

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
JUNE 30, 2020 - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairwoman Hebert called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 2020 in the Destin City Hall Annex Chambers with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

Teresa Hebert
Myra Williams
Matthew Sweetser
Nikki Johnson
Barbara Telford
Brian Liesveld

Staff Present

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

3. MINUTES:

February 25, 2020

Motion to approve the February 25, 2020 minutes as written was made by Committee member Williams with Committee member Johnson providing the second. A roll call vote of 6-0 was taken and the motion passed.

May 26, 2020

Motion to approve the May 26, 2020 minutes as written was made by Committee member Liesveld with Committee member Williams providing the second. A roll call vote of 6-0 was taken and the motion passed.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

5. OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **Sunshine and Public Records Law Refresher Presentation – Kyle Bauman**

The City Attorney informed the members he will make this an annual presentation of the Sunshine and Public Records Laws starting in November after the new members are appointed. However, since it's been a while and with the Covid issues, staff felt that a refresher would be a good idea. The three categories are:

- Emails
- Text Messages

- Social Media

He explained that in an effort to protect them and keep their private email accounts, private. The city has issued all board and committee members an @cityofdestin.com email address. This way all city related business conducted through their city issued email will be captured. Additionally, any emails that may pertain to city business sent out or received through their personal accounts should be forwarded to their city email address to be captured and searchable through the city email server. Explaining further that they are subjected to the public records law and so any communication that deals with city business is a public record and includes text messages and social media comments.

➤ **Harbor Lane ROW Improvements – Sandy Trammell**

Mrs. Trammell handed out the original survey for the ROW showing the location of the step that go down to the little beach and water. She spoke of how a group of people met at her residence and discussed the things that they would like to see done to improve this ROW. She pointed out on the survey that there used to be a platform out in the water, but it has long disappeared and all that is left now are the pilings which are covered with barnacles that they would like to see removed and replaced with new ones and a new platform.

- Remove and relocate the stairs to the water as far south as possible and have them built with the Trex deck material so they will not rot.
- Install signage to inform boater that they are not allowed to beach or tie up as this is a passive property for walker, bikers, and kayakers.
- Remove the large planters at the entrance.
- Remove the bushes that are overgrown on Mr. Odom's side, remove the weeds if possible, and add muhly grass or something similar.
- keep the grass mowed regularly.
- Install a bike rack.
- Remove the Magnolia Tree that is located near the water's edge because, when it grows larger, its roots will eventually impact the seawall.
- Replace the removed Magnolia with a donated tree near the front entrance and dedicate it to the Harbor Lane residents of Moreno Acres.
- Have a streetlight installed on the street not in the ROW.
- Widen the path to the water at the Cobb's Point ROW but keep as natural as possible.
- Clear the sight path on the Jupiter Street water access ROW but keep as natural as possible.
- Add benches or picnic tables to each.
- Set a precedence for opening all ROW's to the public for enjoyment.

Mrs. Joanne Bouchillan 720 Planet Drive spoke of how Aubrey and Guy Santucci have agreed to donate the bike rack and any brush or tree removal services to the property. She also spoke of how she would like to have some planters or plantings along the wall and is waiting to hear back from the city regarding the newest survey, to know find out where they can be installed.

➤ **Clement Taylor Park/Destin Fire Control District – Mike Buckingham**

Mr. Mike Buckingham provided a survey of the park and the area that the DFCD would like to lease from the city if this is something that can be saved. He spoke of how the plan is to have state of the art bathrooms installed at the location. Which is a lot better than the modular bathrooms that are proposed in the redevelopment plan. Adding that they could use the proposed restroom area for another pavilion or play area. And pointed out the area they are asking for asked the members if there is any way to move forward with the plan. He spoke of the need to have service over on this side of town and was asked to come speak to them to see if they would make a recommendation to Council get this plan to move forward.

According to Committee member Johnson, this park is designated as a passive recreation area for adults and children that spoke of a time when Council had the good sense to call this park out by name in the Land Development Code. Adding that it is meant to be a passive recreation park to be enjoyed and regardless of size of this plan, she does not feel that this fits the definition. She spoke of the amount of passive park property in the city is so small but understands the need since she lives on this side of town in this zone but is willing to take the chance of not having service to save this park from this plan. Pointing out that right now it is a small part, but what happens when there is a need to grow. Or what happens to the sea grasses that are present that will not be protected because of the boat. There is just not enough land left for this one piece to be singled out and the history of this town and that property should stay untouched.

Committee member Sweetser stated that he agrees with her sentiments. And spoke of how honestly, he thought that they were being presented with other location options since no one in the city wants a fire station at that location. And spoke of how everyone wants that last piece of land to remain exactly as it is. And even though there is a need for a fire station on that side of town, not at this park.

Committee member Liesveld spoke of the beauty of a Democratic processes is that can agree or disagree. However, he spoke of how he understands that the process was followed poorly but on a safety aspect something is needed on that side of town. And this place seems to be a logical place and if not here then where?

Committee member Telford understands the passion of the citizen for this park and feels that there are other locations better suited for their needs than Clement Taylor Park. And asked about the property that the city purchased last year and currently at this time is not even being used for parking. Adding that they could lease a slip from Dewey Destin just a block away.

Committee member Williams spoke of how this committee was not in the know of when the decision was made to move forward with the fire department taking a portion of the park and the public was certainly not aware of it either until after the first reading of the ordinance.

The Chairman spoke of how she is hoping at the upcoming workshop the property that the city bought on Sibert Avenue, that is not being utilized, will be chosen as an alternate solution to build the Fire Departments building and will be nowhere near this park.

Mrs. Marcie Bell, 3 Gulf Breeze Ct. spoke of how Mr. Buckingham contacted her and asked that she set up a meeting with the public at the park so that he could answer any questions the citizens may have regarding the subject. She mentioned how she did some investigating, and the subject was first brought up to Council the DFCD was told no and then at a later time how past Council member Dixon suggested earmarking the plan as tourist related so that they could get it funded through the Deepwater Horizon grant funds. She spoke of how this park is one of the prettiest parks in the County and questions what is going to prevent them from wanting more of it when they outgrow the current plan. Adding that the way the roads are built, at this location there is no way that the fire truck can safely and effectively get to the southside of Highway 98 in the busy summertime with all the traffic trying to get in and out of the Emerald Grande and surrounding locations.

➤ **Beach Advisory Partners Meeting**

Mrs. Firth explained the meeting the meeting was very productive.

➤ **Annual Park Inspections**

Mrs. Firth informed the members to just hold on to their park inspections if they have already finished them.

➤ **Leonard Destin Park Dedication**

Mrs. Firth informed the members that sometime mid-July the City should be accepting the key to the park.

Mr. Bauman informed the members that City Council may consider accepting the deed to the property at the July 20th Council meeting.

Chairwoman Hebert suggested scheduling the ribbon cutting sometime around the beginning of August. Mrs. Firth stated that she has spoken with the City Manager and they will let City Council direct staff on when to have the ribbon cutting.

Committee member Williams suggested the dedication should be attended by the Destin Family and have something special similar to what is done for Founders Day.

Mrs. Firth stated she would get with Parker Destin and find out what he and his family would like and bring those suggestions back at their next meeting.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS:

• **Committee member Johnson** questioned why there are rainbow flags at the Mattie Kelly Park. According to Mrs. Firth, she put them up to draw attention to the fact that the park is for people to enjoy. Adding that on Memorial Day Holiday, the park was full of people parking their trucks and boat trailers and that is not what this park is to be used for. She also spoke of how there is 68 spaces for overflow parking at the property at the old cement plant. She also explained the reason the property is closed off is to keep people out until a staff member is on the property to keep people from parking in there and not

utilizing the space properly as well as keeping people from parking their cars in there without boat trailers since space is such a commodity and it is strictly to be used for those.

- **Committee member Sweetser** spoke of how embarrassed he was at the last City Council meeting regarding the way the Chairwoman handled the Clement Taylor Park discussion with the Destin Fire Control District. Adding that what was spoken at the meeting is not what this committee agreed upon and is why he shouted Point of Order. Adding that this was not the first time she misspoke at a Council meeting and what upset him the most was the meeting prior to that meeting is that she told Mr. Buckingham that she supported the plan for the Fire Department to have the substation the Clement Taylor Park.

➤ **STAFF REPORTS:**

Mrs. Firth provided the following updates:

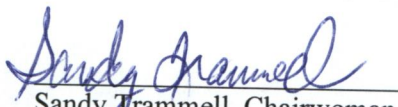
- **Clement Taylor Park Seawall Replacement –**
- **Capt. Royal Melvin Park**
- **Capt. Leonard Destin Park** – Punch List items are still being worked out and she will be going to the location for an inventory of what's been done and what may need to still be done. She also spoke of concern over people using the parking lot for going out to Crab Island and spoke of how there is going to have to be some kind of parking limit as well as the need for a full time staff member to prevent this concern.
- **Concrete Plant Property/Joe's Bayou Boat Ramp –**
- **Norriego Point Park** – Waiting on the final permits before they can begin construction and it'll most likely be after Labor Day before they start.

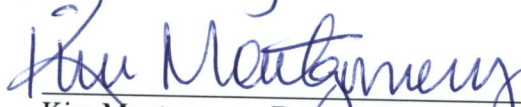
➤ **Public Comment** – None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Adopted and approved 23rd day of February 2021.


Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman


Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk