

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

Attendees:

Members (6/6)

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

Guest:

Becky Morton

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, November 16, 2023, at the Apalachicola City Library.

II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes from the October 19, 2023 meeting were distributed. The motion to accept the minutes, made by Donna Ingle, seconded by Elinor Mount-Simmons, carried unanimously.

III. Business Matters

A. Welcome of new members was postponed until December.

B. Update on Lafayette Park

Marie Marshall approved the replacement of railroad ties outlining picnic table areas with granite. The city will place the granite on top of the ground in the appropriate spots.

C. Update on Chapman Botanical Gardens

1. **Review of draft sent to Dan Hartman.** The first recommendation was removed, the third was moved to the first and second moved to third. Elinor Mount-Simmons moved that the committee accept the revised document for presentation to the city commission. Donna Ingle seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Report from city commission meeting and P&Z.** The two meetings were summarized and discussed.

3. **Input to the city for December 2023 City Commission meeting.** The committee discussed various options and recommendations including alternative placements of the pavilion, the uses that various types of buildings could have long-term, advantages of alternative placements of restrooms and different styles/designs of restrooms to improved compatibility with contemporary culture (unisex rooms vs gang-style bathrooms). The committee unanimously agreed:

- a. that the city and state take a few months to explore options that offer greater flexibility moving the property toward its role of botanical gardens.
- b. bathrooms be moved out of the floodplain and put into closer proximity to the Orman House for convenience of guests.

- c. Instead of the picnic pavilion constructed as designed or in the location currently indicated, move it toward the parking area to improve accessibility and security

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 6:45 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson, secretary