

Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 21, 2022

Attendees:

Members (5/7)

Torben Madson, presiding
Faye Gibson (Alternate), secretary
Delores Croom
Donna Ingle
Elinor Mount Simmons

Guests

Despina George,
City Commissioner

I. Call to order

Torben Madson called to order the regular meeting of the Apalachicola Parks and Recreation committee at 5:39 pm on Thursday, July 16, 2022, at the Apalachicola Margaret Key Memorial Library.

II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes for the June 16, 2022, meeting were presented. Donna Ingle moved that the minutes be approved. Elinor Mount Simmons seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Standing committee reports

A. Adopt-a-park

The Adopt-A-Park signage is up at Riverfront Park and at Gorrie Square. Mrs. Marie Marshall had sent a note that the lighting is being installed at Lafayette Park.

B. City Commission report

Commissioner George was asked how the committee might more effectively communicate with the city commission. There was discussion about the current process of submitting minutes to the city staff and whether those minutes should be provided directly to the commissioners. It was decided instead that the chair of the committee should request to address the city commission quarterly and update them on actions of the committee.

IV. Business matters

A. Old Business

1. Since no questions for the city finance manager had been sent to the chair, no invitation for him/her to address the committee. Torben asked Commissioner George for recommendations on formalizing the budget for parks for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Commissioner George recommended that the committee participate in the city's budget workshop July 26. She further recommended that budget requests be presented in writing to the city manager.

Budget requests that were discussed by the committee include specific amounts for maintenance and improvements. (for example: Torben mentioned that the

dog park is probably one of the most heavily used parks yet the city has not set aside funds for ongoing supplies for the park. Instead, those items have been purchased through the efforts of the adopting group.) Another budget request would be for the city to set aside a portion of the fees collected for the rental of the parks to be used for the improvement of the parks. Elinor Mount Simmons moved that a representative from the committee attend the budget workshop. Donna Ingle seconded the motion which passed.

B. New Business

1. Lynn Wilder would like to dedicate another bench to Riverfront Park but wants to purchase the bench herself and place it. The committee discussed the options available in the current memorialization process that was adopted by the city commission in 2021. It was agreed that Lynn should begin by filling out the form from the memorialization program. Donna, as the park adopter, will add the location recommendation to the form. The form will then be submitted to the city staff. Elinor moved to approve the new bench. Delores seconded the motion.
2. RiverKeepers also would like to set up a pollinator garden at Scipio Creek. Torben, as the committee member representing Scipio Creek, agreed to meet with Lynn Wilder, representing RiverKeepers, to discuss plans.

V. Announcements

The committee was updated on the progress of the repair of Lafayette Park pier. In that the damage to the end of the pier was not included in the initial CDC financing, there has been substantial delays. However, a new contract has been issued and John Sullivan has requested a completion date of September 30, 2022.

VI. Adjournment

Torben Madson adjourned the meeting at 6:28 PM.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson, secretary