

**MINUTES
HARBOR COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2025 - 5:30 PM
DESTIN CITY HALL ANNEX CHAMBERS**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Green in the Destin City Hall Annex Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m., on October 8, 2025, followed immediately with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present

John Stephens
Lance Johnson
Guy Tadlock
Marium Paulino

Absent

Jay Howard
Jim Green
Casey Jones

Staff Present

Kim Montgomery Deputy City Clerk
Steve o'Connor CD Deputy Director
Jesse Hernandez Senior Planner
David Prichard CD Director
Kyle Bauman Special Projects Counsel

3. AGENDA APPROVAL:

Motion by Committee member Johnson to approve the agenda with Committee member Tadlock providing the second, the motion passed 4-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

➤ **September 10, 2025**

***The minutes were pulled for approval so that a motion's correct second could be added.**

5. CURRENT BUSINESS:

➤ **Development and City Projects Update – Senior Planner Jesse Hernandez**

- A minor development order for Loco Hana Hawaiian Grill was approved
- A minor subdivision and minor development application for a quadplex on Gulf Breeze Court was received.
- “Baby Grand” at Harborwalk Village still has ongoing vehicle parking and vessel issues as well as other concerns that still needs additional work.
- Norriego Point Park FDEP has the contractor working on finishing some necessary punch list items and looks to be about another three weeks.
- Clement Taylor Park is on track to be finished towards the end of November.
- The boardwalk continuation to the east is still stalled due to the Destin Yacht Club and other properties nearby, therefore, there is nothing new to report.
- The boardwalk continuation under the Marler Bridge and northward is still being considered and with another year left in the bridge replacement study,

although the city owned property on the northside will help, there is nothing definitive at the moment to report on.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS:

➤ **Committee member Johnson** – Questioned the status of Mr. Touchstone’s collaboration with the design for the future Marler Bridge. Staff informed the members that there will be an initial meeting with three board/committees: Public Works/Safety, Harbor CRA Advisory Committee, and Harbor & Waterways Board to provide input on a possible design standards for the future new bridge. Additional discussion followed regarding FDOT’s proposed improvements along Highway 98 from Marler Bridge to Airport Road. Noting that FDOT has paused this project pending bridge study results. Several members expressed concern over potential traffic impacts similar to those currently seen at the Brooks Bridge project in Fort Walton Beach.

➤ **Committee member Paulino** –

- Developing a harbor area map and work plan. The project will involve significant coordination due to the number of property owners. She proposed incorporating historical elements, such as plaques and photographs, to encourage participation from business owners and align with the CRA’s goals.
 - Staff mentioned that a previous work plan had been drafted for historical plaques tied to the city’s recent milestone anniversary and grant efforts and encouraged collaboration between members to align these initiatives.
 - Committee member Paulino noted that she plans to collect additional data, conduct field verification along the harbor, and explore ways to link the mapping effort with nearby attractions such as Captain Leonard Park and the Destin Fishing Museum.
- Shared information about Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Department initiatives allowing local businesses to link their security cameras with law enforcement systems for improved safety. Several members expressed support and interest in promoting this capability to other harbor businesses. Chairman Stephens commented that he already has his cameras connected to the program.

Staff reported that during the recent City Council meeting, the City Manager was directed to coordinate with the Sheriff’s Office to increase law enforcement presence in the harbor area, particularly during nighttime and offseason periods, as they requested at their previous month’s meeting.

The members discussed community feedback they heard regarding the recent Destin Seafood Festival. Several noted that the festival turnout appeared lower than in previous years, possibly due to conflicting events such as the Pensacola Seafood Festival and Fort Walton Beach Fair. They also discussed how they’ve heard from local business owners, who indicated that

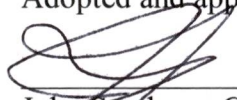
vendor participation was lower this year, particularly in certain sections of the harbor. Some members expressed interest in revitalizing the festival next year, possibly through expanded vendor recruitment or featured entertainment to increase public engagement.

Next meeting: November 12, 2025

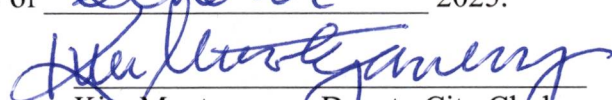
7. ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Adopted and approved this 8th day of October 2025.



John Stephens, Chairman



Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk