

MINUTES
of THE RECREATION COMMITTEE
City of Apalachicola
NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Chairperson Elinor Mount-Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Present were Elinor Mount-Simmons, Chairperson, and members Tasia Jones, Torben Madson, and Robin Vroegop. In consideration of Secretary Diane Brewer's absence, Robin Vroegop offered to record the meeting and make minutes.

First on the agenda was review of the September Meeting [October meeting was cancelled due to Hurricane Michael impacts.] No additional changes or comments were submitted, so the Minutes for September were approved by voice vote.

Chairperson Elinor brought us up-to-date on business being addressed prior to October, stating that Porter-Hendels Park survey and assessment was 99% complete. Member Torben Madson suggested that perhaps a more efficient way to handle survey/assessment assignments in the future would be to email a list of agreed upon assignments, and let members claim via email which assignments they would be willing to personally undertake. The committee present agreed that would be a good way to handle it, as long as it did not violate Florida Sunshine Law.

Chairperson Elinor then gave an update on the Committee's work regarding potential Memorialization features for public parks that was compiled through research over the past couple of months. Her presentation on this work was given on the behalf of the Committee before the City Commission at the September 4, 2018 Regular Meeting, and was well received.

Chairperson Elinor suggested, and the Committee members present agreed, that with the Memorialization research assignment now complete, that the Committee should now return to and submit final comments on Porter Hendels Park. The objective would be to compile all research and comments into the next report to be submitted in January, if possible.

Chairperson Elinor then called for suggestions for the next park to be assessed and reported on to the Commissioners. Robin Vroegop suggested Riverfront Park, since she had already done a fair bit of research work on it. The Committee members concurred, and it was agreed that copies of all research and members

ideas would be brought forward for review and discussion at the next meeting on December 20th.

Concerning Old Business, Chairperson Elinor brought up the trash containers and enclosures that were discussed as new business in the September meeting. Further discussion was held as to how to execute this project of decorating the these waste stations attractively. Elinor suggested partnerships such as the local schools. Robin suggested also working through the City's History, Culture and Art Committee to develop a plan, and pointed out that one tenet of our mission, according to the Comp Plan, was to work with the schools. The Committee members present agreed to target January or February to begin working on a plan in Collaboration with the entities mentioned.

Under Other Business, A discussion, led by Torben and Robin, was held regarding the future need to adjust waterfront area recreational plans based upon what we have learned from Hurricane Michael. Torben stated that he thought that due to the severe damage to at least one waterfront structure that had been awarded restoration funding through Triumph Gulf Coast, that some of those funds would be redirected, and that we should be thinking about that. Robin pointed out that in actuality, our City Comprehensive Plan strongly discourages the expenditure of public money for development in the Coastal High Hazard Zone, which is essentially a substantial part of Battery Park and a number of riverfront properties going north on the Riverfront.

Elinor agreed that Michael reminded us that "We live on the Coast, and so we must anticipate that this will happen and plan for it." Robin reminded the Committee of the University of Georgia Urban Design Project that spent two years coming up with ideas for Parks area In Apalachicola. She said that they had proposed a multi-use amphitheater for the Park Area, along with an open air multi-use recreational field.

Under new business, Torben suggested that we ask the CRA/Mainstreet for an update on the Beautification Grant that was reported on by Augusta West at the last Recreation Committee Meeting in September.

Also under new business, Robin suggested that due to the loss of tree canopy throughout the town, not just in City Parks, we should become very focused on coming up with a plan and funding to replant trees now as shade for the future, in particular, the right species of trees that have been proven to be Hurricane resistant.

With all business being concluded, Torben then made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Robin. All present were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 pm.