

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
FEBRUARY 23, 2021 MEETING - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Trammell called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 in the Destin City Hall Annex Chambers with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Brian Liesveld

Staff Present

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Lisa Firth Recreation Director
Ryan Reed Recreation Dept. Supervisor
Don Smith City Engineer
Joe Bodi Engineer Asst. II.
Sheri Bethea

Motion by Chairman Trammell seconded by Committee member Piper to set aside the order of the day and move the presentation for the Girl Scouts up to the first position on the agenda. The motion passed 6-0.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Girl Scout Troop 2070 Leader - Elise Ready**

Ms. Ready explained that she is wanting to get her troop more involved in the community and would like to implement rock gardens in some city parks and explained that they already started a small one at the Mattie Kelly Park under the sign. As well as plant a tree for Earth Day/Arbor Day in April. Mrs. Firth suggested the Buck Destin Park sign for a rock garden and possibly incorporate the activity with the Destin Seniors.

➤ **Harbor Lane Right-of-Way Improvements – Don Smith**

Mr. Don Smith spoke of how City Council directed staff on improvement to the Harbor Lane Right-of-Way (ROW) with the \$25k that was set aside for the project. The initial items that were identified were:

- Picnic Table
- Stairs/Landing
- Trash Bin
- Dog Caddy
- Clear Vegetation
- Decrease Size of Intersection
- Install Multimodal Facilities
- Install Pavement Markings
- Install Bike rack at water access

At this time, the following has been completed at a cost of approximately \$12k:

- Picnic Table
- Stairs/Landing (Wear Decking)
- Trash Bin
- Dog Caddy
- Clear Vegetation

He spoke how his department was asked to look at additional improvements to spend the remaining funds and the next items of improvement are:

- Decrease Size of Intersection
- Install Multimodal Facilities
- Install Pavement Markings
- Install Bike rack at Water Access
- Estimated Cost \$ 13,000

Speaking on how all this will help improve visibility and make the area safer by decreasing the size of the intersection and slowing the traffic down for people to safely cross the road when walking or biking down to the access. As well as improving access from all directions by installing additional sidewalks and ADA compliant ramps, installing pavement markings. And installing a bike rack to enhance the use of the access point.

Mr. Smith also spoke of the additional water access points in this general area and how he and Mr. Bodi will be working together on improving them in the near future and ways to identify them such as:

- Install some kind motif instead of signs, such as an anchor or a dolphin.
- A post and rope similar to what is at the Harbor Lane access.
- Clear out all the underbrush at the two other rights-of-way nearby so that folks can have better access to the water.

Adding that if these motifs work, they could possibly be implemented to all the parks and water accesses in the city.

Committee member Sweetser asked if they are planning on sidewalks, why not extend them all the way to in front of Mr. Odom's property. According to Mr. Smith, that is a possibility for the future however, currently, there are not funds available. And staff is still contemplating other possibilities.

According to Chairwoman Trammell, none of this is what the citizens requested and was previously discussed. She provided a brief history of why the intersection is so wide. Adding that the adjacent water accesses are in secluded areas next to mansions and the neighbors want to keep it that way, so the adjacent homes stay secure. Additionally, the streetlight that was requested was to shine down the street but not have them inside the access. Since the hours are dawn to dusk, and they don't want to draw attention to it. In regard to the sidewalks, a mixed use path on the one side would be fine but not the others they mentioned because they would not connect to anything. She reiterated that installing one streetlight halfway through, a bike path on the north side and possibly improvements for a wheelchair to the bluff for the view is what they need.

Committee member Piper asked if ADA access is required to be there. According to the City Attorney, only if they are official parks but since this is not a park, they are not required.

Motion by Chairwoman Trammell, seconded by Committee member Sweetser to have the Chairwoman work closely with staff to come up with some revisions to the plan for the remainder of the money set aside. The motion passed 6-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- **June 30, 2020**
- **January 26, 2021**

Motion to approve the June 30, 2020 and the January 26, 2021 minutes as written was made by Committee member Johnson with Committee member Piper providing the second. The motion passed 6-0.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Visioning Session for the Committee**

The Chair informed the members that if they want to have a Visioning Session, they need to meet within their regular meeting time.

- **Work Plans**

Chairwoman Trammell spoke of the importance at their next meeting to discuss their workplans for the coming year. She explained to the members that they tie their workplans to Council's Strategic Priorities and how they don't direct staff but assist staff and make recommendations to Council on what they want achieved.

- **Parks Inspections**

Mrs. Firth discussed how staff can meet with them individually at their assigned parks if needed but not meet as a group because of minutes have to be taken and it needs to be advertised appropriately.

Chairwoman Trammell suggested making a Zoom Video of her and Mrs. Firth and posting it on their next agenda to show at the meeting. The City Attorney advised it would be best to have it done by an outside person not on the committee or just staff involved. Mrs. Firth added that if they need her to help and guide them on what to look for, she can set aside time to help them.

Mrs. Firth also advised the members that while they are out inspecting their assigned parks, if they see a tree dedication plaque, to note its location and provide that information to her so staff can add it or update their inventory and get them plated on the city's park map.

Park Assignments:

Johnson: Joe's Bayou Boat Launch & Mattie Kelly Nature Walk

Piper: Main Street Park & Buck Destin Park

Sweetser: Clement Taylor Park & Leonard Destin Park,

Trammell: Capt. Royal Melvin Heritage Park, once constructed & Harbor Lane water access.

Telford: Nancy Weidenhamer Dog Park, Destin Community Center and Children's Park at Morgan Sports Center

Schmidt: Kell-Aire Parks & Destin Sports Complex at DES

Liesveld: Dalton Threadgill Little League Park & Jewel Melvin Park

Beach Trails & Accesses:

Norriego Point & O'Steen – Johnson

Calhoun Trail – Sweetser

June White Decker – Sweetser

Silver Shells Trail – Sweetser

Shirah Beach Trail – Piper

Shores @ Crystal Beach & Crystal Beach Trail – Schmidt

Tarpon Street Trail – Liesveld

Pompano Street Trail – Trammell

Barracuda Street Trail – Telford

Mrs. Firth informed the members she will place the inspection reports on the May agenda for discussion.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

None

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS:

➤ **Committee member Piper**

Spoke of the non-native invasive plants and how there is Bamboo at Main Street Park, Mattie Kelly Nature Walk and Clement Taylor Park. She also spoke of how to maintain it to eventually eradicate it.

Chairwoman Trammell spoke of meeting with CBA at the Main Street Park and that it is not Bamboo but a plant called Phragmite, which is giant reed. But added that with Main Street Park, the roots are growing under the roadway and are basically holding it up the dirt for the road. So, it can be cut, but very slowly.

Mrs. Firth added that she and her staff are going to cut some of it near the trees but leave some too for the Red Winged Black birds that inhabit it.

Both Committee members Schmidt and Sweetser spoke against cutting it back at the Mattie Kelly and Joe's Bayou area. Stating that it would totally take away from the beauty of those parks.

➤ **Staff Comments:**

• **Sunshine Law/Public Records Presentation – Kyle Bauman**

The City Attorney presented the members with the City's Public Records Policy, Resolution 19-27 which was modeled after the City of Tallahassee's and adopted by Council. As well as a short Power Point Presentation and a Sunshine Law Handout and touched briefly on each important item. Noting that they

all should be using their City of Destin email addresses for all city business. And explained how if they do get an email to their personal email account, to just forward it to their city email address so that it can be captured and searchable. He also covered text messages and how to handle those as well social media comments and likes and how now that they are a public official, they are responsible to keep those Under the Sunshine as well.

For the Sunshine Law, he explained that any meeting of two or more members constitutes a meeting and has to be done "In the Sunshine" so it would have to be open to the public with a reasonable notice advertised and minutes would have to be taken. He also briefly covered Standards of Conduct and Voting Conflicts.

Mrs. Firth reported the County Beach Cleanup is in March and added that CBA would be helping, and they would also be going into the city at Mattie Kelly Nature Walk and Joe's Bayou as well and not just the beach. Adding that she would let them know of the firm date prior to the event and send them the flyer when she receives it.

Chairwoman Trammell spoke of the importance of keeping up with their time they spend out in the community for beach clean-up and inspections.

She also spoke of speaking with Kathy Marler Blue who is helping the City to obtain a historical grant to help pay for historical plaques.

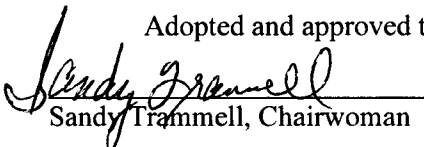
➤ **Public Comment –**

Marcie Bell – 3 Gulf Breeze Ct. Spoke of how some of the funds set aside could possibly be used to help correct the problem of the wall that is encroaching on the Harbor Lane ROW.

She also stated that she did reach out to Callie Barker but had to leave a message and has not heard if she still has her landscaping plan for the Phase II section of the cemetery. She also spoke of how she won't be putting out too much information on her blog now that she is on the Local Planning Agency and the Public Works Committee. And lastly, she did post some photos on her blog regarding signs that could be used for beach trails and accesses to remind people to pack in and pack out everything they bring on their outings. And she spoke of her turtle sign she created for holes that are dug on the beaches alerting beach goers to fill them in before they leave.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Adopted and approved this 9 day of March 2021.
 Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman
 Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk