

Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Attendees:

Members (7/7)

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

Guests

Commissioner Despina George  
Commissioner Anita Grove  
Robin Rickel Vroegop  
Lynn Wilder

**I. Call to order**

Elinor Mount Simmons called to order the regular meeting of the Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee at 5:15 pm on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at the Apalachicola Margaret Key Memorial Library and welcomed new member, Faye Gibson.

**II. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Elinor Mount Simmons circulated the minutes from November 19 for approval. Donna Ingle moved they be accepted, Mark Milliken seconded and the motion passed. The point was made for the record that there had not been a December meeting of the committee.

**III. Business matters**

**A. Old Business**

1. New name: At the last city commission meeting, Elinor Mount Simmons proposed that the committee's name be changed to "City Parks and Recreation Committee." The commissioners accepted her proposal.
2. Parks update
  - a. Sylvester Williams: The committee has requested clarification about the status change of Sylvester Williams Park from city to "the county will take care of it" Elinor Mount Simmons has asked the city manager and been told that they are asking who will do what. We will be updated at the next meeting.
  - b. Lafayette Park update will be moved to the February meeting. Prior to that meeting, Mark Milliken will contact city finance director, Leo Bebeau, to discuss concerns about the dock repairs being made.
3. Adopt-a-park program: Elinor Mount Simmons distributed a draft of the proposed adopt-a-park program and a draft of the application for the program and requested members review and comment on it prior to the program being presented at the next city commission meeting on February 2, 2021. The committee discussed the intended responsibility for various aspects of the program. The committee's preference was that applications will be picked up from and returned to City Hall. The committee will oversee matching an applicant with an available park. The

committee member charged with the responsibility for each particular park will contact the adopting party and will be a liaison between the adopting party and the city. Each committee member will be responsible for creating and providing to the adopting party a wish list/to-do list for each particular park.

There was additional discussion about the current list of parks and whether all of the city's parks have been listed. Members were encouraged to bring any concerns to Donna Ingle's attention.

#### **B. New business**

1. Meeting dates and times. Meetings will continue to be held on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm.
2. Officers of the committee were selected for 2021. They are:  
Elinor Mount Simmons, Chair  
Torben Madson, Vice-chair  
Faye Gibson, Secretary  
Mark Milliken, Assistant Secretary
3. Lynn Wilder presented her request to purchase and place two memorial benches facing the water at Riverfront Park. Her request stimulated conversation of the previously presented draft of memorials for Apalachicola residents. After much discussion, the committee agreed to support Lynn Wilder's request for two benches to be ordered that will match the existing benches in the park. They will be mounted to prevent them being moved without permission and will be black to match existing benches in this park.

The discussion led to the proposal of presenting a choice to citizens wishing to memorialize a friend or family member and summarizing those choices in a binder that will make presenting the information to inquiring citizens easy for city staff. The information will also be provided in a pdf form that can be viewed online. Donna Ingle will begin creating the binder. Elinor Mount Simmons will follow up with the city manager to determine if the previously proposed memorials were adopted by the city or have not yet been acted upon.

#### **IV. Announcements**

- A. Diane Brewer announced the broadcast on WFSU's Perspectives of a program about restoring Apalachicola's historic squares. The link to the show:  
<https://video.wfsu.org/video/perspectives-restoring-downtown-apalachicola-6ieru5/>
- B. Mark Milliken is pleased to announce that today the keel for the *Apalachicola* was laid by the Navy shipbuilders. There was some discussion about the commissioning and who will be able to attend

#### **V. Elinor Mount Simmons adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm**

Elinor Mount Simmons adjourned the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson, secretary