



City Recreation Committee
Meeting Agenda & Minutes
Thursday, June 18, 2020
Apalachicola Margaret Key Library

- I. Call to Order—Chair
- II. Welcome Special Guest—Travis Wade, New City Manager
 - A. Introductions
 - B. Review of Past Presentations
 - C. Q & A
- III. Announcements
- IV. Meeting Adjourned

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm by Chair Elinor Mount-Simmons.

Present:

Members-Diane Brewer, Torben Madson, Mount-Simmons; alternative-Dolores Croom, Donna Ingle

Guests-Despina George (city commissioner), Travis Wade (city manager)

Absent: Mark Milliken, Tasia Prince

In the absence of our secretary, the chair took the minutes. Upon welcoming the special guest, City Manager Travis Wade, committee members introduced themselves and the floor was open for members to share info w/ Wade. Chair Mount-Simmons began by sharing copies of the committee's various presentations to the BOCC since the committee had been active, bringing him up-to-date of what the committee had been doing. Afterwards, other members brought up specific topics. Among them:

- AHS GYM: One issue was the MatchBox, the former AHS Gym, and our concerns, most specifically if it is still a city building, recognizing the public-private partnership that was entered into by the City w/ Helen Willis Escobar. We also inquired about the actual written agreement between Escobar and the City, requesting a copy of the document. It was stated that sources say Escobar receives money earmarked for Recreation in the City's budget, and if that's so, since we are the City's Rec committee, we should know more about this. Wade vowed to research this and get back to us.

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Alternate: Donna Ingle, Dolores Croom

- SYLVESTER WILLIAMS PARK: City Manager shared that he has already initiated work at this park, to the delight of the committee. We talked about what's needed to bring this park up to par. The Chair mentioned she knew someone who'd arranged many baseball tournaments there when it was a viable park and she'd reach out to him for assistance w/ inventorying what's there and determine what's needed. *(The Chair has done this and a meeting at the park will be scheduled later.)*
- NEW DOG PARK: We talked about beautifying the area with trees and meeting with the City's Tree Committee to get their input on the type trees to purchase. In reference to paying for the trees, we discussed getting donors to purchase them, acknowledging their contribution by attaching a small plaque on each tree w/ their name imprinted. *(Another thought: instead of putting a sign on individual trees, we could put their names on the dog park sign that will be placed at the entrance.)*
- BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: We'd like to initiate this. 2031 is the year, so we have 11 years to plan. Collaboration should be amongst all City committees and organizations, but this should definitely be done. A celebration of our city's rich heritage is most definitely a grand idea!
- CHAPMAN BUILDING: Concerns about this building's encroachment on the alley. Recognizing there is a pending sale on this property, we urged the City Manager to look into this matter soon for it may be the only opportunity to regain its use for the City. Donna pointed out that a simple inquiry to the realtor puts the buyer on notice that this issue is being investigated which can quickly and easily be done by the City Attorney whose field is real estate.
- WEB PAGE UPDATE: The information of the City Board is so out-of-date and thus, not a good reflection of our wonderfully-vibrant city. Not sure what else is not currently accurate info, but you were going to check with whomever on this matter.
- HEADSTART PARK: The Chair shared info from a phone call w/ Michaelin Watts who is on the board/committee/organization *(not sure the exact label)* that supports this organization's location issues. She gave reassurances that their planned park will not infringe on the City's Splash Park. Furthermore, she added that HeadStart has received funding to complete their new location at the City Complex. No actual date, but the money is there for this project so their eventual vacating the City Recreation building on 6th Street is on the horizon.

After members had shared information w/ the City Manager, bringing him up-to-date on City Rec matters, it was the consensus that this had been a very productive meeting and he was thanked for attending. Torben made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Dolores. The meeting was adjourned @ 7:04pm.

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 16, 2020.

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