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News Release

Fees Suspended at Fred Kirby and Jesse Helms Parks

February 7, 2012, Monroe, NC – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday voted to indefinitely suspend all county-wide seasonal athletic permits and all vehicle, pedestrian, bicycle, van and bus entrance fees at Fred Kirby and Jesse Helms parks. The suspension of fees was recommended by the Union County Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and Parks and Recreation staff.

“The driving force for this recommendation directly relates to the use of the Jesse Helms Park Soccer Complex,” said Union County Parks and Recreation Director Bill Whitley. “The facility has been used by a Union County soccer league, by Wingate University for two summer soccer clinics, a local lacrosse tournament and recently by an adult soccer league in November. However, the complex is still not being used as much as we would like and staff continues to try and increase the customer base.”

The advisory committee suggested fees be suspended at both Fred Kirby and Jesse Helms parks even though customer use of Fred Kirby Park has not declined. Both parks are athletic facilities, and the advisory committee believes the parks should be treated the same in regards to entrance fees.

“It is the advisory committee’s and staff’s hope that suspending entrance fees will encourage customer use of both Fred Kirby and Jesse Helms parks,” Whitley said.

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