

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
FEBRUARY 25, 2020 - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Hebert called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 in the Destin City Hall Boardroom with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

*The Chairman welcomed new member Barbara Telford to the committee.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

Teresa Hebert
Myra Williams
Matthew Sweetser
Nikki Johnson
Barbara Telford

Staff Present

Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk
Lisa Firth, Recreation Director
Scott Berish, Deputy Recreation Director

3. MINUTES: January 28, 2020

Motion by Committee member Johnson, seconded by Committee member Sweetser the members voted 5-0 to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020 meeting as written. Committee member Williams was not present for the vote.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **Welcome to Destin Sign Improvements**

Mrs. Firth informed the members the approval is still pending the Commander's signature.

Concern was voiced in regard to affecting the planting schedule by Committee member Johnson. Mrs. Firth stated that it should be fine and might be a good location for the Arbor Day tree planting to consider. The Chairwoman provided an update of the plan to Committee member Telford.

➤ **West Beach on EAFB Property**

Mrs. Firth explained that the Mayor and County Commissioner Windes are in talks about this subject, but nothing has been decided at this time.

The Chairwoman explained the details of the subject to refresh everyone and new member Telford.

➤ **Beach Advisory Partners Meeting**

Mrs. Firth said the first beach partnering meeting took place at 10:00 this morning. She explained the meeting is very low-key and includes a representative from the County, Sheriff's Dept., the DFCD-Lifeguard, a Beach Vendor, and Code Compliance, Catherine, the PIO for the City and Council member Ramswell. She spoke of how the meetings are to keep everyone informed of what each one's roles are for the spring/summer season.

Committee member Williams entered the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

➤ **Arbor Day Tree Planting**

The member briefly discussed the possible locations for the tree planting. Mrs. Firth reminded them they have the meeting in March to make their final decision on where to plant the trees.

➤ **Annual Park Inspections**

The members all agreed that they generally would like to stay with the same parks that they reviewed last year.

Mrs. Firth informed the members that the beach accesses are now called beach trails since most are not really a beach access, which tends to confuse tourist when they realize there is not a wide portion of the beach to set their chairs and umbrellas.

● **Committee member Johnson –**

- Destin Dog Park
- 1st Avenue ROW
- 4th Avenue ROW
- Mattie Kelly Pier & Nature Walk
- Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp
- Kelly Street Duck Pond

● **Committee member Sweetser –**

- O'Steen
- Norriego Point Park
- Dalton Threadgill Park
- Clement Taylor Park
- Jewel Melvin Park
- Destin Memorial Cemetery Phase I & II
- Harbor Lane ROW

● **Committee member Williams –**

- All Beach Trails in Crystal Beach
- Shore at Crystal Beach
- Sterling Shores
- June White Decker Park

- **Committee member Telford –**
 - Buck Destin
 - Royal Melvin Heritage Park
 - Community Center
 - Harborview Park
 - Kell-Aire North & Kell-Aire South Parks
- **Chairman Hebert –**
 - Destin Sports Complex @ DES
 - Morgan Sports Center
 - Main Street Park

Mrs. Firth also asked everyone while out inspecting to make note of any trees they come across that have name plate dedications too. So that she can update her inventory list.

The Chairman informed Committee member Telford the general responsibilities to look out for while inspecting their park assignments. And Mrs. Firth informed her that she will email out to everyone the list that they will take with them to each park inspection. And as soon as they get theirs finished, send it to her so she can start sending out the work orders to get whatever needs repaired on the schedule.

- **Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Morgan Sports Center 4/11/20**
 - If anyone want to volunteer there is always something that can be done.
- **Pooch Palooza**
 - The members agreed that they would like to revive this event and discussed how and what needs to be done to get this going again
 - Everyone agreed to work on the legwork this year and plan to have it start up again in March 2021

The Sponsorship program was briefly discussed and if it should be continued or not for Friends of the Dog Park. The Chairman suggested taking the signs down to find out if any interest come from that and if so, she said that she would be glad go out in the city and try to solicit donations. Committee Johnson stated that she would help as well.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS:

- **Committee member Williams –** Spoke of the tree planting and dedication that will be took place at Main Street Park. Trees on the Coast donated the two large Oaks to Mr. Keith Howard's honor for being such a good steward to the city. She a praised the Recreation Staff for their help and asked for staff to include bubblers to the new trees so they will bet plenty of water for settling the root system. Additionally, the two large ones that were planted a couple years ago have some branches that need to be pruned. And a couple of other trees still have the strappings still on them that need to be removed. She said she would have Trees on the Coasts arborist to contact her and coordinate with city staff to meet them at the location.

~ She asked about the status of the inventory of the canopy of the trees in the city. Mr. Berish explained that when he first was hired he and the GIS Manager using the remote sensing GIS did an inventory of the tree canopy at all the city properties. But they can not undertake the entire city with the current staffing levels.

~ She asked who she could speak to about planting trees in the ROW's throughout the City and was informed to speak with the Public Services Director, Michael Burgess.

~ She also asked about Airport Road and was informed that she would also need to speak to the Public Services Director as well.

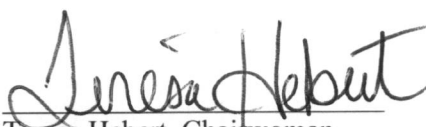
STAFF REPORTS:

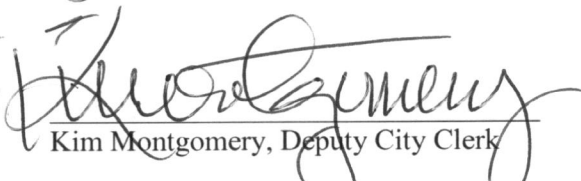
- **Clement Taylor Park Seawall Replacement** – the contractor has been awarded by Council and the city is waiting to be told what to do about the results of the Environmental Study, because of the Indian artifact shards that were found on site.
- **Clement Taylor Park Renovations** – The County still has control of the funds and the City is waiting for the release in order to get the bid out and then start the project.
- **Capt. Leonard Destin Park** – the park is still on schedule to be finished by mid-April and the ribbon cutting is tentatively scheduled for April 22nd.
- **Concrete Plant Property** – Lines for parking still needs to get put down for organized parking before the season starts.
- **Capt Royal Melvin Park & Plaza** – The bid opening has been pushed to early March.
- **Norriego Park** – The State thinks they may be able to start sometime in July.
- **Public Comment** – None

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Adopted and approved 30th day of June 2020.


Teresa Hebert, Chairwoman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk