



HENDRY COUNTY
Board of County Commissioners
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hendry County Workshop on Summer Camps

Workshop to Determine East Recreation MSBU Summer Camps

By: Lauren Goulet

(February 3, 2017) – LaBelle, Fla. – Hendry County is holding a workshop on Tuesday, February 14, from 4:00pm – 5:00pm at the Clewiston City Hall prior to the regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) meeting. The workshop will discuss potential solutions in providing a summer camp for the East Recreation MSBU footprint which includes the Harlem, and Montura communities and will include Pioneer Plantation after October 1, 2017. Hendry County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) will discuss options to either conduct the camp internally or create a partnership with the YMCA.

The workshop will focus on the proposal developed by the YMCA after touring the recreation facilities in the Harlem, Montura and Pioneer communities. The submitted proposal is for a 10 week summer camp for children ages 5 to 12. The camp in Harlem would begin in the summer of 2017, while the added venues of Montura and Pioneer would be postponed until the summer of 2018 in order to ensure a quality program.

Hendry County BOCC will review a comparison of the YMCA's Harlem proposal with the historical numbers from when Hendry County Special Districts operated summer camps in the Harlem and Montura areas from 2002 through 2013. The County is looking for fiscally responsible options for summer camp while still implementing quality programs for its youth.

The YMCA has built a familiarity with the children it would serve from the after school services they provide at East Side and West Side elementary schools. Advantages with a YMCA Summer Camp include field trips and the partnership would cover programming, supervision, hiring, and liabilities. Potential disadvantages would be Hendry County would not have complete control over the programs and operations, as the County would only manage the contractual relationship.

Resident are encourage to attend the workshop on East Recreation Summer Camp options. There will be public comment portion of the meeting which will allow opportunities for those who attend to express their opinions and concerns. The workshop agenda will

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be posted to the Hendry County website, <http://www.hendryfla>, under the “public information” tab by Thursday, February 9 under current agendas.

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(Please feel free to contact us for an interview, discussion or questions.)