

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
AUGUST 23, 2022 MEETING - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Trammell called the Parks & Recreation meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, in the Destin City Hall Annex Chambers with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Member Absent</u>	<u>Staff Present</u>
Sandy Trammell	Matthew Sweetser	Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Nikki Johnson		Lisa Firth Recreation Director
Danielle Piper		Ryan Reed Dep. Recreation Director
Leslie Schmidt		Michael Baird Parks & Rec Supervisor
Lisa Mason		Webb Warren Deputy City Manager

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ **August 2, 2022**

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2022 meeting was made by Committee member Johnson, with Committee member Piper providing the second. The motion passed 4-0. Committee members Mason not present for the vote.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

➤ **Destin High School Baseball Field – Dorn**

Mr. Dorn informed the members the cost for upgrading a softball field at Morgan's Sports Center will not be as much as originally quoted. Adding that the cost will not come or be expected from the city, it will be fund raised by the school, should this request be approved. He explained that none of the fences will need to be moved, and the estimate includes the netting to be installed from the 1st base line from the backstop to the 1st base foul pole as well as netting for the outfield poles from the right field foul pole to the left field foul pole and all around up to 18-feet in height to protect people from balls hit. He explained that their baseball games would start on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday on January 24th and play up to the end of April.

Committee member Piper asked if there would be any additional costs to the city for this request and according to Mr. Dorn, there would not be. Questions were posed if there is sufficient restroom facilities and parking available at both locations. According to Mr. Dorn, there is for both locations, but when the elementary school begins constructing the additions,

they will begin to encounter issues. He also spoke of how they cannot start at the elementary school until all the children are out and for the months in the wintertime, that can become a problem with it getting dark so early.

Chairwoman Trammell asked a series of questions to Mr. Dorn specially some asking the correct number of poles that are required, the height and the depth that they need to go into the ground, because that there could be some issues with Destin Water Users.

Motion to recommend City Council to allow the Destin High School to move forward to have their baseball field at Morgan's Sports Center with Committee member Piper providing the second. The motion passed 3-2 with Committee members Mason, Schmidt and Piper voting yes and Committee members Johnson & Trammell dissenting.

➤ **Public Beach Initiative – Webb Warren**

Mr. Warren provided the members with an overview and presentation of the plan for the purchase of the property adjacent to the Barracuda Beach access trail and how it would add to the public beaches. He explained that the city constantly receives emails from the public, both locals and tourists, expressing the need to be able to access the beach.

Chairwoman Trammell questioned if the city is now cleaning the beaches in the city limits.

Mr. Warren explained that is not the case, the county continues to clean the beaches. The city has always asked for funds for miscellaneous waterfront park maintenance, and the County has provided that. However, the expectation now is that all the municipalities are now expecting portions of the funds. Additionally, the funding for the purchase is TDC funds and per Florida Statutes, it has to be tied to tourism in order to be spent. Thus, a plan has to be provided to them, which they then review to ensure that it fits the plan, the State Statutes and restrictions in order to spend the funds, then once that is determined, they will then provide the funding to the city.

According to Mr. Bauman, our agreement eliminates the county for making a policy decision. Whereas theoretically, they can make policy decisions on what projects they like this, however, they're strictly limited to reviewing the criteria that's set forth in the statute, as far as the authorized expenditures. Additionally, if it meets one of those authorized expenditures they're required to approve it. Beachfront and waterfront maintenance is one of the authorized expenditures under the statute, so that's why it fits so neatly into that category and beach for beachfront acquisitions is a authorized use.

Committee member Johnson spoke of how she is pleased that the city is taking the necessary steps to acquire beach and waterfront property for the citizens and tourists alike.

Committee member Piper also spoke of how she feels that same way but questioned with the respect to the TDC, how much the city maintains what can happen on city beach property and referenced how the view is blocked because of the little building that the TDC put up. She also inquired if there are plans to allow beach vendors.

Mr. Warren explained that this property will be exclusively owned and maintained by the city of Destin by city funds and staff, and this is something that the County agreed to.

Mr. Bauman added that as part of the interlocal agreement, the County will have input on the design (beachfront amenities) of the park. Adding that the interlocal agreement specifically excludes beach vendors. Except for a food truck which may be permitted to operate, if that is the desire of Council, but nothing on the beach itself.

Motion by Committee member Johnson to recommend to City Council if the ordinance is passed, that the Recreation Committee supports the purchase of the land using a combination of TDC and city funds. Chairwoman Trammell provided the second. The motion passed 4-1 with Committee member Schmidt dissenting.

Motion by Chairwoman Trammell to set aside the order of the day and move up the to move up item 6E to number 5, with Committee member Schmidt providing the second. The motion unanimously passed with a vote of 5-0.

➤ **Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 7 – Ryan Reed and Steve O'Connor**

Mr. Reed explained to the members that as part of the review of Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan, there are items that need to be determined if they should stay or be removed. Additionally, this also allows for a potential Master Plan to be created and adopted by City Council and any recommendation provided, will be sent to the Local Planning Agency for their consideration to recommend adoption by City Council.

Chairwoman Trammell made the motion that the P&R committee recommends the LPA's approval of the suggestions from the policies in Chapter 7 of the city's adopted Comprehensive Plan as presented, with Committee member Johnson providing the second.

In discussion, Mr. O'Connor explained to the members that as part of the rewrite of the Land Development Code (LDC) and the update to the Comprehensive Plan, staff's responsibilities is to review the policies and ensure that they align with the LDC. In review of that, a new chapter will be added for Parks and Public Places. In discussions, staff and the consultants realized that there is currently not any language about funding and staff has determined that a Master Plan needs to be created to help guide staff with future development of parks in the city.

Chairwoman Trammell referred Mr. O'Connor to Section 7-1.3.4, Table 8.6 speaks of number of required vehicle and bicycle parking spaces and asked what's expected to be done with several different modes of transportation that are now being used beside bicycles throughout the city, such as segways, scooters and others that are considered mobility devices, with the fact that those have no designated parking. She feels that they need to be recognized since the state is allowing them now.

Mr. O'Connor clarified that she would like for staff to look at incorporating alternative modes of transportation other than bicycles and LSV's as part of the standard requirements for parking? Chairwoman Trammell replied yes that is her intent. Mr. O'Connor spoke of how bicycle racks are at all city locations where those could be locked to.

Chairwoman Trammell amended her motion, to include language in the Comprehensive Plan to include alternative mobility devices. With Committee member Johnson providing the second to the amended motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. O'Connor introduced the new city Engineer Brian Scott to the members.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

a) Park Updates – Ryan Reed

- Norriego – Waiting for the permits from the state to come through before this project can be started
- Joes Bayou – Pierce with FDEP will be attending their November/December Council meeting with the 30% plans.
- Clement Taylor Park – Nothing new at this time.
- Buck Destin Prefab Bathrooms – the design has changed and once he gets more information on the design he will bring it to them.
- Capt. Royal Melvin Heritage Park Update - May possibly be finished in October but the irrigation is in, and the landscaping can be installed.
- Shore at Crystal Beach – Renovations plans – waiting on the CCCL permit from the State.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a) Outdoor Recreation Calendar

Staff provided the calendar of events scheduled through December to the members.

b) Adopt-a-Park Application Review

Mrs. Firth suggested that the members look through the application and they can discuss any suggestions or changes at their next meeting.

c) Christmas Lights – Chairwoman Trammell explained to the members how she, as a Harbor CRA member, worked with Mr. Burgess to plan the Christmas light

decorations for the Harbor District, which includes the Capt. Royal Melvin Heritage Park. She briefed the members on the plan to decorate the park and the medians for the holidays. She recommended the amenities going into the park be amended in the plan to include oval concrete slabs to have the picnic tables bolted so they don't get moved around or disappear.

The City Attorney spoke of how this is something that staff can do and does not advise amending anything further at this point to the contract.

Motion by Chairwoman Trammell to recommend funds from the Council Contingency funds to fund concrete pads to be built under the picnic tables located at the Capt. Royal Melvin Heritage Park as part of the landscaping plan, with Committee member Piper providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

Motion to forward the information to the Harbor CRA to add the blue lights underneath the handrails going down the handicap ramp and around the observation deck and add the Christmas Tree and Christmas lights, with Committee member Mason providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

- d) **Welcome to Destin Sign** – Mr. Firth explained the plan to install the original design for the Welcome to Destin sign in a reduced size at the entrance of the Capt. Royal Melvin Heritage Park's eastern side near the entrance of the park. Explaining further that this would be an ideal photo opportunity for visitors since the original location of the Welcome to Destin sign on the Eglin property is no longer accessible. Additionally, TDD funds were approved to pay for the sign. There was a lengthy discussion about what type of materials the sign would be made of.

Motion by Committee member Schmidt to recommend City Council approve the Welcome to Destin sign as submitted, with Committee member Mason providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

- e) **Meeting Location Change** – Mr. Reed informed the members that from this meeting forward, they will continue to meet here at City Hall and not at the Annex.

f) **Member Comments** – Chairwoman Trammell spoke of how the work plan items and how she will be taken on the duties of assisting staff with park inspections and Arbor Day events. She then spoke of the following items and who would be taking them on:

- Murals - Committee member - Piper
- Adopt a Tree/Park/Bench - Schmidt
- Work with Master Gardner - Schmidt

➤ **Public Comments:**

Mrs. Marcie Bell spoke of how the following topics:

- Dalton Threadgill Park is in need of a facelift and feels that would be a good community service project for the high school kids to provide to help with what's needed to be done there as part of a swap initiative.
- Custom use of the city beaches and her issue with Little Ventures building which to her is basically commercial vendor usage for kayaks and parasailing
- Norriego Point, CCCL permit status and asked if it's the final phase
- Clement Taylor Park funds? Lisa explained once Heritage Park is final the funds will be released.
- Harborview Park needs cleaned up
- Leonard Destin Park – she pulled weeds and is glad to hear an adopt-a-park program is being considered.
- Commercial activities are taking place in city parks, she know the companies doing it, and will get in touch with Code Compliance.

Mr. Kevin Schmidt thanked the members for volunteering their time. He spokd of how the Christmas Tree on the observation deck is a good idea, but keep in mind that its location won't inhibit anyone from viewing the harbor during that time. Asked for an update on baseball funds owed to the city. Mrs. Firth stated that she is still waiting on information on those invoices to get the grand total.

Mr. Schmidt also wanted assurance that the baseball field is not only used by the school and that adult baseball could also use the field.

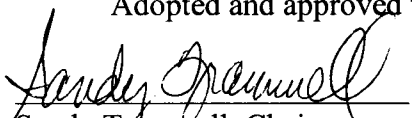
Regarding the beach acquisition, he expressed there are still a lot of details that he feels needs to be addressed regarding several areas, such as maintenance and the funding for that since its being marketed for use by the entire county.

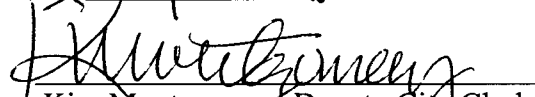
➤ **Next meeting: September 27, 2022, in this meeting room**

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Adopted and approved this 21st day of September 2022


Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk