

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
FEBRUARY 28, 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, February 28, 2023, in the Destin City Hall Annex Chambers with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff Present</u>
Sandy Trammell	Leslie Schmidt	Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Nikki Johnson	Isaac Birch	Lisa Firth Recreation Director
Daniella Piper		Ryan Reed Dep. Recreation Director
Lisa Mason		Michael Baird Parks & Rec Supervisor
L'Rena Anderson		Webb Warren Deputy City Manager

3. AGENDA APPROVAL:

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: JANUARY 22, 2023

Motion to approve the January 22 meeting minutes as written was made by Vice Chair Piper with Chairwoman Trammell providing the second. The motion passed 4-0.

5. PRESENTATION:

➤ **Tarpon Beach Access 30% Plans**

Mr. Warren provided the members with the 30% design plans for the beach access at Tarpon Street, explaining the details of the parking spaces for both cars and low speed vehicles, and pavilion designs, as well as the plans for the view corridors.

Chairwoman Trammell recommended that they turn the pavilions and the bathroom buildings vertical so that would open up more of the view corridors. She also suggested pavers be put down where the LSV parking is located to allow for better drainage, noting that if there is a significant rain event she doesn't see how the stormwater could be held in what is shown and does not want to risk it overflowing down onto the beach.

Mr. Warren spoke of how that is a great idea, and no one has suggested repositioning the pavilions and bathrooms, which could potentially allow for 20 more feet of the view corridor.

Committee member Johnson asked if the parking would be pay to park. Mr. Warren explained the interlocal agreement the city signed with the county does not allow for charging for parking, because county funds are being invested in the project. However, the street pay to park will be maintained and the locals can use their passes for those.

➤ **Shore at Crystal Beach**

Mr. Warren explained this is the property the city obtained and is the one on the east side of the big white house they were unsuccessful in obtaining so, presently, because of the size, it will be turned into an LSV parking only lot for beach access. Adding that the building may also be able to be changed to a vertical one as to open up the view corridor.

6. **OLD BUSINESS:**

➤ **Adopt-a-Park**

Mrs. Firth explained staff is seeking their feedback on the information they were previously provided and asked if they are agreeable with it as it is, or do they feel it needs additional information added.

Chairwoman Trammell stated she feels the safety guidelines and the release form needs to be included or at the very least, ensure that they are included when they hand the information out to the public. Additionally, the point of contact person and the phone number should also be indicated on the first page of the initial form.

Motion to approve the Adopt a Park program with the discussed changes made to the form was made by Committee member Johnson with Vice Chair Piper providing the second. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **NEW BUSINESS:**

➤ **Murals**

Mr. Reed explained that City Council approved Destin High School to create a mural for Royal Melvin Heritage Park. Adding that so far nothing has been finalized at this point and as information progresses he will keep them informed.

The Chair spoke of how she found out the FPL would not allow for murals to be added to their utility boxes because they offer a certain number of wraps. She then spoke to the member of her idea to have the fabric covering on the fencing at the Morgan Sports Center at the Children's Park to have murals added to it, similar to what was done to the fencing that surrounded the construction site of the Emerald Grande while it was being built.

➤ **Park Inspection Assignments**

There was a brief discussion regarding changing up the assignments so that everyone could have their assignments closer together to make it easier on each of them getting to their locals. Each member reviewed and picked the parks they would review.

Chairwoman Trammell asked if staff would make the document fillable so they could go to the form and input their information.

➤ **Agenda Publishing Timeline**

Mr. Reed informed the members that he is working on getting them the information in a timelier fashion and asked the members to do the same regarding any subjects they may want to add to the agenda for discussion.

Mrs. Firth added that the deadline for items to be added to the agenda will now be the Wednesday before the meeting, so that everything can be added and it can be broadcasted out by the Friday before their meeting. Adding that this allows for staff members, who are responsible for reviewing, approving, and disseminating the agenda, time to do so.

8. MEMBER COMMENTS:

Committee member Johnson – Spoke of how the Joe's Bayou Park plans has deviated quite a bit from the original plans that was presented to this committee a few years ago before the pandemic. She spoke of how important it is that the members understand the language in the grant proposal and the reason why the city is building the park. She explained that the grant came about from the money distributed after the oil spill and it has very specific reasons on how the money is supposed to be used. Reading the top five goals of the grant being:

- To enhance public access to natural resources for recreational use such as fishing or boating with a combination of ecological restoration and creation of infrastructure access in useful opportunities.
- To enhance recreational experiences to promote environmental stewardship and education.
- To create and restore and enhance the coastal wetlands.
- To restore or survey habitat.

She spoke of how she feels that what was brought back to them are not the goals of what was set forth to do and what was presented to them when the Lance Johnson came before the committee and spoke to them in 2018 timeframe. She spoke of how he informed the committee that 80% of the park had to stay in its natural habitat and the intentions of the grant is to restore it back to its natural environment and not to pave it over to allow for large trucks and trailers to park. She spoke of how there is no longer a lot water access for the majority of the residents that live in west Destin since the area under the bridge was closed to the public, and how this is an opportunity with a waterfront piece of property, to enhance the

little beaches and places where people like to swim safely and, it is the only place in Destin where residents will be able to take their dogs to swim. She referenced the 2019 Agenda Item where the Parks & Recreation Committee unanimously recommended to City Council that when the Joe's Bayou Recreation is expanded, that an on leash dog friendly area was to be a part of the plan, emphasizing that Leonard Destin Park and Clement Taylor Park both have areas for children to play and have access to the water. She also recommended eliminating the walkover the pond because of it being a designated wetlands and the fact that people will litter and spoke of how much trash is in the Mattie Kelly Wetlands because people go in along the walkways and leave their trash in there, and she is concerned that the same thing will happen in the pond area and will impact the wildlife that live in there. Also, the #4 area on the plans, that has the break-aways, there is also a designated wetland area and she wants to make sure it's being considered and keeps that designation. Lastly, she doesn't feel the amount of parking planned is necessary, because, living close by, she sees the parking spaces sit empty on a daily basis, unless they somehow foresee the daily use of the park to increase, she also does not agree with the need to pave those areas for 20 more parking spaces and spoke of how those areas should be planted with natural plants to help nourish the natural wetlands, emphasizing that there is very little left in Destin, as indicated on the wetlands map, and of paving it over, to her is not ideal.

Vice Chair Piper spoke of how Liza Jackson Park has both a dog on leash area and an area for children that has signage about the rules and it seems to be working just fine with no issues. She feels that as long as this park has the same coverage of signage that it should be fine too.

Mrs. Firth explained that the on leash dog area is actually a decision for the city of make and not the designers of the park.

Committee member Johnson emphasized that she just wanted to make her statement clear and on the record because at their previous meeting last month, that she was unable to attend, this committee made a recommendation for areas to have dogs restricted and that sentiment was also repeated at the workshop and that, was not what was originally intended by this committee.

Committee member Lisa Mason – Spoke of how when she found Jewel Melvin Park, she felt it to be not very safe and asked to be enlightened on why the park is even there. Mrs. Firth explained it's more of a neighborhood park for Twin Lakes and has asked for the Sheriff's Department to include it in on their patrols. Also, the residents of the neighborhood keep an eye out for it as well. Chairwoman Trammell suggested this park would be a good candidate for the Adopt-a-Park program.

Chairwoman Trammell – Spoke of the proposal for the Linear Park and how most of it will just be a sidewalk from 98 Palms to Airport Road with portions of the western side

having a road connecting from apartments to 98 Palms Blvd. Mrs. Firth stated this should be brought to them at their March or April meeting.

Committee member Piper asked if there is an update on the portions that would encroach on private property. The Chairwoman stated that most likely those areas will change, once those conversations take place. She briefly spoke of the grant that Representative Maney obtained for the park that has a short timeline for it to be used or the money will be lost.

The Chair then brought up the fishing line initiative that was brought before them at their last meeting to raise funds to purchase the PVC supplies. Because of the size, everyone agreed that it's too small to get the line in it and could easily be dropped and have to be picked up to get it out of the environment. She suggested that if anyone wanted to do a project, to make them larger and for private use for people to install on their own docks and, suggested it be something the high school could do in their fishing class.

➤ **Staff Reports**

Mrs. Firth provided the following updates:

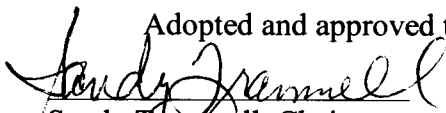
- Royal Melvin Park is still not ready.
- The road to Norriego Point will begin in March – the parking lot will be fenced in while the road is under construction. There will be walking path for the public to access the beach.
- Destin High School is back at the Destin Elementary School because of the work that is being done on the fields by Destin Water Users.
- Staff is seeking plans for replacing what is in the Children's Park at Morgan's

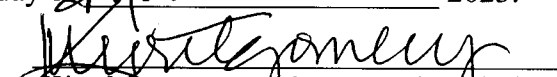
➤ **Next Meeting March 28, 2023**

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Adopted and approved this 25th day of April 2023.


Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk