

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
JANUARY 24, 2023 MEETING - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Trammell called the Parks & Recreation meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, in the Destin City Hall Annex Chambers with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

Sandy Trammell

Nikki Johnson

Daniella Piper

Lisa Mason

Leslie Schmidt

L' Rena Anderson

Members Absent

Staff Present

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk

Lisa Firth Recreation Director

Ryan Reed Dep. Recreation Director

Michael Baird Parks & Rec Supervisor

Webb Warren Deputy City Manager

Kyle Bauman City Attorney

Mayor Bobby Wagner & Council member Matthew Sweetser were also present

3. NOMINATION OF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

- Member Trammell nominated herself as the Chair, there were no other nominations.
- Member Piper nominated herself as Vice Chair, there were no other nominations.

Motion by Committee member Mason, seconded by Committee member Schmidt for slate officers as announced passed, 5-0.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion to change the order of the day and move Ms. Denise Song up on the agenda was made by Chairwoman Trammell with Vice Chair Piper providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

5. PRESENTATION:

- **Emerald Coast Wildlife – Denise Song**

Ms. Song spoke of how they created a program for children to get more involved with conservation to have school children involved with creating monofilament line collection

devices to place out in the community and want the Parks & Recreation Committee to partner to help offset the cost of making the tubes out of PVC.

Vice Chair Piper asked what the bottom line cost is, Ms. Song stated that it would cost approximately \$500.00.

Committee member Mason suggested to Ms. Song that they approach the Destin Charter High School, since they offer a fishing course.

➤ **FDEP - Pierce Barrett Joe's Bayou/Mattie Kelly Nature Walk Park Improvements**

Mr. Barrett explained to the members that the project is funded by the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill and that currently the plans are at the 30% phase where changes can be made. He informed the member of budget set aside amount and that this is a Trust Informational Project (TIG) for the following improvements:

- Improvement to the piers
- Access to the shoreline
- Remove and replace the current hardscapes
- Expansion of the parking
- Wetland Improvements
- New signage
- New onsite office and restrooms

Additionally, the Engineering firms hired for the project are DAG, Taylor Engineering, and Hoffman Engineering.

He then informed the members that the results of the public survey taken, the majority of the people wanted to know how they would access the park and what all could they bring i.e. boats, kayaks, and paddle boards.

In discussion of what the members wanted to see was:

- Leave the existing bathrooms where they currently are for people that are getting off their boats.
- Have a shaded area on the boardwalk that goes over the pond area.
- Keep the dog areas separated from the area where the children play.
- Add an additional pump-out for boats for a total number of two.

Chairwoman Trammell suggested that they create a small parking area for the employees when using the gator by the new office building and public restrooms.

The member briefly discussed the need to have a workshop for the plans to be presented to Council instead of presenting them at a regular Council meeting.

Mayor Wagner stated that he would bring this up at a City Council meeting for discussion.

Vice Chair Piper questioned the design and spoke of how she feels that all the new park buildings should be built to resemble one another.

Mayor Wagner mentioned that if they would angle the view 30 degrees, this would improve the view corridor for a better view of the water and not looking directly at the adjacent residential homes.

Chairwoman Trammell opened the public portion for comment.

Mr. Mike Koran who lives across the street at 801 Beach Drive spoke of how he was offered to purchase the property first before it was sold to the city and how proud he is to see this project come to fruition.

Committee member Schmidt left the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Public Records/Sunshine Law Presentation – Mr. Bauman explained to the members how any comments that is made by them in relation to city business is a public record regardless if it's made on a personal device or social media accounts, it becomes a public record. He explained how a screen shot should be made and forwarded to their city email address so it can become searchable. He advised the members that it is best to just not comment on anything city related on social media but if they do, to not forget to screen shot the comment and email it to get it on the city server. He also covered the importance of text messages being captured, as those are the ones that seem to be the most problematic and encouraged phone conversations or city email that can be immediately captured. He explained that if it does happen, it can easily be rectified by contacting him and having the issue placed on the next meeting agenda to bring into the sunshine, if it should ever happen.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the September 27, 2022 meeting minutes as written was made by Vice Chair Piper with Chairwoman Trammell providing the second. The motion passed 4-0, with Committee member Schmidt not being present for the vote.

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- **Adopt-a-Park** – Moved to the February Meeting
- **Beach Committee Meeting Representatives Needed** - Mrs. Firth informed the member they need to have two members, a representative and an alternate who will attend the meetings and report back to the committee what was discussed. She explained this is not a Sunshine meeting and the first meeting for the season should be at the end of February. Chairwoman Trammell and Vice Chair Piper volunteered respectively.
- **Smoke Free Parks** - Mrs. Firth informed the members of the ordinance that Council is following in the footsteps of the County to pass the non-smoking ordinance for all parks and beaches. The member briefly discussed how it would be enforced.
- **Destin High School Baseball Fields** – Currently, the DHS has a new baseball coach and at this time, they have gone back to using the DES fields.

Committee member Schmidt reentered the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

- **Heron Project** – Mrs. Firth briefed the members on the initiative for this project and how a Heron is being installed at Clement Taylor Park.
- **Tarpon/Sea Oats Motel Demolition** – February 3, 2023, at 10 a.m.

8. **MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Vice Chair Daniella Piper – Spoke of the reeds that are getting overgrown again at the Main Street Park and how a petition was left at her house of signatures for local residents that are wanting them removed. She explained they are invasive and are a hazard to the safety of people at the park. She also spoke of how they keep the native plants and grasses from being able to proliferate, due to reduced sunlight and well as releasing a chemical that inhibits native plants to thrive where they are growing. Most importantly, they block the view of the water way and access to the pier.

Motion by Vice Chair Piper when the Main Street Park reeds are trimmed that staff is instructed to keep them trimmed around the dock to facilitate a clear view of the fishing pier and the bayou. Committee member Mason provided the second to the motion.

According to Chairwoman Trammell, they are an invasive species that can be dug out however, the previous City Engineer determined that if they were dug out, they would undermine the watershed in Kellaire Lake and the road. She explained how they got there

and how it was determined that some can be removed and kept trimmed but not all can now be removed permanently. **With no further discussion, the Chair called for the vote and the motion passed 5-0.**

Leslie Schmidt – Stated that she would like to see all city buildings fragrance free, and feels that since the city is already moving towards being smoke free she feels that this should be a good segway to get rid of all the chemical loaded plug-in devices that are being used to cover up the odors. Pointing out how whatever the root problem is that is causing the odors, needs to be taken care of.

Chairwoman Trammell suggested that she first start with speaking the mayor and other City Manager to get a sponsor for her concerns so that when she goes before Council to speak on the subject, she would have someone available to help her to speak on the subject as well.

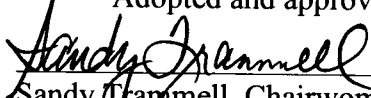
At the next meeting, Chairwoman Trammell reminded the members and staff that they need to discuss their park inspections which are actually due to staff in March. As well as Adopt-a-Park.

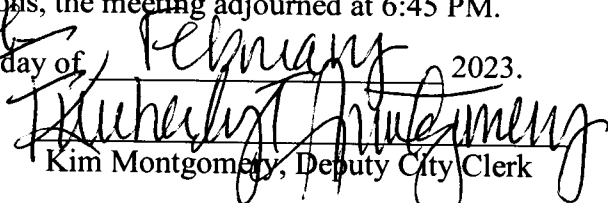
➤ **Next Meeting February 28, 2023**

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Adopted and approved this 28th day of February, 2023.


Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk