

RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES--DRAFT *approved*

**Special meeting of held September 28, 2017, 6 pm @ Historic Holy Family Senior Center**

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

Guest: Augusta West, Exec. Dir. of Apalachicola's MainStreet

The meeting was called to order by Elinor at 6 pm who welcomed all and thanked Mike and Robin Vroegop for setting up, providing and driving their spacious van for our tour of the city's recreational and open spaces during our September meeting, held September 21, 2017.

This special meeting was called to select the projects that this Committee would recommend to the City for the FRDAP 2016-17 grant cycle's November closing date.

It was reported that the City currently has two open FRDAP grants from the 2015-16 cycle for the splash park and playground area, making it unable to apply for any additional grants from this source as only two grants per cycle are permitted. It was reported that Cindy Summerhill, the city's grants manager, stated that although the skate park is scheduled to open October 2017, it takes some months for the State to close out the grants. While disappointing, the challenge of meeting an imminent application deadline was met with relief by the committee. The next cycle available will have an application deadline of November 2018.

Grants and other funding sources were discussed in the context of seeking resources for two projects. Special guest August West addressed the committee, reporting that she had approached Bill McCartney to include the paddle park and amenities in the Restore Act.

Augusta suggested the Committee consider the following park projects: 1) Ten Foot Hole under the Gorrie Bridge; 2) the park on Market Street across from the Orman House where there is now only a fish cleaning site; and 3) the shell mound area across Scipio Creek.

Following Augusta, Robin showed a map of the area and suggested two possible funding sources might be a) The Florida Boat Improvement Fund, which gains \$1 from every boat registered in the State which will consider 1 grant per year. (*The last grant the city obtained was for the travel lift at the Scipio Creek marina*); and b) the Historic Resource Fund.

Elinor elicited other project ideas suggesting grants sought be in phases not more than \$50,000 each. Diane handed out material on a project to restore Apalachicola's six Historic Squares. This project's immediate needs are for the completion of surveys (*only City Square's has been done*) and boundary markers estimated to be \$66,000 as installed for 24 markers, 4 for each square.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the City: 1) Apalachicola River Ramble Trail, and 2) boundary identification for Apalachicola's Historic Squares.

Augusta also reported on the new pocket park on the 3 donated lots on Commerce Street which MainStreet is handling by request of the donors. Suggestions from the public are being sought. There has been one public meeting so far and will be more. Augusta gave examples of ideas suggested. Funding will be from grants and private donations.

The special meeting was adjourned at 7 pm.