

Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 19, 2023

Attendees:

Members (6/6)

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

I. Call to order

Torben Madson called to order the regular meeting of the Apalachicola Parks and Recreation committee at 5:30 pm on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at the Apalachicola City Library.

II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes from the September 21, 2023 meeting were distributed. Mark Milliken moved the minutes be accepted. Donna Ingle seconded, the motion was carried unanimously.

III. Business Matters

A. Slate of officers was adopted: A motion to accept the slate was moved by Donna Ingle, seconded by Mark Milliken and approved unanimously. The slate includes:

1. Torben Madson, Chair
2. Mark Milliken Vice Chair
3. Faye Gibson, Secretary.

B. Update on Lafayette Park

Despite the recommendation of this committee, Porchfest 2023 will be held at the newly renovated Lafayette Park.

The tree committee met with the city manager about the commission-approved landscaping plan. They plan to apply for a Duke Energy grant to fund the lower section butterfly garden. That committee is also working with the city employees to identify and record the location of the irrigation system. Faye Gibson will ask Marie Marshall about the status of the double-headed palm sign. Donna Ingle is to speak with Despina George about creating a separate income line for park donations to assist in tracking gifts.

C. Ideas to enhance the use of Riverfront Park

Torben Madson requests a brainstorming session about ideas to increase the use of Riverfront Park. He suggested we consider ways to sponsor a quarterly Friday evening event that could generate income for parks and generate interest and provide activities for residents and visitors. Vendors could be charged a license fee for setting up booths
Anti-sunset (since the park does not face west).

D. Report from city commission meeting

At the September meeting, Ranger Hobson announced intent to build restrooms and a pavilion in Chapman Botanical Gardens. The commission asked Chair Madson speak with city attorney Dan Hartman to discuss aspects of the 2008 contract and the 2014 DEP management plan. There was some additional discussion about the applicability of the Sunshine law to committees that are not decision-making committees.

E. Paperwork is being drawn up, albeit slowly, to establish a non-profit for the benefit of the city parks.

IV. Announcements

Next month's meeting will be held at the Apalachicola City Library. Please check for updates prior to the meeting.

V. Adjournment

Torben Madson adjourned the meeting at 6:5 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson, secretary