

Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Attendees:

Members (7/7)

Torben Madson, presiding

Julie Bishop

Faye Gibson, secretary

Donna Ingle

Mark Milliken

Elinor Mount-Simmons

Lynn Wilder

Guest:

Despina George, City Commissioner

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, December 21, 2023, at the Apalachicola City Library.

II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes from the November 16, 2023 meeting were distributed. The motion to accept the minutes, made by Mark Milliken, seconded by Donna Ingle, carried unanimously.

III. Business Matters

A. Committee members Lynn Wilder and Julie Bishop were welcomed to the committee. Both will serve as alternate members.

B. Review of Sunshine Law

Torben Madson reviewed the Sunshine Law and how it applies to our committee.

C. Review of Lafayette Park brochure design

Faye Gibson has volunteered to design a brochure with Tree Committee member Rebecca Stafford to encourage the gifting of trees and shrubs for the next stage of improvements to Lafayette Park. Several recommendations were made to improve the flow of information. Discussion began on the status of the irrigation system whose condition is unknown but to be determined by Donna Ingle and Scott Davis from the Tree Committee working with city staff.

D. Status of memorialization program accountability with the city

There was discussion of ways to overcome past failures of the accounting for moneys given to the memorialization program. Commissioner George strongly advises that all moneys be sent directly to the city and that the city staff be familiarized with the program to insure proper tracking of funds.

E. Update on Chapman Botanical Gardens

1. Review of prior city commission meeting. Concerns with aspects of the

DEP plans for new bathrooms and a large picnic pavilion were set before the commission. The mayor requested a community input workshop be held. The city manager volunteered to ask DEP for their opinion on the workshop. The answer from DEP was that there should be no further community input into the project; that opportunity had been provided 10 years ago in the approval process to the currently expiring management plan. The Mayor and Commissioner Grove requested positive options from our committee. .

2. **Review of Attorney Hartman's responses to the committee questions.** The attorney's responses were discussed
3. **Input to the city for January 2024 City Commission meeting.** The committee will notify the commission of these problems posed by the current DEP plans:
 - a. Bathrooms are planned in an AE12 zone.
 - b. The plans call for expanded use without increasing the parking.
 - c. The bathrooms planned location required the removal of protected live oaks.
 - d. The bathrooms planned location does not provide ease of access, a special problem for those with special needs.
 - e. The size of pavilion and the bathrooms takes too much of the useable land
 - f. The separation of the pavilion from the bathrooms is poorly designed for the convenience of users.
 - g. The design of both facilities is not in keeping with the historic district, the historic Orman House nor a botanical garden.
 - h. The request of the commission is to request a modification of these current plans based on discussion between state planners and the parks committee.
A motion to approve the submission of these recommendations was made by Donna Ingle, seconded by Mark Milliken and passed unanimously.

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 7:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson, secretary