

Terrebonne Parish Recreation Modernization Task Force Charter

Task Force Purpose

The purpose of this task force is to carry out the resolution of the Terrebonne Parish Council from August 12, 2020. The task force shall develop a strategy and action plan to modernize and correct the inherent flaws of the current disjointed system of eleven recreation districts.

The task force shall specifically carry out analysis on at least three alternatives:

- a. Alter existing boundaries of one or more existing recreation districts to mirror significant population and demographic shifts in the parish since consolidation occurred in 1981, and/or,*
- b. Merge one or more recreation districts to allow for greater financial solvency, and/or,*
- c. Completely consolidate all recreation districts into one Parish-wide district, either immediately or resulting from a series of incremental steps to that goal*

The final recommendation may be some combination of any of these or other alternatives discovered by the task force.

Outcome

Any outcome of this task force would likely necessitate a voter referendum to execute the proposal. The target goal shall be to finalize the recommendations in time for placement on the Open Primary election to be held on October 9, 2021.

Further, a potential outcome may require legislative action. The same deadline would allow ample time for members of the legislative delegation to file any needed legislation for the 2021 session.

A draft proposal shall be submitted to the Terrebonne Parish Council by December 15, 2020. A final version for motion to public hearing shall be provided to the Terrebonne Parish Council by January 31, 2021.

Expected Work Product/Deliverables

The singular goal of this task force is to craft a concise, actionable final recommendation to the Terrebonne Parish Council by vote of a simple majority of the voting members of the task force. Reciprocally, in good faith, the Terrebonne Parish Council pledge support to proceed, upon legal review, with necessary steps to have the task force's final recommendation placed on the October 9, 2021 ballot.

Values

Quality of Life

Public recreation facilities help address public health issues such as obesity, chronic disease, mental illness, the achievement gap, and can help improve overall quality of life.

Equitable Access

The current system creates a troubling geographical segregation of access to recreation facilities, including limited options for the elderly population and the disabled population in need of adaptive facilities.

Economic Development

A core tenant of business expansion criteria is quality of life, which includes robust community outdoor recreation opportunities.

Membership

Members – Voting

The task force shall be comprised of 15 members appointed by the Terrebonne Parish Council at the regular meeting of August 24, 2020:

One resident of each of the eleven existing recreation districts, and,

Four at-large members of the business community residing in Terrebonne Parish

To avoid potential conflicts-of-interest, no member (or member's immediate family members) of the task force shall simultaneously be an employee of or serve on any recreation district board, nor should a member (or member's immediate family members) have any business interest in any recreation district contract. Each member of the task force must be in good standing with property tax assessments.

To promote a socially equitable outcome, at least two members of the task force shall be minorities.

Further, strong consideration should be given to candidates who personally, or whose household members, actively utilize the existing recreation facilities.

Members – Non-Voting

Recreation Advisory Committee Chairman (Kirby Verrett), or a single designee of the Chairman from Recreation Board Members

The task force shall identify administration officials, to provide documentation and input, consisting of a minimum:

Terrebonne Parish Chief Financial Officer (Kandice Mauldin)

Terrebonne Parish Recreation Director (Roddy Lerille)

Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center Director (Dean Schouest)

Members – Non-Voting (Ad Hoc)

The task force may include other community stakeholders as deemed necessary by at least one co-chair (i.e. Houma/Terrebonne Soccer Association).

As needed for potential legislation or other state actions, members of the state delegation shall be included in the committee deliberations:

Representative Beryl Amedee

Representative Tanner Magee

Representative Jerome Zeringue

Co-Chairs

The Terrebonne Parish Council shall designate two voting members of the task force as co-chairs at the August 24, 2020 regular meeting: one from the pool of residents from each district and one from the pool of at-large business community members. The role of the co-chairs is to preside over task force meetings, to develop meeting agendas, and to create and appoint members to committees if needed. At least one co-chair must attend each meeting.

Task Force Members

Members are expected to attend all task force meetings. To achieve a quorum, at least eight of the 15 voting members shall be in attendance. To accommodate situations arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, the co-chairs shall make determinations relative to remote participation by members as feasible to comply with applicable Public Meeting rules or technology limitations.

Committees

As determined by the co-chairs, committees can be formed to focus on specific technical issues (i.e. tax assessments or outstanding bond issues) and may bring in subject-matter experts. Membership on committees can be comprised of a combination of voting, non-voting, and ad-hoc members.

Meetings and Procedure

The task force should attempt to meet twice monthly until the final work product is delivered to the Terrebonne Parish Council. The Consolidated Government shall provide a venue adequate to comply with Covid-19 social distancing and size guidelines. The meetings shall follow *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Dissolution

The task force shall formally dissolve after the conclusion of the October 2021 election on October 31, 2021.