

AT A MEETING OF THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD HELD IN AND FOR GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA ON AUGUST 14, 2018 AT 10:00 A.M., THE FOLLOWING PROCEEDING WAS HAD, VIZ.

Attendance:

Gay Steffen, Chair -P
Harold Bailey, Vice – Chair - P
Markey Rivers, Sr. - A
Mary Jack Boone -P
Jeff Diekman - P
Herb Chancey
Roosevelt Morris
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 10:00 a.m. She said that she would start calling and reminding members of the meeting and discussed the absence of a quorum at the last two meetings.

Ms. Steffens gave a review of Drake Acres Park. Ms. Steffen asked had everyone had a chance to look at the parks. She suggested they take a list of parks, maybe one person visit park and bring update back to the Advisory Board.

The Board thought it would be beneficial to receive a copy of all parks, a list that can be emailed to them.

Mr. Herb Chancey said that it is 11 parks and map and that he would email them a list.

Mr. Roosevelt Morris said the Havana Herald would like to do a story on Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Ms. Steffens discussed the absence of Markey Rivers. She said it was his 3rd absence. Ms. Steffens said she would contact him to find out what is going on.

She then discussed the Advisory Committee structure, objective, and mission statement. Mr. Roosevelt said the County Manager, Mrs. Jackson said she liked the idea of each of you visiting parks and she would also like to start hosting events at the park. Ms. Boone commented that they should split up the parks and report back, it would move swifter that way.

Their consensus was to pick the two that need the most work and each member visits a park that would be 4.

- Bailey – Rosedale, Sawdust
- Diekman – Eugene Lamb
- Boone – Drake Acres, Pat Thomas
- Steffen – St. John

Ms. Steffens asked about anything that is coming up in the County related to parks and recreational activities. She asked about the ground breaking at Pat Thomas in June. Mr. Chancey said they are currently doing surveys are waiting to see what the funding would be.

Ms. Steffens asked about the timeline when they find out about funding.

Mr. Diekman asked about the Parks and Recreational budget. Mr. Chancey said that he would get information concerning the budget.

Mr. Bailey said there should be something in the budget for the upkeep of the parks.

Mr. Diekman inquired about fundraisers to help with the parks that need repair. He said Ms. Steffens said that she has a friend that does projects for the University of Georgia and he felt it would be beneficial to at least hear from her.

Ms. Steffan's asked is it allowed people to come in and speak about projects and different jobs. She would discuss resources to get free help. Mr. Morris said that is great and something that you can work on.

UPON MOTION BY MS. STEFFANS AND SECOND BY MR. DIEKMAN, THE ADVISORY BOARD VOTED 4 -0, BY VOICE VOTE, FOR APPROVAL TO HAVE A PRESENTATION AT THE NEXT MEETING.

Mr. Diekman asked about the difference between a neighborhood and Community Park. Mr. Chancey said it is based on scaling but they are basically the same. They discussed the parks that have bathrooms instead on portables. He discussed the maintenance of the bathrooms. Mr. Morris said some are complaining that the parks are getting the activity that is not good. Some communities have requested that they remove the bathrooms. He said it is a safety issue. The topic for parks is Safety at the parks. Mr. Diekman suggested getting the Sheriff's Department involved, just to stop by visibility is important. Mr. Morris said he did ask for the budget for security, cameras you will need the internet, whether it be wireless.

Mr. Diekman asked which parks are the worst. Mr. Morris said St. John, Robertsville, and Scottstown – no bathroom. What is the portlets amount we spend? Herb Chancey said that is only for special events can't be left out there.

Mr. Diekman asked about the new park. Mr. Morris said that it would be located on Fantana Trail. He said there are two sides to everything. Ms. Steffens said maybe have Community Meetings at the Park. Mr. Roosevelt said they are a real active group with the parks just mentioned. Ms. Morris said how we would go about scheduling a community meeting. Mr. Morris said he could contact them and they have a neighborhood watch. Diekman asked where the bad activity parks in the same district. Mr. Morris said the County Commissioners are involved and the Districts are 2 and 4.

Mr. Bailey commented on the recreational side. He commented on the Georgia, Florida Baseball League, Warriors in Havana, Cardinals in Gadsden County, and Dodgers in Scotttown. He said on April 23 they submitted an application to the Tourist Development Council. He said maybe something can be done for the teams, you have 3 great teams. They suggested if the funding is approved that they use the funding to help promote the team.

He was told by staff that funding couldn't be used for uniforms, only marketing.

Mr. Diekman asked about the Parks and Recreational budget. Mr. Roosevelt said they are in the last quarter. He said it is used on salary, maintenance, and lights. Mr. Diekman asked why was there nothing earmarked for improvements to the park.

Mr. Bailey said the Gadsden County Cardinals was formed from the Chattahoochee Redbirds because they had nowhere to play and now they play at the Corey Field.

Mr. Morris said a total operating expense for Parks and Recreational is around \$69,000. He said with a remaining balance of around \$14,000 as of now. He said it is broken down to contractual, rental lease, repair, office supplies, and maintenance and etc.

Mr. Bailey left at this juncture of the meeting at 10:54 pm.

Review: Ms. Steffens is to invite her friend for next meeting; Security of the Parks (want to make sure they are safe); discussed the possibility of an at-large member; Check on Markey Rivers attendance for meetings; each member to visit assigned parks before next meeting.

***Next meeting Second Tuesday in September at 10:00 am

Adjournment

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS BEFORE THE COUNCIL, THE CHAIR DECLARED THE MEETING
ADJOURNED AT 10:59 A.M.**

GADSDEN COUNTY, FLORIDA

Gay Steffen, Chair

ATTEST:

Nicholas Thomas, Clerk of Court