

**Recreation CommitteeP
Board Meeting of March 21, 2019**

PRESENT: Elinor Mount-Simmons, Tasia Jones, Diane Brewer, Torben Madsen

ABSENT: Robin Vroegop. Mark Milliken

Chairman Mount-Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. The agenda for today was approved and is the same as the agenda for February when the Committee's Board did not meet.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved by all Board Members with copy sent to City Administrator, Lee Mathes.

Old Business – City Park reports

Hendels-Porter Park was discussed. New photos since Hurricane Michael were shown to all. Diane reported that at the March 5, 2019 City Commission meeting, there was much discussion of the Popham building which is in Battery Park, its condition and whether it can be restored. The

Commission heard from George Kirvin Floyd accompanied by two architects Steve Walbot (sp?) and Walter Melvin that it can and should (75% of floor stable, perimeter needs work). Floyd stated

a \$2.5mm restoration grant for it had been previously obtained. Torben stated that he thought there was a Main Street grant for it as well.

Recommendations for restoration and best uses for Hendels-Porter park suggested by Board Members are:

1. Restore the restrooms already in the concession stand building instead of building new free-standing ones as proposed FCT grant from 2018, suspended for ?? reason.
2. Main use of ball field best used as an amphitheater for outdoor events such as the ones the Seafood Festival has every year. Permanent improvements are needed. Elinor agreed to contact John Solomon, Chamber, TDC, Seafood Festival) about it.
3. Beautification of the border of the Park with Leavins Seafood and its busy commercial
Activity is needed such as a row of Italian Cypress (very tall, wind-resistant, evergreen).

4. Relocate dog park to Battery Park area adjacent to Avenue B. This portion is largely unused, is shady, and would suit tourists and residents better than current location at the old high school.

5. Other improvements suggested are fitness trail (Tasia Jones), and permanent paid parking under the bridge for boaters or RVs.

It was agreed that Diane will include the above and finish her report on this park asap.

Announcements: The City Commission's all day retreat is open to the public to be held Saturday,

March 23. Diane will be giving a History of the Squares presentation for the Historic Society on Saturday April 20 at 4 pm at the Raney Carriage House.

Next meeting, April 18

Diane Brewer, Secretary