

July 26, 2017

President Gordon Dove  
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government  
8026 Main Street, Suite 700  
Houma, LA 70360

Dear President Dove,

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce (HTCC) is recommending that the Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government reevaluate our entire recreational system while also using its authority under the law to bring the Bayou Community Sports Park (BCSP) under its jurisdiction along with the Houma Airbase Park as parish-wide parks. And thus, these parish-wide community parks would be funded, operated, and maintained by TPCG to benefit all residents of the parish.

The Chamber's Task Force on Recreation began examining what was happening with the Bayou Country Sports Park last year when state funding for the park was not progressing as planned due in part to the economy.

The following is a summary of the Task Force on Recreation's findings, and HTCC's recommendations.

1. HTCC sees a need for improving recreation in Terrebonne Parish for our community's health, well being, and quality of life;
2. HTCC is in support of the BCSP and the proposed Houma Airbase Park for both community quality of life as well as economic development opportunities in sports tourism;
3. HTCC advocates that the TPCG use its authority under the law to gain financial oversight and management of the BCSP and the proposed Houma Airbase Park. And thus, these parish-wide Regional Parks should be operated and maintained by TPCG in order to benefit all residents of the parish;
4. In light of budgetary constraints, HTCC recommends that TPCG and the BCSP examine the Master Plan and design to see if cost savings can be realized with more appropriate and reasonable design standards;
5. HTCC offers parish leaders, all recreation districts, and our state representatives support in acquiring any and all outside funding for the improvement of parish recreation;

6. HTCC, through its Task Force on Recreation, has examined the current mileages collected for recreation across Terrebonne Parish and compared them to other parishes of similar population. Based on the results of this analysis, HTCC currently cannot support any additional tax proposals for recreation;
7. HTCC calls on TPCG and all recreation districts to provide operations and maintenance estimates on any proposed project before approval;
8. HTCC calls for greater transparency and accountability for the use of public funds in the recreation districts through public notices for meetings and improved accounting procedures;
9. HTCC sees a need to educate the taxpayers of Terrebonne regarding the current taxes and system in place;
10. HTCC sees the need to consolidate the recreation districts in order to promote greater efficiency and oversight;
11. HTCC would like to promote greater participation within the recreation districts by having a uniform board size of seven (7) members each;
12. HTCC sees the need for a citizen board or foundation to assist parish officials with the building, promotion, and operations of our recreational opportunities.

The Houma-Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce is ready to join with TPCG, the area recreation districts, and other interested businesses and organizations to re-examine the structure of our recreation here in Terrebonne Parish to find solutions that provide quality recreational opportunities for our residents that will raise our quality of life.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen 'Kate' Theriot  
Chairperson of the Board

Cc: Terrebonne Parish Council Members

*Uniting community and building a stronger Terrebonne.*