

# Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee

## Meeting Minutes

### Thursday, January 19, 2023

#### Attendees:

##### Members (5/7)

Torben Madson, presiding  
Faye Gibson (Alternate), secretary  
Donna Ingle  
Mark Milliken  
Elinor Mount-Simmons

##### Guests

Despina George, commissioner  
Travis Wade, city manager  
Dennis Winteringer, tree committee  
Scott Davis, tree committee  
Sam Berkheiser, tree committee  
Rebecca Stafford, tree committee  
Nick Barlament, Apalachicola Tennis Association  
Mike Friedman, Apalachicola Tennis Association  
David Ison

#### **I. Call to order**

Torben Madson called to order the regular meeting of the Apalachicola Parks and Recreation committee at 5:32 pm on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at the Holy Family Center.

#### **II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

Faye Gibson had circulated the minutes from November 17, 2022 electronically prior to the meeting. Donna Ingle moved that the minutes be approved. Elinor Mount-Simmons seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **III. Standing committee reports**

##### **A. City Commission report**

Donna Ingle had presented the update of the committee's work at the January city commission meeting. Commissioner George was affirmed as the commissioner liaison with the committee and city manager Travis Wade is present to facilitate communication between the city and the committee.

##### **B. Memorialization Program update**

The Franklin Times ran an article about the memorialization program resulting in two requests for memorial bricks as Christmas gifts. The city manager requested suggestions for brick placement and information on sourcing the bricks. Faye Gibson will forward links to two sources. Checks have been received by the city for the bricks and placement of the bricks will free up some bricks to be used as replacements for some that are broken.

#### **IV. Business matters: Travis Wade, guest**

**A. Maintenance at the Dog Park:** The volunteers of the dog park have completed a park plan and has requested the city schedule mowing and maintenance of the park. There is a concern for liability issues both for pets and their owners when maintenance is neglected

**B. Park Plans Status** The park plans provide a great communication tool between the city staff, the community and the committee. Donna reviewed the park templates. Dennis Winteringer had met with Marie Marshall, Historic Apalachicola Foundation, and Bree Robinson, city planner, and provided the committee with copies of the landscape plan previously prepared for Lafayette Park. The plan offers a foundation for future improvements. There was a request for additional information about what grants might be available to improve all of the parks in the city.

Travis Wade requested a walk-through of the parks with committee members to review the parks status and requests for maintenance and improvements. It was agreed to schedule one park a week; Donna Ingle will be primary representative of the parks committee.

**C. Maintenance requests for Holy Family Center shuffleboard/tennis courts**

Discussion was introduced about the need to refurbish the shuffleboard/tennis courts at Holy Family Center. Several members of the Apalachicola Tennis Association who as volunteers help to maintain the existing courts participated in the conversation which centered on the need for pickleball courts, the advantages and disadvantages of the two sports sharing a court, and alternative locations for new pickleball courts. (suggestions included near the current skateboard park, elsewhere near city hall and at Holy Family Center.) Discussion included the possibility of constructing/operating new courts in conjunction with the county and grants that might be available. Torben Madson recommended field trips to the county-maintained courts near Cape San Blas.

**V. Adjournment**

Torben Madson adjourned the meeting at 6:28 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson, secretary