

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
July 28, 2026 - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Weidenhamer called the Parks & Recreation Meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, in the Destin City Hall Boardroom immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

<u>Members Present</u>	<u>Members Absent</u>	<u>Staff Present</u>
Autumn Weidenhamer	Aubrey Santucci	Ryan Reed P&R Deputy Director
Jessica Jullian	Alison Stephens	Bryan Kellar Recreation Supervisor
Andrea Ansley		Sharon Gardner Records Mgmt. Specialist
Jan McGraw		

3. AGENDA APPROVAL: Chairwoman Weidenhamer asked to amend the Agenda to add Tarpon Beach Park Discussion under her name.

Motion made by Committee member Ansley to approve the agenda as amended. Vice Chairwoman Jullian provided the second. Motion passed 4-0. Committee members Santucci and Stephens were absent from the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: MAY 26, 2026- Chairwoman Weidenhamer asked for approval of the minutes of the May 26, 2026, meeting.

Motion made by Vice Chairwoman Jullian to approve the minutes as written. Second provided by Committee member Ansley. Motion passed 4-0. Committee members Santucci and Stephens were absent from the meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS: Park Evaluations: Ryan Reed- Parks & Recreation Deputy Director

Deputy Director Ryan Reed discussed the park evaluations he had been working on and was hoping to have them completed and brought back before this committee in October. It was discussed whether there was a way to use a co-pilot program that all committee members could share, he asked if the Clerk's office would confirm with the City Attorney regarding the Sunshine Laws and follow up with him.

6. NEW BUSINESS: Big Truck Day: Ryan Reed- Parks & Recreation Deputy Director

Deputy Director Reed announced that Big Truck Day will take place at the Community Center on Friday July 31st from 9-11 and asked for any committee members that wanted to volunteer to email him. The next upcoming events will be Fall Fest and the Pinfish Tournament.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/QUESTIONS

A. 1. Chairwoman Weidenhamer- Pickleball Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Chairwoman Weidenhamer asked the members if they were still wanting to do a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new pickleball courts at the City Hall Annex. It was discussed among staff and committee members when the date should be. Deputy Director Reed noted that a pickleball paddle holder rack was on order and that it would be a welcome addition to the facility. Recreation Supervisor Bryan Kellar noted that National Pickleball Day is August 8th but felt it might be too soon to organize the ceremony on such short notice. He also mentioned that World Pickleball Day is October 10th. Chairwoman Weidenhamer announced that the USA Pickleball Ambassador for the Emerald Coast area wants to attend the ceremony and do a brief, five-minute introduction to pickleball lesson.

Discussion continued between staff and committee members regarding having pickleball photo props, a celebratory first serve, and the possibility of having a free giveaway, refreshments, and if the Mayor could possibly attend. Committee member Ansley said she would speak with her firm about donating a pickleball set for a giveaway.

2. Chairwoman Weidenhamer- Public Feedback Pickleball Courts

Chairwoman Weidenhamer spoke of the feedback on the Facebook groups she follows concerning the lack of benches and shade at the Pickleball court. She mentioned how people were bringing their own tents and their own chairs and asked if there was a way to add these items to the budget to get bleachers and more shade out there. Deputy Director Reed stated that this project is being built in multiple phases, and this is only in phase one. He explained that the issue of putting certain structures around the pickleball courts, like certain sides going toward the maintenance shop, is part of the next phase, so they couldn't put anything permanent there. However, he stated that he would discuss this with the Engineering Department to see what could be done for more shade for the side closer to the Annex building and would have information for this committee at the next meeting.

3. Chairwoman Weidenhamer- Dog Park Enhancements with Pooch Palooza Funds

Chairwoman Weidenhamer discussed the Destin Dog Park Facebook page voting poll results, noting the overall majority of people that participated in the poll voted for a shade canopy at the park. Deputy Director Reed agreed to get quotes for prices and different sizes and would let the committee members decide size and location at the next meeting.

Discussion continued regarding the status of the funds that were raised at the Pooch Palooza event and what the procedure was to use them to purchase the shade canopy. It was suggested to invite the Parks Foundation members along with Finance director Krystal Strickland to attend the next Parks and Recreation meeting in order to discuss the proper procedure to transfer monies collected during fundraising events.

4. Chairwoman Weidenhamer- Tarpon Beach Park

Chairwoman Weidenhamer spoke of how people are walking over the dunes, parking in the golf cart parking spaces and parking their cars at the park for the entire weekend. She asked staff if this was going to be regulated, and if so, by whom.

Deputy Director Reed advised that signage is being put in for the parking lot. He also explained that they've discussed putting up a fence to block people from being able to access the dunes. They are trying to get the cheapest yet most efficient way to do it. They had installed a rope to set a barrier to where if somebody crosses it, staff can at least advise people that they can't walk on the dunes. The issue is that staff isn't law enforcement, or code enforcement.

He advised that he had spoken with Public Works Director Michael Burgess and they are going to put some stencils of golf cart images in the designated parking spots for them. He noted that there have been some growing pains with getting a new park in the middle of summer, and they're finding a lot of issues from just an operations standpoint plus a maintenance standpoint, which luckily they're still in contact with the contractors in the county and are working together with them. Deputy Director Reed also mentioned the area by the stairwell and how it is being blocked by people loading their vehicles at the end of the day and how that has become an issue of blocking the shower area. He also noted an erosion issue at the shower that they are working on.

Chairwoman Weidenhamer also gave credit from the committee to Danny Kusion on the job he has done at the park since it opened. She asked Deputy Director Reed to pass along their appreciation for his work at the park.

B. Vice Chair Jullian-Nothing today.

C. Committee member McGraw- Nothing today.

D. Committee member Ansley-

Committee member Ansley expressed her appreciation for the Tarpon Beach grand opening ceremony and acknowledged how everyone did a great job as usual and thought it was a great crowd.

8. STAFF REPORTS: Deputy Director Reed-

A. Deputy Director Reed mentioned the last budget workshop and how Parks and Recreation have quite a few items in there, and they're hopeful that the items get approved. Committee member Ansley inquired about the storage building at Morgans and if it was approved. Deputy Director Reed advised that they were actually working on this now and expressed his appreciation for having that in the minutes. He stated all the purchase orders have been approved for the building and work should be continuing on it shortly. He mentioned that the other items that were in the budget, including the dog park and Morgans Sports Center should still be in the works, and he will advise the committee if anything changes.

Committee member Ansley asked about the status of the covering that was needed for the equipment in the Public Works area. Deputy Director Reed stated they have worked with the Public Works department to do a temporary solution for now, but the extension of the building itself is probably a lot more involved so it may not be able to be completed as they would like.

STAFF REPORTS: Recreation Supervisor Bryan Kellar- Soccer Registration

B. Recreation Supervisor Bryan Kellar announced the youth soccer registration opens this Friday, July 31st, and this year they will only have two seasons, and because there wasn't a spring season they anticipate a bigger fall season. The last day for registration is August 14th, with practices starting the week of August 31st. He stated the first games will be starting October 2nd, the first Friday in October, with the last game being November 6th, the first Friday in November.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

10. NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 25, 2026, 4PM

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:51 PM.

Adopted this 25th day of August, 2026.

Autumn Weidenhamer
Autumn Weidenhamer, Chairwoman

Sharon L. Gardner
Sharon L. Gardner Records Mgmt. Specialist