



**AGENDA
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING
CITY HALL BOARDROOM
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ATTENDANCE AND INSTRUCTIONS**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A) August 27, 2024 Minutes**
- 4. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A) Updated schedule for Adopt-A-Park for committee members**
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A) Christmas Parade float design**
- 6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**
 - A) L'Rena Anderson**
 - B) Isaac Birch**
 - C) Leslie Schmidt**
 - D) Sandy Trammell**
 - Committee Work Plans**
 - Annual Report**
 - E) Nikki Johnson**
 - F) Autumn Weidenhamer**
 - Pooch Palooza Pupdates/Final dates for the event**
 - G) Bryan Otto**
- 7. STAFF REPORTS**
- 8. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE**
- 9. NEXT MEETING DATE: TBD**
- 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Comments from the public on any matters considered at the meeting, or on any matters not on the agenda)

If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council, committee, board, panel, or agency with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she will may need to ensure that a record of the verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon the appeal is to be based.

"Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Public Services Office 850/837-4242 at least 48 hours in advance".

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
AUGUST 26, 2024 MEETING - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Trammell called the Parks & Recreation meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 26, 2024, in the Destin City Hall Annex Chambers with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present Members Absent

Sandy Trammell
Nikki Johnson
Isacc Birch
Autumn Weidenhamer
Leslie Schmidt
Brian Otto
L'Rena Anderson (in at 4:20 PM)

Staff Present

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Lisa Firth Recreation Director
Ryan Reed Dep. Recreation Director
Ryan Scott City Engineer
Jeff Cozadd Grants and Projects Manager
Bryan Keller Parks & Rec.
Mayor Bobby Wagner

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ *May 28, 2024*

Motion to approve the May 28, 2024, Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting minutes as written was made by Vice Chair Johnson with Committee member Birch providing the second. The motion passed 6-0, member Anderson was not present for the vote.

➤ *June 18, 2024*

Motion to approve the June 18, 2024, Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting minutes as written was made by Vice Chair Johnson with Committee member Weidenhamer providing the second. The motion passed 6-0, member Anderson was not present for the vote.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Destin Dog Park Maintenance Schedule

Vice Chair Johnson and Committee member Schmidt agreed to switch their assigned monthly duties. The members briefly discussed the bulletin board that used to be kept up to date. The members agreed to start keeping it updated with new content and cleaned, as part of their monthly duties.

B. Rescue Tube Presentation - Mr. Dion Bonieaves and Wayne Bernheisel

- Mr. Bernheisel presented data showing the effectiveness of the rescue tubes, which have been used successfully in Hawaii and other areas.
- There are 600 rescue tubes deployed nationwide, with 200 confirmed rescues and zero rescue deaths.
- The Rotary Club of Destin has proposed to install these tubes at 13 local beaches access locations.
- The cost estimate for the wooden posts is roughly \$2,500
- The cost estimate for vinyl posts is roughly \$3,250.00

The Committee members discussed the installation logistics, possible vandalism, liability concerns, and storm preparedness issues.

Motion by Committee member Birch, seconded by Vice Chair Johnson to recommend finding funding sources for the request and recommend City Council approve the installation to install rescue tubes at the beach accesses. The motion passed 6-0, Committee member Anderson was not present for the vote.

****Committee member Anderson entered the meeting****

C. Boardwalk Under the Marler Bridge

Mr. Ryan Scott City Engineer presented the preliminary plans for this project to the members. The design includes:

- Extending the boardwalk from the Emerald Grande to underneath the Marler Bridge with removable sections to facilitate maintenance by FDOT,
- Making Zerbe Street or Siebert Avenue one way
- Addition of a parking garage with ADA compliant pedestrian paths, sidewalks, and crosswalks connecting to the boardwalk to improve accessibility and safety.

Vice Chair Johnson spoke of how so many people cross Hwy. 98 where they're not supposed to and suggested the installation of barriers in the medians, similar to the ones that are along the Las Vegas Strip, to prevent pedestrians from jaywalking.

Motion by Chair Trammell, seconded by Committee member Birch to recommend City Council direct staff to proceed with the conceptual design for the project. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 7-0.

D. Pickleball Court Project – 100% Plans

The City Engineer briefly explained the project to the members that were not previously aware of it. He spoke of how the project would be done in phases as previously discussed, with phase 1 being the courts, phase 1A parking, and phase 1B a shade structure, and that the project is expected to exceed the budget by about \$66k.

Mr. Jeff Cozadd, Grants and Projects Manager briefly explained how there are potential upcoming grant opportunities to apply to for this project next month to help fund this project, which would help offset the cost, with the award being sometime in July 2025.

Motion by Vice Chair Johnson to recommend City Council direct staff to find additional funding sources to have Phase 1, 1A and 1B included in the initial phase 1 construction with Committee member Weidenhamer providing the second, the motion passed 7-0.

E. Public Restrooms & Field House Morgan Sports Center & Storage Facility Project

Mr. Cozadd explained how the current restrooms are not sufficient for the amount of people that are now coming for tournaments and this proposed project would improve what is out there and possibly allow room for additional storage for the recreational equipment. A diagram of the proposal was shown to the members and all agreed that this would be a beneficial addition to the Sports Complex, particularly for the tournaments. Mr. Cozadd spoke of grant opportunities available for this project, and that it will be placed on the 5-year CIP for future consideration. There was a brief discussion regarding the possibility to have a pavilion off to the side from the bathrooms.

Motion by Chair Trammell, seconded by Vice Chair Johnson to recommend proceeding with the project including proceeding with the grant application to include a pavilion into the plans. In discussion, Mr. Cozadd advised against including the pavilion into the project. **Chair Trammell amended the motion to remove the pavilion with Vice Chair Johnson in agreement to the amendment, the motion passed 7-0.**

7. STAFF & MEMBER COMMENTS:

Mrs. Lisa Firth, Parks & Recreation Director mentioned batting cages will soon be added to the Morgan Sports Center. She also mentioned that the lights are being installed this winter in the off season and how they will be more eco friendly and not use as much electricity because of LED lighting. She also mentioned that the Community Center is scheduled to have the windows replaced in 2025.

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Sandy Trammell – Spoke of how invasive the vine, Virginia Creeper is and brought a price of the plant to show the members what to look for, and if they see it growing in any of the city parks, to remove it as it will climb up trees and eventually kill them.

Nikki Johnson – Asked the members if they would be interested in having a P&R float in the Destin Christmas Parade. With all members agreeing, she asked staff to add this to their agenda for the September Meeting.

****Leslie Schmidt left the meeting at 5:00 PM****

Vice Chair Johnson then expressed her concern over the situation that has arisen about the State of Florida allowing commercial development in State Parks and how she is against this, and asked the members if they are in agreement, and if so, she would like to the committee and City Council to take a stance against any commercial development in State Parks.

Motion by Vice Chair Johnson, seconded by Committee member Weidenhamer to recommend City Council take a stance against any commercial construction in any State Parks in the State of Florida. In discussion, Mayor Wagner stated that he too is against this and would be bringing a Resolution at the next Council meeting. Committee member Birch stated that he is not against the motion, however, he has a conflict of interest to the subject and motion since his son is a Florida State Park Ranger.

Vice Chair Johnson amended her motion for the Parks and Recreation Committee to support Mayor Wagner's Resolution, with Committee member Weidenhamer seconding the amendment, A roll call vote of 5-0 was taken, with Committee member Schmidt not being present for the vote and Committee member Birch not voting due to a personal conflict of interest.

Autumn Weidenhamer – Provided an update on the Pooch Palooza and asked that it be added to their work plans for 2025, as well as have an account set up and earmarked for an annual event.

Motion by Committee member Weidenhamer to add the Pooch Palooza event as a work plan item with Vice Chair Johnson providing the second. The motion passed 6-0 with Committee member Schmidt not being present for the vote.

Committee member Weidenhamer also spoke of her past conversation for little libraries and asked the committee if they were agreeable for one to be installed at the Destin

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Dog Park. She also stated that she has found out that the Destin High School students would be willing to volunteer to paint any of the boxes, if approved.

Motion by Committee member Weidenhamer, seconded by Vice Chair Johnson to have a little library box installed at the Dog Park. The motion passed with a 6-0 vote with Committee member Schmidt not being present for the vote.

Mrs. Firth informed the members that the State will be commencing the construction on the Norriego Point Park after Labor Day and will continue work up to Memorial Day. She announced that the road into the park will be closed and they will attempt to keep the embayments open however, the harbor side will also be closed to the public. She then briefly explained the bid opening date for the Clement Taylor Park and the preliminary timeline for the project.

Mr. Ryan Scott, City Engineer, mentioned that the Dalton Threadgill Park Stormwater Plan was discussed at the recent Council meeting and there are concerns about major encroachment onto three adjacent properties.

- **Public Comment**

Miss Birch, 719 Legion Drive, discussed the issue about commercialization of State Park land and how it is destroying the forests in this country and displacing the forest rangers.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Adopted and approved this ____ day of _____ 2024.

Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman

Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk

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