

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL ANNEX CHAMBERS
JANUARY 28, 2025, MEETING - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chairwoman Johnson called the Parks & Recreation meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, in the Destin City Hall Annex Chambers.

2. ROLL CALL:

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff Present</u>
Nikki Johnson	Isaac Birch	Kim Montgomery Deputy Clerk
Allison Stephens		Ryan Reed Deputy P & R Director
Bryan Otto		Brian Kellar Recreation Supervisor
Autumn Weidenhamer		Scotty Atkins Parks Supervisor
		Sharon Gardner Records Mgmt. Specialist

A.) Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair

CHAIR NOMINATION

- **Nominee:** Nikki Johnson
- **Motion to approve:** Allison Stephens
- **Second by:** Bryan Otto
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

VICE CHAIR NOMINATION

- **Nominee:** Autumn Weidenhammer
- **Motion to approve:** Nikki Johnson
- **Second by:** Bryan Otto
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously
- Following elections, the newly appointed chair and vice chair took over their respective roles.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- A. September 24, 2024, Meeting minutes*
B. November 26, 2024, Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from September 24, 2024, and November 26, 2024.

- **Motion to approve:** Autumn Weidenhamer
- **Second by:** Nikki Johnson
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO AGENDA

A motion was made by Autumn Weidenhamer to add an item C under New Business regarding Sandy Trammell updates from the Parks Foundation and training. Committee member Bryan Otto seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

A brief explanation was provided by Deputy City Clerk Kim Montgomery regarding microphone usage for effective communication. Clarification was provided regarding the voting process, confirming that attendance at the previous meetings was not required for approval.

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. DESTIN FORWARD PROJECT PRESENTATION

Representatives from the **Destin Forward Class** presented a walking tour project at Leonard Destin Park.

- The project aims to enhance visitor engagement through QR-coded signs linking to audio stories about Leonard Destin and the city's history.
- Proposed five signs placed strategically throughout the park, ensuring minimal disturbance to existing structures.
- The timeline for completion is at the end of April 2025.

Discussion & Feedback:

- Clarification on content: The signs will primarily focus on Leonard Destin's history rather than the broader history of Destin.
- Approval process: Committee members requested to review and approve finalized audio content before installation.
- Concerns on durability: Questions were raised about QR code lifespan and sign maintenance costs. Estimated budget: \$5,000.
- Recommendations for signage design: Ensure consistency with existing park signage and rework branding elements for greater visitor engagement.

Motion to approve Destin Forward Project:

- **Motion by:** Bryan Otto
- **Second by:** Allison Stephens
- **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

B. ANNUAL REPORT & WORK PLANS

The committee discussed the submission of their annual report to the City Council.

- Work plans need to be finalized at the next meeting.
- The committee agreed to review past and new work plans in the next session.
- A new work plan for Puppalooza is pending submission and will be reviewed next month.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee must show tangible progress on its goals to maintain legitimacy and funding.

Key Recommendation: Improve documentation and tracking of committee activities, including:

- Park inspections
- Volunteer hours
- Adopt-a-Park initiatives

C. PARKS FOUNDATION & FUNDING POLICIES

Council Member Sandy Trammell provided updates on the Parks Foundation, which will now house all Parks and Recreation fundraising funds.

- The foundation is awaiting 501(c)(3) approval at the national level.
- All donations require written thank-you notes as part of IRS compliance.
- The committee was encouraged to document fundraising activities for better transparency.

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. PARK INSPECTION ASSIGNMENTS

- Members will finalize park assignments next month based on their proximity and availability.
- Deputy Parks & Recreation Director Ryan Reed will distribute a list of all parks and members can request specific ones.

1. Signage Improvements

- Discussion on the poor condition of park signage and how to secure funding for updates.
- Proposal: Seek sponsorships from local businesses for signage replacements.
- Action Item: Request that signage updates be included in the city's next budget cycle.

B. ADOPT-A-PARK & DOG PARK SCHEDULE

- Destin Dog Park remains the adopted park for the committee.
- Members must schedule monthly maintenance visits (trash pickup, filling holes, general upkeep).
- The current schedule extends through March; a new rotation will be determined for April onward.
- Documentation is essential for accountability.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS & UPDATES

A. Pooch Palooza (April 5, 2025) – Autumn Weidenhamer

- Vendor recruitment is ongoing.
- Awaiting financial processing details for vendor payments.
- Sponsorship opportunities are available for raffle donations.
- Seeking volunteers to help promote and run the event.

B. Increasing Recreational Participation – Brian Otto

- A future agenda item will focus on increasing youth and adult participation in city recreational programs.
- Proposal to improve advertising and outreach for recreational opportunities.

7. STAFF REPORTS

A. Introduction of Scotty Atkins – New Parks Supervisor

- Formerly worked with the Pensacola Blue Wahoos and Monroe County Parks.
- Plans to enhance maintenance and explore potential artificial turf solutions for the dog park.

B. Recreation Updates – Brian Kellar

- Youth basketball season is ongoing; a coaches' game is planned for season-end.
- Youth soccer registration begins February 28.
- Upcoming events with volunteer opportunities:
 - Easter Egg Hunt (April)
 - Arbor Day (April)
 - Founders Day (May)
 - Pooch Palooza (April 5)

C. Park Improvement Updates

- Clement Taylor Park: Contractor selected, pending approval.
- Noriego Point: Potential delay; expected completion by late summer 2025.
- Joe's Bayou: Project at 60% design phase, awaiting funding allocations.

- Morgan Sports Center Playground: Equipment deliveries ongoing; expected completion by spring.

8. PUBLIC COMMENTS -None

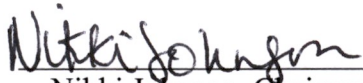
9. CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURNMENT

- The next meeting will be held on February 25, 2025.

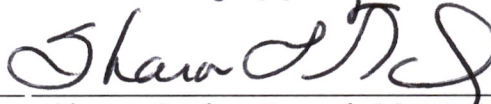
ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM

Adopted and approved this 25th day of February 2025.



Nikki Johnson, Chairwoman



Sharon Gardner Records Mgmt. Specialist