

Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 15, 2023

**Attendees:**

**Members (4/7)**

Mark Milliken, presiding  
Diane Brewer  
Faye Gibson (Alternate), secretary  
Donna Ingle  
Elinor Mount-Simmons

**Guests:**

Xochitl Bervera, Apalachicola Community  
Gardens

**I. Call to order**

Mark Milliken called to order the regular meeting of the Apalachicola Parks and Recreation committee at 5:30 pm on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at the Apalachicola City Library

**II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

Faye Gibson circulated the minutes from the May 18, 2023, meeting. Donna Ingle moved the minutes be accepted. Elinor Mount-Simmons seconded, the motion was carried unanimously.

**III. Standing committee reports**

**A. City Commission report.**

Donna Ingle reported on her attendance at the June 4 city commission meeting. She had provided to the city commission a progress report on the work being done at Lafayette Park and thanked the Historic Apalachicola Foundation for their continuing financial support of the park. She also presented the requests for upgrades to the dog park that were presented to this committee at its May 2023 meeting. The problem of parking intrusion at Marks Park was also discussed; there were no action items voted on. She suggests that at the July city commission meeting, a committee representative present on the intrusion issues at both Lafayette Park and Marks Park. There was discussion about the preparation of materials for the meeting.

**B. Park Plan update**

A husky survived a rattlesnake bite sustained at the dog park which seems to have provided additional motivation for maintaining the park. Donna Ingle will contact the city manager to suggest implementing a maintenance schedule..

**IV. Business matters:**

**A. Guest report on the Apalachicola Community Gardens**

Xochitl Bervera reported to the committee that the community gardens are governed by a six person board and have rebuilt several of the raised beds. They have added new compost to many of the beds and have a farm stand that benefits the community. Their Facebook page provides information to the public under the name

City Square community gardens; annual dues are \$50 and provide for garden improvements. She brought before the committee a request for expanding the gardens with an orchard, blueberry plants and church-sponsored beds to provide additional food for the farm stand. There was discussion about where the orchard could be located.

**B. Lafayette Park**

Donna Ingle and Faye Gibson co-reported on the progress at Lafayette Park. The painting of the gazebo is complete. The lights in the gazebo must be reinstalled. Cates Electrical will be providing a cost for the work. Granite ties are on order and a copy of a previous survey has been requested. Upon receipt of the previous survey, the city will be able to begin addressing the intrusion onto city property by a homeowner adjacent to the west end of the park. The tree committee is addressing a concern with a disease threatening sabal palms in the area including the unusual double-headed palm in the marsh area of the park

**V. Announcements**

Mark Milliken suggested the committee consider the Princess Grace Children's Park in Monaco. And Elinor Mount-Simmons announced the Juneteenth celebrations planned from 4-7 PM on June 24.

**VI. Adjournment**

Mark Milliken adjourned the meeting at 6:24 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson, secretary