

**AT A MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON MAY 08, 2018 AT 5:00 P.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ.**

**Attendance:**

**Gay Steffen, Chair (P)**  
**Harold Bailey, Vice – Chair (A)**  
**Markey Rivers, Sr. (P)**  
**Mary Jack Boone (P)**  
**Jeff Diekman, (P)**  
**Herb Chancey (P)**  
**Roosevelt Morris (P)**  
**Laurel Bradley**  
**Beryl Wood, Deputy Clerk**

1. **Meeting Called to Order/Welcome**

Ms. Steffen welcomed everyone to the Advisory Meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m.

Ms. Steffen discussed the Sunshine State Laws concerning the travel to the parks that they arranged. She said there would have to be an agenda for every stop; she encouraged them to visit the parks on their own. Mrs. Bradley said she would send an email out with the official addresses of each of the parks.

Ms. Steffen provided the newspaper article on the East Gadsden Recreation Center groundbreaking in St. Hebron. She asked for the address.

Mr. Morris said the address was 2162 Fantana Trail and the first phase would be a walking trail. Phase 2a Basketball court or swimming pool; he said that they have not provided a timeframe as of yet. He said Commissioner Viegbesie has secured private funding as well.

2. **Overview of Purpose and Duties of the Advisory Board**

Mr. Rivers discussed duties as they were visiting parks to look. Ms. Steffen asked what was available, what were the conditions and their recommendations to the BOCC.

Mr. Diekman asked about the conditions of the parks. He said some of the parks need to be refurbished.

Ms. Boone suggested they each visit two and bring back observations from each because there was no way to visit them all in a reasonable time frame.

Ms. Steffen suggested they discuss two parks at the start of each meeting and they could visit on their own.

Mr. Morris read into the record the duties of the Parks and Rec Advisory Board. He gave the procedures. He discussed having the meetings at the Park and could be done at Drake Acres 10:00 am & at Pat Thomas 11:00 am on the next meeting date, the second Tuesday of the month – June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Laurel Bradley asked Mr. Herb Chancey to comment on the (Lake Talquin) where the park is 13-acre lease from 17 to 40 years. He said it would include recreational RV, restroom, another pavilion, 2 fishing piers (27-year lease with the state with 2 years into with 25 years left). Mr. Morris said he would check and verify that the information given was correct.

Mr. Chancey commented on the Drake Acres playground equipment and basketball courts. Ms. Boone gave directions to the park. He said it was redone in 2013-2014.. Restrooms were too costly, maybe they could be added be later.

Ms. Steffen asked if each park had their own budget and Mr. Morris said no, the Parks and Rec had a budget for the year. Mr. Morris said he would get it for the next meeting. She asked for any information that would help them understand. She asked once they came up with ideas, what would they do next. Ms. Bradley said she would meet with the Administrator and see what she said.

Mr. Diekman asked for a better communication on the parks, what was available at these parks. He asked about dummy cameras. He referenced the Eugene Lamb, Friendship Park (they are in the budget to install security cameras at the parks.) He asked about the defibrillators being installed at the parks.

Mr. Morris named some other activities such as the Crappie Masters Fishing Tournament held the first Week of February sponsored through the TDC and it is at Lake Talquin at Ingram's Marina.

Mr. Diekman asked about any preplanned community involvement with the Commissioners. Mr. Morris said the County did not have any plans. He said communities do it own their own and it would be nice if the County could get involved. "Shine a light on some of these parks".

Ms. Steffen suggested they find out what they want so they can get buy-in. She said it shows ownership when you allow people to get involved.

Mr. Rivers said they give out backpacks at Scottown Park and all the neighborhood would come out and help. He said when you get the community involved they take ownership. "What can we do, that don't cost money. I like that idea, public clean-up day, habitat day rehab."

Mr. Diekman said there are a lot of people you can call on for free services.

Mr. Morris stated a lot of the people take care of the parks, like a point man.

3. **Review the List of Parks** – They discussed the list of Parks.
4. **General Discussion** - They asked about Mr. Bailey's Cardinals. Ms. Steffen asked was he able to get board help. Mrs. Bradley said he was directed to the TDC where he did meet the grant deadline.

Ms. Bradley said it would be a great idea to get the County involved. It would be a great idea to showcase parks and get involvement, have a fish fry or hot dogs or suggestions such as a fun walk to tie into health especially with the County being a low end of the poll.

Ms. Steffen asked about signs advertising the meeting. Mrs. Boone said she can take care of that if they wanted. Community Day...advertise and go through the Board. She said free stuff was good especially when they don't have to spend money, they would come.

Ms. Bradley said she would pitch it to the County Administrator and get her feel.

Citizens Requesting to be Heard on Non- Agenda Items (3 minutes limit) – N/A

### **Adjournment**

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:55 A.M.**

**GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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**GAY STEFFEN, Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**NICHOLAS THOMAS, Clerk of Court**