

RECREATION COMMITTEE Minutes, meeting of September 21, 2017, 6 pm Community Center

Attendees: Elinor Mount Simmons, Tasia Jones, Torben Madsen, Robin Vroegop, Diane Brewer
Absent: Alisa Hendels, Mark Milliken

As previously scheduled, this meeting was to be a driving tour of the City's parks and open spaces, the subjects of the Committee's work. The meeting convened at 6 pm in the Vroegop's van.

First the Committee considered a motion by Torben, seconded by Robin to approve the minutes of the August 10 meeting, and unanimously passed. A copy will be forward by Secretary Diane to Lee Mathes.

Beginning at the western border of the City on US Highway, the Committee viewed Apalachicola Bayside Park, a Florida Communities Trust acquisition, and its amenities. It is also known as Lombardi Park. It and its amenities will be added to the spreadsheet. [IS THIS THE SAME PARK OR A DIFFERENT ONE SIGNED AS "Seafood Landing Park"?]

Discussion ensued about whether ^efencing is a deterrent to usage or a necessity for safety and security.

Next, the Committee viewed a small semicircular park at Sunset Circle and the Prado which will also be added to the sheet. No amenities noted other than a fire hydrant and sewer pipe.

Next the Committee viewed the Van D Johnson complex and the new splash park being built with a FRDAP grant. Questions arose as to whether the splash park will have fencing, supervision for safety and be open to the public. Ancillary recreation facilities also on the Van Johnson property are: the "Match Box" Helen Escobar managed facility, paramedic and police gym, dog park, skate park and football field. The "bus barn" is NOT on the Johnson complex property and appears to contain fuel containers. Adjacent to it is Madison Square on which the skate park is located.

The Committee drove around Washington Square, $\frac{3}{4}$ of which is owned by the County, occupied by Weems Hospital and the Apalachee Center, and the NE portion which contains the Love Center. It is not known whether the Center is currently being used. Financed by a loan from the City reportedly in default, the current status of its ownership is not known.

Nearby the Committee viewed City Square occupied by the community gardens on the two northern quadrants and a pavilion and picnic table on the SW quadrant. The SE quadrant adjacent to the Chestnut Cemetery is vacant.

Sylvester Williams Park aka Ned Porter Park, located between 11th and 8th Street, was visited. This park on a former land fill site, is challenged by a deep drainage ditch on its NW side. Its amenities include a baseball diamond with dugouts, 2 bleachers, press box and lights, a now unpaved basketball court, and recently installed or renovated playground equipment. The park is partially fenced.

The Committee continued on to Franklin Square located on 6th street between ___ and ___ streets. Its amenities include a picnic pavilion, basketball and disused tennis court and the temporary location of Heat Start until it moves to the Johnson complex after renovations are completed for it there. Committee members noted this building is small, kitchen needs improvement. Though community members can use nearby Holy Family Center, some are hesitant because HFC was formerly a church.