  
**ABSENT (0)**

The minutes for the July 19, 2022, board meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Couvillon, seconded by Mr. Como, and carried.

On a motion by Mr. Como, seconded by Mr. Couvillon, and carried, the board approved the financial statements for July 2022 as presented. Ms. Koelzer stated all expenses and revenues are within budget and as expected, but that staff did anticipate amending the budget for wages due to rate increases and project expenditures once costs become available for Center Circle and Kyle Street reconstruction.

Staff was granted permission to advertise and place out for public bid for the replacement of the Recreation and Aquatic Center air handler unit for the natatorium on a motion by Mr. Couvillon, seconded by Mr. Devall, and carried. Estimated approximate cost \$500k, with approximate 32-week lead time. Mr. Curtis Vincent, AIA provided the board with an overview of the project. (2022 budget funded item). The board confirmed that the new air handler would be a replacement in kind with upgraded components. Ms. Koelzer stated that there would be downtime for the Aquatic Center during installation due to the extent of the construction required.

Mr. Alex Guillory of Bluewing Civil Consulting presented and introduced a local drainage project that incorporates a public park element to the design. The project is sponsored by Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and Consolidation Gravity Drainage District #1 and they would like SPAR's support in the project. Mr. Guillory and Mr. Dalquist spoke on the project as a drainage improvement project funded through American Recovery grants with a requirement for a park element. They were encouraged by the police jury to request SPAR's participation in design of the park element with the intent for SPAR to maintain facility once construction is completed. Bluewing wanted to confirm that SPAR staff was authorized to engage with the consulting firm. The board confirmed that Ms. Koelzer has the authority to engage with any entity that is interested in partnering with SPAR and that her authority includes determining what projects to present to the board for approval. Mr. McLendon, the newly appointed commissioner for the drainage district, stated his support for the project and that he looked forward to its development. No action was required or taken by the board.

Mr. Ronnie Daigle requested to address the Board decision to not reimburse his court cost he incurred following an incident at the Recreation and Aquatic Center on December 4, 2019; he failed to appear and defend his position. The board, on a motion by Mr. Couvillon, seconded by Mr. Como, and carried, once again denied the request for funds.

#### **Notifications -**

- a) Ms. Koelzer provided an update on status of Hurricane and Improvement Projects including costs incurred and percentage completion of the various projects.
- b) Staff notified board of entering into a staging consent and license agreement with Entergy Louisiana for temporary use of SPAR facilities/property in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situations. The SPAR locations to include North Frasch Softball Complex north parking area, Frasch Golf Course parking area, west Pattison Park parking area, and the Aquatic Center west parking area.
- c) Closure of Frasch Golf Course on Monday, August 22, 2022, to allow for aeration of the greens.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- "Wednesday After Work" – 5:30pm Aug. 17-Sept. 21, 2022 (*Frasch Golf Course*)
- SPAR Recreation Soccer Draft – 5:30pm Thurs., Aug. 18, 2022 (*Frasch Rec Room*)
- SPAR Recreation Football Showcase – 5:30pm Mon., Aug. 29, 2022 (*Pattison Park*)
- SPAR Recreation Football Draft – 5:30pm Wed., Aug. 31, 2022 (*Frasch Rec Room*)
- SPAR Recreation Soccer Officials Clinic – Thurs., Sept 1, 2022 (*Frasch Rec Room*)
- SPAR "Game Time" – 4pm-5pm Every Tuesday in Sept. 2022 (*Various Parks*)
- MGA Mega Dogfight -Mon., Sept. 5, 2022 (*Frasch Golf Course*)
- SPAR Soccer Officials Clinic – 5:30pm, Sept. 6, 2022 (*Frasch Rec. Room*)
- SPAR Swim Lessons – Tues. Sept. 6 – Thurs., Sept. 29, 2022 (*Aquatic Center*)
- Chaos Theory – Thurs., Sept. 8, 2022 (*Henning Cultural Center*)
- SPAR Recreation Volleyball Draft – 5:30pm Thurs., Sept. 8, 2022 (*Frasch Rec Room*)
- Free Jr. Golf Clinic – 2:00pm-3:00pm Sat., Sept. 10, 2022 (*Frasch Golf Course*)
- SHS Relay Meet – Thurs., Sept. 22, 2022 (*Aquatic Center*)


Prior to adjournment Mr. Couvillon requested permission to address a few items. He reiterated his concern for the costs of architect fees being incurred in construction projects and requested that staff research methods to reduce those costs moving forward. Mr. Couvillon wanted to go on record and address the situation that occurred with the appointment and subsequent removal of Mr. Bowers from the board. He wanted to make sure that other commissioners were aware that the Calcasieu Police Jury had the authority and had now shown a willingness to use that authority, to remove appointed representatives at will regardless of whether the commissioner was appointed for a term. He wanted to make note of the risk that exist for anyone that believes they will get the opportunity to serve out, in the case of SPAR Board of Commissioners, the four-year term the commissioners are each appointed to. Mr. Bowers requested permission to speak on the matter and explained that his conversations with counsel and state representatives have led him to understand that there is a state statute that basically allows any board that's appointed by the police jury can be removed at any time. He informed the board that he is in contact with state representatives to clarify or change the existing law or statute. Mr. Lemelle commented on the situation and

expressed his displeasure with the politization of the appointed. He commented that he was proud and excited to be appointed; that he had served SPAR in some capacity since 1989 and that he fondly recalled coaching Mr. Bowers. He stated the only negative portion of his appointment was that it resulted in the removal of Mr. Bowers. He thanked Mr. Bowers for reaching out and that he looks forward to continued engagement with Mr. Bowers.

All business taken care of, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Como, seconded by Mr. Devall, and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

  
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Approved (Board Member)

  
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Attested