

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
JULY 27, 2021 MEETING - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Trammell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, in the Destin City Hall Annex Chambers with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

Sandy Trammell
Nikki Johnson
Matthew Sweetser
Danielle Piper
Barbara Telford
Leslie Schmidt

Member Absent

Brian Liesveld

Staff Present

Kim Montgomery City Clerk
Lisa Firth Recreation Director
Ryan Reed Recreation Dept. Supervisor
Louis Zunguze, Community Dev. Director
Don Smith, City Engineer
Daniel Butler, Planner
Lance Johnson, City Manager

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **June 22, 2021**

Motion to approve the June 22, 2021, minutes as written was made by Committee member Piper with Committee member Johnson providing the second. The motion passed 6-0.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **Park Inspections:**

Committee member Johnson turned in her inspections for her assigned parks and spoke of still not being able to inspect Norriego Point and the O'Steen Beach Trail because of no available parking every time she has tried to access them. Chairwoman Trammell stated that she may be able to do them by accessing the park with her boat.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Pompano Street Easement/Beach Access at Crystal Sands Condominium**

The City Engineer informed the members that this proposal was brought to Council in August of 2019 to relocate the Pompano Street easement/beach access to the Tarpon Street beach

access. He explained they are proposing to restore the beach dune system and relocate the easement to the east to Tarpon Street beach access making room for a future pool and amenities to the Crystal Sands Condominium, including connectivity to the parking lot of the property. He explained that they are proposing to increase the Tarpon Street trail from just a five foot path to 10-feet with a boardwalk, relocate the center easement to the east side for an increase to 80-feet, install three parallel parking spaces, new showers, bike racks and two turtle friendly light fixtures and restoring the dune at the current site of the Pompano Street Access. According to Mr. Smith, the HOA's original proposal was 100-foot when it was presented to Council. However, afterwards they realized that it's not 100' but 80'. Therefore, the swap is not one-to-one and would be about 86% of what the existing easement as it is now. He also pointed out that the way it currently is, the Pompano Street Access is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan regarding view corridors and removing it would make it to not be consistent.

Mr. Dennis Chavez, 280 Ventura Circle in Fort Walton Beach an Architect, and representative for this project, explained the members the HOA is proposing for the beach access to be removed and relocated to the opposite side of the property. He explained the way the building was developed with the easement in the middle, the public's perception is that the restrooms, pools, and private beach is for everyone. So, they are proposing to move the beach access which is a dedicated easement to the eastern side of the building at Tarpon Street, rebuild the dune walkover over; that has been worn down over the years from people walking and dragging their beach supplies, and restoring the dune system. Filling in the two pools, enlarging the parking lot and construct a new pool located on the back side of the building and improving the connectivity to the property.

Committee member Sweetser spoke of how there are many condominium properties in the city that have multiple buildings on them, and the onus is on the property management to give clear instructions on how to access the property and the location of the beach accesses. He added that even though there is a gain to the Tarpon Street access, they're still taking one away from the public and that does not sound like a fair deal to him.

Mr. Zunguze spoke of how staff understands their concerns and added that in discussions the following factors thus far that staff has encountered are:

- Negotiating a one-to-one swap was unsuccessful
- Access issues, i.e. going from two to one
- Conflicts with the Comprehensive Plan Policies

Committee member Johnson spoke of making an exception for this property could become an issue for the city noting they may have to start making exceptions for other situations that could arise.

Chairwoman Trammell made the motion to disapprove the request and to recommend staff continue to work on an even negotiation for an even swap.

Committee member Johnson made the substitute motion to add a recommendation for staff call a public workshop to be held prior to this going forward to Council to give the locals in the area a chance to provide input and voice their opinion. Committee member Schmidt provided the second the amended motion.

City Manager, Lance Johnson advised that they keep in mind the square footage of the swap and how at this time, he could not in good conscience recommend this proposal since the city is seeking to add beachfront property, and this would be a deduction. Additionally, he likes the idea of workshopping this and additional negotiating with the HOA. He also suggests expanding this to not just the immediate area of impact but to get city wide input.

Committee member Sweetser asked who manages the HOA. According to Mr. Chavez, presently he is not entirely sure who that is as they have had a recent staffing change.

The Chairwoman called for the vote and the motion passed with a unanimous vote of 6-0.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS:

- **Committee member Piper** – asked if there is anything further that needs to be done to make sure the city does not lose the grant money for Clement Taylor Park. According to Mrs. Firth, there is not. The money is with the County and has been approved by the Treasury and secured for the park.
- **Committee member Sweetser** – Informed the members that on August 10 from 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Bobby Wagner and volunteers will be making landscaping improvements to the corner of Beach Drive and Kelly Street. And everyone is invited to come out and help.
- **Committee member Schmidt** – Inquired if the city had any plans to continue planning the Crepe Myrtles on Legion Drive.

➤ **Staff Comments:**

Mrs. Firth informed the members that the Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park is finished with the install of the new sod.

Royal Melvin Park is still under construction and will not be finished until December.

The Boardwalk has been replaced at the following locations:

- Galatias

- AJ's
- Luther's

Under construction:

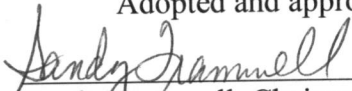
- Capt. Royal Melvin Park is under construction
- Brotula's
- Co-op
- Tailfins
- Heron Harbor will be last
 - The Seafood Festival is still scheduled, and the construction of Capt. Royal Melvin Park should not hinder the event.
 - Joe's Bayou status - The Consultant still working on the on the preliminary details but no plans yet, and possibly by their next meeting.
 - Norriego Point Park should start after Labor Day.
- **Comment:** None
- **Next meeting:** August 24, 2021

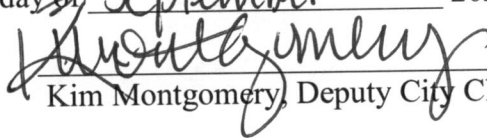
ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Adopted and approved this

20th day of September 2021.


Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk