

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
JUNE 18, 2024 MEETING - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Trammell called the Parks & Recreation meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 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	L'Rena Anderson	Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Nikki Johnson	Leslie Schmidt	Lisa Firth Recreation Director
Isacc Birch		Ryan Reed Dep. Recreation Director
Autumn Weidenhamer		Ryan Scott, City Engineer

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve the March 5, 2024, Special Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting minutes as written was made by Committee member Johnson with Committee member Birch providing the second. The motion passed 4-0.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Linear Trail Plans – 60% Plans

Mr. Levi Wiegand with DAG Architects provided the members with the current status of the 60 % plans and what the trail will entail from the beginning of the trailhead to the end at Airport Road. The east end details of the trail was discussed briefly regarding the removal of any previous parking and the easements that will need to be obtained.

Mayor Wagner briefly spoke of the Florida Sun Trail grant that he has lobbied for with the TPO for this project, as well as the boardwalk under the bridge and the Cross Town Connector explaining further they have asked for \$10M through the Florida Sun Trail to help fund them.

Ryan Scott, City Engineer provided the members with updates regarding the changes that were made to the plan from the last time they were presented. There was discussions about budgeting the maintenance for this trail and Committee member Johnson spoke of how it should be included in the Parks Master Plan once the consultant group is hired to write the plan. One of the main focus discussions in this presentation was the fact that almost all of the trees in the Jewel Melvin Park are going to have to be removed in order to accommodate stormwater, and how

member Johnson wanted assurance that the same number of trees removed would be replanted elsewhere in the city and, they should not be young trees that take decades to grow.

Motion by Committee member Johnson to recommend the City Council adds a tree study to be done at the Jewel Melvin Park and ensure that comparable number of trees are planted around the city to replace the trees that are removed for the new stormwater drainage; and to have these provisions included or documented in the 90% construction plans. Also, to remove all palm trees that are depicted in the approved landscaping plans. Committee member Weidenhamer provided the second. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 4-0.

➤ **Parks & Recreation Destin Dog Park Adoption**

The members discussed their responsibilities for and how they need to schedule their duties, since they cannot all show up at the same time, allowing staff to create a proposed schedule that they can review at their next meeting.

Motion to have staff a proposed schedule for review at their next meeting for cleaning the Dog Park. Committee member Birch provided the second, the motion passed 4-0.

➤ **Children's Park New Equipment**

Mr. Reed explained to the members the different components that will be coming into the park. Chairwoman Trammell suggested instead of the normal green screening that goes on the fencing to have more of a children theme for the fence screening.

7. MEMBER COMMENTS:

Autumn Weidenhamer – Spoke of how she would like to bring back the Pooch Palooza to raise funds for the dog park, and how she would like to see the Dog Park resodded with new grass in the areas that are all dirt. Staff explained how many times the sod has been replaced and how it is an ongoing issue because of heavy use and dogs digging.

She also spoke of how she would like to see a little library installed in one of the city parks for people to be able to use while on vacation or leave a book they brought or bought while here. She mentioned a website/app that tracks locations to help people find them.

Joshua Cowser – Mentioned how he volunteers at his church's Youth Group and always has teens and young adults speak to him about the need to have a Skate Park.

• **Public Comment – Beckah Manley**

Spoke of being the Chair of the Destin Rotary Club and her latest passion project to have encouragement messages painted on the bus stop at the corner of Kelly Street and Benning Drive. She provided a brief background of how she saw something similar while out of town and thought it was a great idea. She mentioned how she's already spoken to several entities and has everything lined up to be donated so, there would be no cost to the city, she has spoken to staff about it, and felt that she needed to present her idea to this committee first to get their support before going before Council.

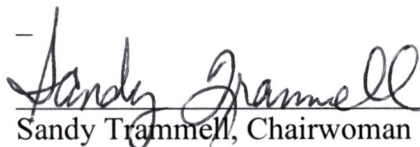
Chairwoman Trammell made the motion that the Parks & Recreation Committee is in support of the mural design at the bus stop on Kelly Street with Committee member Johnosn providing the second. The motion passed with a unanimous vote of 4-0.

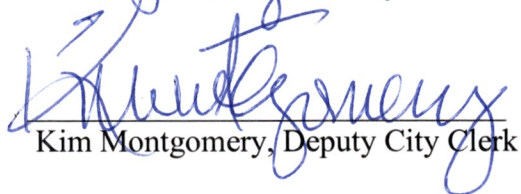
Mayor Wagner again spoke briefly on the Florida Sun Trail, being a regional path to connect from the Marler Bridge to the Walton County line, and how he's working on getting it identified for future funding through the FDRP for matching grant funds from anywhere between \$50k to \$250k per project. He also spoke of how once the Parks Foundation is finalized, he has plans for a Mayor's Ball to raise funds.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Adopted and approved this 26th day of July 2024.


Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk