

DRAFT
Recreation Committee
Meeting of September 19, 2019

Approved

PRESENT: Diane Brewer, Torben Madsen, Mark Milliken, Tasia Jones, Donna Ingle

ABSENT: Elinor Mount-Simmons

GUEST:

Acting Chair Torben called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. The agenda for today prepared by Elinor was distributed.

The minutes of the prior meeting, August 15 2019, were approved by all Board Member in a motion made by Mark and seconded by Torben. Copies will be sent to City Clerk, Deborah Guillotte and City Manager, Ron Nalley.

Old Business – City Budget and 5 year Capital Improvement Plan

Diane reported that the City Commission at its last meeting declined to allocate any \$ to either due to its new obligation to pay the \$160,000 unpaid CRA assessment. Jill Rourke, Librarian and City employee, is working on a FEMA grant for repairs for Lafayette Park's hurricane damage,

She did get estimates on surveys from two different firms (Edwin Brown and one other) for the border of Battery Park with Leavins Seafood from Water Street to next street to the west, of \$1500, and for the entire park \$7500 – 10,000.

She also had a site visit with an engineer, Mark Llewellyn of Genesis Half, Inc. in Tallahassee for Battery Park improvements . He had done work for other cities like Sopchoppy. He advised other cities are also addressing what to do with their former baseball park sites. A plan and survey are needed before any estimating can be done.

Diane had a conversation with John Solomon of the Seafood Festival Board to determine their needs concerns and to assure him that the Recreation Committee recommends nothing that would inhibit the Seafood Festival. John said they want virtually no improvements other than a fence on Avenue B, down to Bay Avenue, that the electric and lights had been paid for by the Seafood Festival Board which had also unsuccessfully dealt with Leavins. Diane obtained a 1986 document from the City between it and the Seafood Festival detailing the arrangement that ran for 15 years. Donna will make copies for the Committee members. Diane will ask if the City has any more recent documents.

Donna Ingle suggested that City Manager or new City Attorney could begin discussion with Leavins by writing them a letter that expresses their unpaid use of the City's Battery Park property for parking and storage which could be done in advance of and without surveys. The Committee found this to be a good idea.

New Business – New Member

The Committee welcomed new member Donna Ingle appointed by the Commission for a term of 4 years. Her background is in marine biology and she grew up in Apalach, which the Committee agreed were all good for our work. Diane observed that this is the first time there has been any expression of a finite term for members. She will inquire what the terms are for prior appointed members and confirm the committee composition of members and alternates.

Torben met someone who worked on the parks in the past and who would make a good new member. He will contact her.

Diane is resigning as Secretary but not from the Recreation Committee after this meeting and recommended Tasia Jones who accepted.

Announcements

The Apalach Times of August 29 reported on a County Commission meeting which Donna attended at which Chris Langston of Langwood Industries is again seeking approval for a mining, shell and barging project proposed to be conducted in Battery Park.

Though the County took no action, the newspaper reported Langston is still showing a letter from Mayor Johnson in support of the project and that Langston "continues to work on a deal with Apalachicola to get Battery Park rezoned for shipping purposes". The City's letter was issued before the Recreation Committee began in 2017. Diane made a motion seconded by Mark that the Committee express its opposition to this project and any re-zoning of Battery Park and ask the City to rescind its letter of support. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Diane Brewer, Secretary