

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
APRIL 25, 2023 MEETING - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Trammell called the Parks & Recreation meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 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	Isaac Birch	Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Nikki Johnson	Lisa Mason	Lisa Firth Recreation Director
Daniella Piper		Ryan Reed Dep. Recreation Director
L'Rena Anderson		Michael Baird Parks & Rec Supervisor
Leslie Schmidt		Ryan Scott City Engineer

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Motion to approve the February 28, 2023, meeting minutes as written was made by Committee member Johnson with Vice Chair Piper providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

4. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion to change the order of the day was made by Committee member Piper with Committee member Johnson providing the second. Motion passed 5-0.

5. SPECIAL GUESTS:

The sons of Captain Royal Melvin presented to the members their availability to be able to attend the Ribbon Cutting for the Grand Opening of the Royal Melvin Heritage Park. They discussed setting a tentative date for the ribbon cutting and at the time, June 2nd at 10:00 a.m. was decided. The Melvin brothers thanked staff for all their help in getting the park finalized.

6. PRESENTATION:

➤ **Linear Park Presentation – City Engineer Ryan Scott**

Mr. Scott provided the members with the background information on the plan for the roadways and sidewalks that was adopted into the Comprehensive Plan in 2014 and explained that these plans are just in the conceptual stage at this point. He explained there is

a lot of moving parts that needs to be brought together for the park and pointed out that portions of the eastern most area will only be a foot path to connect with Airport Road because of private property and spoke of the necessary easements that would have to be obtained as well as other options, if the easements are not obtained. He also spoke of the possibility of having pocket parks for work out benches that may possibly be installed in some green spaces, as well as all the obstacles that would have to be factored into the design for the park and how it would have to be done in phases, and he is looking for feedback from them on what they would like to see implemented.

Chairwoman Trammell spoke of how the design to her, is not a park and more of a right-of-way and suggests for the road to go to the north and south intersects to get with those people accessed to Hwy. 98 at Mattie M. Kelly and Airport Road and leave the rest of it as a park. Adding that she would like to see it accessible to skateboarders since there is not anything for in the city for that sport.

Committee member Johnson agreed and spoke of her concern for the wetlands and what the impacts are for those because they should be protected. She feels that the park would be more of a benefit to the citizens to be able to walk, picnic and bike, instead of a roadway. Adding that no matter what the speed limit is, people are going to speed down a road regardless, which will become a safety hazard for those walking. She spoke of an elevated pathway would be the ideal solution for the wetlands area that need to be crossed. Additionally, if the property is strictly made for just a pathway, events held could be held along there.

Committee member Schmidt spoke of Turkey Creek in Niceville and how it has a wooden boardwalk that has educational signs to teach people about the plants and animals that inhabit the wetlands and encouraged everyone who's not been there, to check it out.

Committee member Piper agreed with Committee member Johnson how she does not want any of the wetlands being filled and would rather see them preserved and enhanced.

Chairwoman Trammell questioned what the members thought of the use of LSV's for the pathway, so people could still connect to the businesses and grocery stores.

Committee member Johnson stated that she would prefer it to be more for bicycles than LSV's, if she had to choose.

Committee member Anderson agreed that Destin does not need anymore roadways to get congested or people to speed on and risk the safety of the people enjoying the park setting.

Motion to recommend not have the road installed and instead, make it a walking and biking path to better benefit the citizens of Destin. Committee member Schmidt provided the second. The motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Chairwoman Trammell to recommend the connection of Mattie Kelly Blvd. and South Mattie Kelly Blvd. to Highway 98 to Airport Road, with Committee member Johnson providing the second. The motion passed 5-0.

Mr. John Crombie of 276 Twin Lakes Lane thanked the members for their vote which solves their problem to not have a roadway that would connect to Cordgrass Way. Adding that they would be agreeable to help provide the maintenance that area now that Cordgrass Way connects.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **Clement Taylor Park Update**

Mrs. Firth informed the members that the design for the park has been submitted to the county and the Federal Government for funding.

➤ **Adopt a Park**

Committee member Johnson stated a Hold Harmless form should be added. Additionally, Chairwoman Trammell spoke of the need to add the beach trails to the list of parks to adopt.

Motion by Trammell, seconded by Piper to add the Hold Harmless and the beach trails to the Adopt-A-Park packet. The motion passed 5-0.

The members also discussed adopting a park for the committee. **Motion by Johnson, seconded by Piper for the committee to officially adopt Clement Taylor Park. The motion carried 5-0.**

Committee member Schmidt left the meeting at 5:30

City Manager Lance Johnson spoke to the members about the current issues with Royal Melvin Heritage Park that staff is working on.

- An administration rule to change the hours from sunrise to sunset because people will be traversing the boardwalk and the park. There was a brief discussion on the solution and the decision was to change it to one hour after sunset in the off season but leave it open during the 100 days of summer and the Fishing Rodeo. Additionally, he explicitly pointed out that open containers will not be allowed on the sidewalks and a water taxi stop needs to be added.

Chairwoman Trammell suggested to designate one of the three slips on the harbor for a water taxi stop. There was additional discussion regarding allowing dogs on leash, alcohol friendly as well.

Motion by Committee member Trammell, seconded by Vice Chair Piper to recommend City Council allow the following in the Captain Royal Melvin Heritage Park:

- **Close the park one hour after sunset – no loitering after sunset.**
- **Close and lock the bathrooms one hour after sunset.**
- **Dog friendly on leash only.**
- **Alcohol friendly.**
- **Allow a 4-hour water taxi in one of the three transient slips. The motion carried 4-0.**

8. MEMBER COMMENTS:

Committee member Piper – Spoke of how she would like to see beach mats available at beach parks for those in wheelchairs.

Mrs. Firth explained staff has investigated these and has found that permits from FDOT have to be obtained, they tend to not stay flat on the sand if the wind picks up, they can only be placed at the toe of dunes, and they can't be put down during turtle season, which is all summer long, and with the high cost, they're just not practical for local beaches. She explained that another option is to have the beach wheelchairs, which can be rolled into the water.

Committee member Johnson stated she would like to see one made available at one of the new beach parks. There was additional discussion on the topic and Mrs. Firth stated that the Destin Fire Control District does offers them.

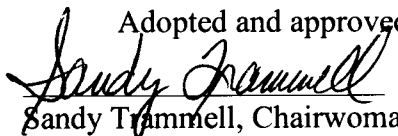
Chairwoman Trammell – Briefly spoke of the decorations were not purchased and since the funds were never used, they rolled back into the General Fund.

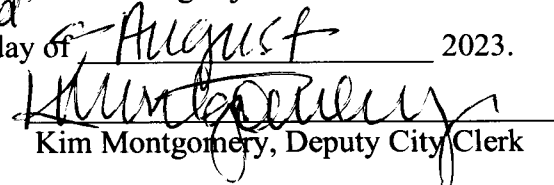
➤ **Next Meeting June 27, 2023**

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Adopted and approved this 22nd day of August 2023.


Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk