

Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Attendees:

Members (4/7)

Torben Madson, presiding
Faye Gibson
Donna Ingle
Elinor Mount-Simmons

Despina George, City Commissioner
Dennis Winteringer, Tree committee chair

I. Call to order

Torben Madson called to order the regular meeting of the Apalachicola Parks and Recreation committee at 5:30 PM on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at the Apalachicola City meeting annex building on 6th Street.

II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes from the March 21, 2024 meeting were distributed. There was discussion and edits were suggested. The motion to accept the amended minutes, made by Donna Ingle, seconded by Elinor Mount-Simmons, carried unanimously.

III. Business Matters

A. . Update on Lafayette Park

1. We met with Mrs. Marshall in mid-April to discuss plans for improving the brick paths and the parking lot.
2. Parking lot is progress is currently stalled awaiting city attorney and city manager to clarify/come to agreement with the Mortons concerning the location of the property boundary.
3. Mrs. Marshall does not want railroad ties used anywhere in the park or parking lot. Creighton Brown will send a schematic of how to place the existing granite for the parking area.
4. The parking area will be filled with wood chips
5. Brick walkway on the western side of park will be removed
6. Handicap parking will be on the northeast side off of Avenue B
7. Sprinkler system may be operable..
8. Historic Apalachicola Foundation plans to hire Dave Weiler to refurbish the walkways.
9. Grant proposal that we had hoped would be used to begin tree planting in the park has been written by the city and the scope of work only includes some tree maintenance in Lafayette Park but no tree planting.

B. Update on Chapman Botanical Garden

The city commission approved the construction of a pavilion and bathrooms in the garden.

C. Enhancing Parks Usage & Visibility –

Discussion centered around the opportunities available at Battery Park especially Disc Golf and how to make improvements that would not impede the space's usefulness for the Seafood Festival and other events.

IV. General discussion

Scott Davis is spearheading the planting of milkweed on a city lot at 12th and Bay Avenue. The motion was made by Donna Ingle to recommend for the planting, seconded by Faye Gibson and passed unanimously. Donna will present the request at the upcoming city commission meeting.

There are rumors of discussion between a county commissioner, the mayor and the city manager concerning the county taking over Syl William's Park in order to improve it. Information presented was that the transaction was being discussed by the city manager and a member of the county commission. Details are not fully known.

V. Adjournment

Torben Madson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Elinor Mount-Simmons seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Faye Gibson