

Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 18, 2021

Attendees:

Members (5/7)

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

Guests

Commissioner Despina George

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, February 18, 2021 at the Apalachicola Margaret Key Memorial Library.

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Faye Gibson circulated the minutes from January 21, 2021 for approval. Mark Milliken moved they be accepted, Diane Brewer seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Business matters

A. Old Business

1. Adopt-A-Park

Torben asked for feedback on the presentation of the adopt-a-park program to the city commission on February 2, 2021. Discussion at the city commission meeting centered on liability of the city for volunteers working at the parks. The adopt-a-park package includes a waiver that would be completed by those who are adopting a park as part of the adoption procedures. Commissioner George offered to ask the city attorney prior to the next commission meeting to confirm that the waiver will offer the city sufficient protection so that the proposal can move forward. The presentation will be brought back to the commission at its next meeting with a request that the adopt-a-park program be approved with an implementation date. Granting of park adoptions will be on a first-come, first-served basis by city staff.

2. USNS *Apalachicola* update

Mark Milliken informed the committee that Mayor Begos had represented the city at the keel laying ceremony last month. There was discussion about a suitable replacement for the sponsorship that was mistakenly given to a Georgia legislator. Mark suggested that Mayor Begos' mother, as a former member of the U. S. Navy and a female family member of a leading political figure for the city would be an appropriate person. The suggestion will be made to the Mayor and we will be updated at the next meeting.

3. Bench donation suggestions

Donna Ingle requested that the committee follow-up with the city manager to gain approval for Lynn Wilder's request to place two memorial benches in Riverside park.

B. New business

1. Park plan

Donna Ingle presented a template for a plan that can be developed by the committee for each city park. The notebooks will include a list prioritizing needs of each park that could be met by citizen donation. The template has been provided to each committee member and input for improvement can be sent to Donna. There was further discussion about how to facilitate the implementation of a coordinated plan for the parks. It was decided to request the city manager appoint two liaisons for parks from the city staff and that a member of the committee familiarize them with the park plans.

2. Chapman Botanical Garden

Faye Gibson proposed working with a landscape designer to produce a long-term development plan for the Chapman Botanical Garden and offered that any costs associated with securing the plan would be donated by Faye and Murray Gibson. There was discussion about using students from one of the universities to develop the plans and some discussion about a previous plan to develop landscaping for gateways to the city. Diane Brewer moved to approve investigating production of a plan and Donna Ingle seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

3. Citizen recognition program

Faye Gibson opened discussion of a previous proposal that has been presented to the city commission but has not yet been approved. It was decided that the committee should readdress the choices offered in that plan for citizens wishing to honor a friend or family member. It was further agreed that the choices offered to citizens should include those listed in the park plans being developed.

IV. Announcements

- A. The tree committee will be planting six trees in city parks and squares: Lafayette (1), Holy Family area (3 replacements), Riverfront (1), and Splash pad (1)

V. Torben Madson adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm

Torben Madson adjourned the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson, secretary