

**MINUTES OF THE
PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING DESTIN CITY HALL BOARDROOM
JANUARY 26, 2021 MEETING - 4:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The Recreation Director, Lisa Firth called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 in the Destin City Hall Annex Chambers with the Pledge of Allegiance immediately following.

2. ROLL CALL:

Members Present

Sandy Trammell
Matthew Sweetser
Barbara Telford
Nikki Johnson
Brian Liesveld
Danielle Piper
Leslie Schmidt

Staff Present

Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk
Lisa Firth, Recreation Director
Ryan Reed,

3. CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN:

Motion to nominate Committee member Trammell as Chairman was made by Committee member Sweetser and seconded by Committee member Telford. The motion passed with a 7-0.

Motion to nominate Committee member Sweetser as Vice Chairman was made by Chairwoman Trammell and seconded by Committee member Johnson. The motion passed with a 7-0.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 30, 2020

After discovering several errors, the agreement to pull the June 30, 2020 minutes from the agenda and table them to the next meeting.

October 27, 2020

Motion to approve the October 27, 2020 minutes as corrected was made by Committee member Johnson with Committee member Liesveld providing the second. A roll call vote of 7-0 was taken and the motion passed.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Parks and Trails Reviews**

Since 2020 was so compromised from Covid, Mrs. Firth discussed with the members what all they need to review when going out to their assigned parks and trails. She informed the members that at the next meeting everyone will be reassigned parks and trails and ensured the standing members that theirs will not change.

- **Committee Handbook & Code of Ethics**

The members and staff reviewed the handbook and the Code of Ethics they are bound to uphold. Chairwoman Trammell emphasized how important it is for each member to remember if they go speak before Council on any topic pertaining to this committee that they first discuss the issue in this setting. Adding, if there is anything they want to speak to Council about on their own behalf, to make sure they inform Council beforehand that they are not representing the Committee.

- **Adopt-a-Street Program**

Mrs. Firth explained to the members that she is wanting up upgrade the program to an Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Beach Trail. The members all agreed that this program should be under Parks & Rec instead of Public Services.

Marcie Bell 3 Gulf Breeze Ct. mentioned how she would like the program to allow single individuals to be able to adopt an area of a roadway, park, or beach access and not only groups. She also spoke of how she would like assurance that businesses that participate in the adopt-a-street program are cleaning up their designated areas and not using the signs as advertisement for business.

- **Adopt-a-Tree/Adopt-a-Bench Program**

Mrs. Firth spoke of how she would like to get the program going as well for anyone that would want to have a family member remembered by planting a tree or installing a bench in a city park.

The members also discussed the following:

- Little Free Library book boxes that randomly pop up and how there are a few installed in the city by homeowners.
 - Concern voiced to not infringe on the Destin Library and how they would like to hear from Wen Livingston, the Library Director if she is ok with those before going any further with the plan.
 - Mrs. Firth spoke of the one at the O'Steen Beach Trail that the Boy Scouts installed and how it has been damaged and not used properly. The suggestion was to have it taken down, repaired, and reinstalled in a city park. However, there was.
- Destin Dog Park and ideas to enhance the park.
 - Mrs. Firth informed the members that she and her staff have discussed options to improve the park where the sod gets destroyed.

- Destin Forward is willing to help and are considering building a gazebo project in the middle of the Dog Park.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **Destin Girl Scouts – Matthew Sweetser**

Discussed how the local chapter wants to get more involved in the community with ideas of creating rock gardens and donating and/or planting trees and plants at city parks. Adding they will attend the next scheduled meeting to discuss their ideas.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER/STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff Comments:

Mrs. Firth explained to the members that the Beach Meetings are the third Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. working with conjunction with county, the Turtle Watchers and the beach cleaners to get the beaches properly scouted for turtles and cleaned before the beach umbrella and chair setups can start being put down. The members and staff discussed the need to have a couple of members who are willing to attend the beach meetings. And lastly, she spoke of the beach bins for people to reuse/leave beach chairs, umbrellas and how they are not being properly monitored and caused more debris after Hurricane Sally.

Mrs. Firth provided the members with the current update of the following parks:

➤ **Royal Melvin Heritage Park & Plaza**

The park now has the construction fencing around it and is under way for construction.

Committee member Sweetser spoke of how he knows the great grandson of Capt. Royal Melvin who would want to be there for the groundbreaking ceremony.

➤ **Clement Taylor Park**

The park reconstruction is still delayed because of the Indian Artifact Survey.

➤ **Joe's Bayou Concrete Plant Property**

The city is still waiting on the plans and will bring them before this committee when they are ready.

➤ **Harbor Lane ROW**

Provided the newly appointed members the status of this ROW.

➤ **Norriego Point**

They are still waiting on the last permit approval from the State and construction should start about the same time as the busy summer season.

Member Comments:

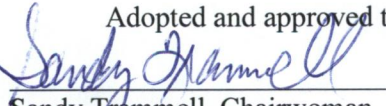
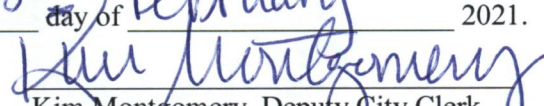
- **Committee member Sweetser** – Committee member Sweetser reported tire marks on his family's headstones and how he noticed there were other headstones with them as well. Mr. Reed stated that he would get with the crew to inform them they need to be more careful when mowing. He also explained how they have been fighting a fungus in the grass for a couple years and how they are finally getting it under control.
- **Committee member Johnson** – Spoke of how the Martin House that was donated to the city is a nice house but feels the sign that was included seems more commercial and how the city should make sure that any similar future donations should just be about the product itself and nothing else.
- **Committee member Brian Liesveld** – Spoke of beach chair vendors commandeering the beach in the early morning hours and not leaving any space for the people not wanting to rent a beach chair setup. And would like to hear some solutions to this ongoing issue.
- **Committee member Piper** – Committee member Piper suggested that native plants be considered when anything needs to be planted in the parks and cemeteries, noting how they may be more expensive but in the long run, they will be a better value since they would not need as much watering.
- **Committee member Schmidt** – Committee member Schmidt spoke of how she would like the committee to get involved in landscaping Phase II of the Destin Cemetery. She spoke of a landscaping plan that was created by Cali Barker and questioned if it still exists.
- **Chairwoman Trammell** – Spoke of the potential Sports Center that has been discussed at the last couple of Council Visioning Sessions and the types of sports events that could be held to meet the needs of the city. She spoke of how she would also like to have a Visioning Session type workshop so they could discuss all the goals and objectives for the committee and ultimately the community.

➤ Public Comment –

Marcie Bell – 3 Gulf Breeze Ct. Stated that she would be glad to reach out to Callie Barker to find out if she still has her landscaping plan for the Phase II section of the cemetery. Spoke of the QR Codes that may be an idea to install at all the parks for the plant species identifications.

ADJOURNMENT:

Having no further discussions, the meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Adopted and approved this 23rd day of February 2021.

Sandy Trammell, Chairwoman

Kim Montgomery, Deputy City Clerk