

Apalachicola Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Attendees:

Members (5/7)

Torben Madson, presiding
Faye Gibson
Mark Milliken
Elinor Mount-Simmons

Guests

Despina George, City Commission
Leslie Glaze, City Grants Coordinator
Alexandria Aitken, Tree Committee

I. Call to order

Torben Madson called to order the regular meeting of the Apalachicola Parks and Recreation committee at 5:33 PM on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at the Apalachicola City meeting annex building on 6th Street.

II. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes from the October 16, 2025, meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The motion to accept the minutes was made by Elinor Mount-Simmons, seconded by Faye Gibson, and passed unanimously.

III. Business Matters

- A.** The meeting opened with an update on Lafayette Park. City Manager Chuck Anderson had staff put up safety cones around the west walkway in the park until repairs can be made to the park. Plans of the approved walkways have been sent to the city by Faye Gibson but a specific date for repairs beginning has not been set. Faye Gibson suggested that the City hold a grand reopening for Lafayette Park and honor the contributions made by the Historic Apalachicola Foundation in its restoration. The tentative date was set for March 14, 2026, and the request will be brought up at the February 2026 city commission meeting by Despina George.
- B.** Leslie Glaze would like to have the park plan for the pocket park forwarded to her so that it can be updated. Previous ideas for the park included creating an outdoor movie theatre, and the Chamber is the park adopter. There was discussion about updating the Adopt-A-Park program.
- C.** Torben Madson mentioned that a vendor of park equipment has expressed an interest in working with the city and Faye Gibson will send vendor contact information for Keystone, the company who previously sourced benches and other park furniture for the parks.
- D.** Torben Madson opened a conversation about increasing opportunities for citizen involvement with our city parks. Ideas include creating a recreational schedule of events for citizens for volleyball, softball and other events. Lynn Wilder suggested that a member of the committee could volunteer to spearhead a different activity

each month until citizen interest grows large enough to sustain the effort independent of the committee.

- E. There followed an exchange of information about the history of the Adopt-a-park Program and the desire to resuscitate it in the springtime. Materials about the program will be forwarded to Ms. Glaze from Ms. Gibson.
- F. Leslie Glaze informed the committee that she is filing for a new \$20,000 grant opportunity for plants in the parks. She will be soliciting input from the committee in the coming month.

IV. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM