



## THE RAMSWELL REVIEW

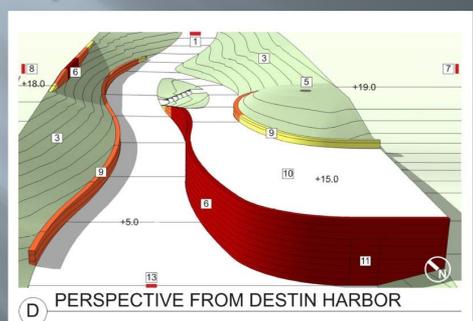
A monthly newsletter from Destin City Councilmember Prebble Q Ramswell

July 13, 2018

### Hot and Bothered: A City at the Boiling Point

#### Heritage Park

##### Royal Melvin Heritage Park Perspective From Destin Harbor



There's a lot going on surrounding the City's Royal Melvin Heritage Park—purchased in 2006 for \$4.6M— not including construction and design. There's the lawsuit over the driveway/easement between BI, Inc. and the City in which the Destin Fishing Fleet filed for the ability to intervene. There are the grants and their deadlines and application requirements. There are the various park plans, designs and approvals. There is also the matter of the riparian rights lease with the Fleet which I requested be reviewed back in July 2016, as well as the city's submerged land lease currently being utilized by the Fleet and up for renewal in September. There is even debate on whether it is a park or simply a gateway.

When these issues are compounded by contradictory guidance, a lack of information sharing, and unfulfilled requests from boards for documentation— things get even hairier.

Among the design concerns is the significant slope, the carving and cutting off the bluff, removal of and harm to remaining trees, location of restrooms, and direction of the bandstand. City attorneys, staff, advisory boards, and council are working diligently to collect and gather all information so that it can be shared, discussed and acted on jointly. We all want the park completed, and in as timely a manner as possible.

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF OKALOOSA

#### AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR RIPARIAN RIGHTS

THIS AMENDMENT TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR RIPARIAN RIGHTS ["Agreement"] is entered into on this 13 day of July, 2018 by and between the City of Destin ["CITY"] and Destin Fishing Fleet, Inc., a Florida Corporation, ["DESTIN FLEET"] for the purpose of amending that certain LEASE AGREEMENT FOR RIPARIAN RIGHTS entered into between Destin Fleet and the predecessor in interest to CITY.

WHEREAS, the CITY has agreed to relinquish its right to income, use, and control of three of its six slips to the Destin Fleet, and to convert the remaining three slips from which the CITY has a right to receive income into "transient slips"; and

#### Royal Melvin Heritage Park 2016



#### Beach Access: public or private? Depends on the day...



There have been multiple rulings and executive orders lately concerning the public's ability to access and use our beaches. The situation has become very similar to our summer Florida weather... give it a day or even a few hours and it will change. HB 631 was signed by Governor Scott on March 23 and went into effect on July 1. The bill requires that local governments seek a judge's approval on customary use in order to allow the public's continued use of dry sand in front of private beachfront property. This is problematic because each property must be heard separately and some properties in Florida extend into the water.

People have loudly complained of the "taking" and perceived restriction of beach access, and there is much confusion concerning where the law can and will be enforced and by whom. Yesterday, Governor Scott issued an Executive Order imposing a moratorium that prevents agencies from taking action pursuant to the bill. Stay tuned— there is certainly more to come in the unfolding issue and I would like to have it discussed at a future council meeting.

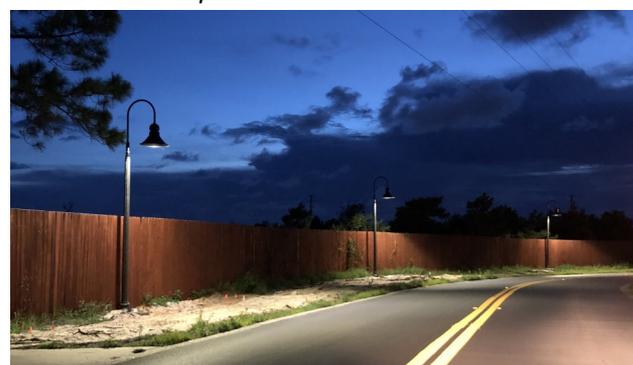
#### A Difficult Departure

It is with sincere regret that the council has moved to accept the resignation of City Manager Carisse LeJeune. There have been many internal concerns in addition to others mentioned publicly by me and other council members. A vote for final approval will occur at the July 16 meeting.

Our city and county face numerous challenges which, even in the best of times, make governance difficult. Many members of the public seemed surprised by the turn of events, as well as a couple councilmembers. I, too, was a bit surprised as how quickly my private concerns expanded and escalated, and in learning at least one other councilmember also had concerns based on the agenda item placed under his name for our meeting. The vote of 4-3 to approve resignation indicated the majority of us felt Mrs. LeJeune was no longer a good fit as our City Manager. I am thankful for her time here and wish her the absolute best.



The new streetlights and sidewalks down Indian Trail look terrific! Can't wait until the entire project is completed. Thank you to all involved in this improvement- well done!



⇒ The new "Welcome to Destin" sign was installed at the foot of the Marler Bridge last week.

⇒ This week the Morgan Sports Center is hosting the third week of the USSSA Global World Series tournament

⇒ Code Enforcement Report:

Code Enforcement June 27, 2018 – July 3, 2018	
Cases under investigation	28
Snipe signs removed	10
Notices of Violation issued (includes warnings)	6
Number of complaints/enforcement inquiries received	27
Parking Violations issued (includes warnings)	60
Short Term Rental Applications under review	7
Short Term Rentals Approved	11
Short Term Rentals Inspected	7

⇒ Meetings:

- City Council Executive Session— July 16th, 5:00pm (Annex)
- City Council Meeting— July 16th, 6:00pm (Annex)
- LPA— July 19th, 5:30pm (City Hall)
- City Council— August 6th, 6:00pm (Annex)
- LPA— August 16th, 5:30pm (City Hall)
- City Council— August 20th, 6:00pm (Annex)

#### Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Thank you for subscribing to my monthly newsletter, *the Ramswell Review*. It is my goal to improve communication between the city and its citizens, and act as a conduit of information on issues that affect our community and future.

I value your input and insight and am always available to you. I recognize that we each offer a unique and valuable perspective on the issues and believe everyone in this community's opinion carries weight. I believe in positive change— by and for the people. Florida's future begins with us.

I look forward to a two-way relationship with the community knowing that we all have the same goal of a beautiful, successful city centered on family values.

Prebble



Prebble Q Ramswell  
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I always welcome your feedback and input. However, please be sure to direct any correspondence related to city business to my city email address [pramswell@cityofdestin.com](mailto:pramswell@cityofdestin.com). All such correspondence shall be considered a public record pursuant to Florida's open records laws.

Any views or opinions expressed in this newsletter are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Destin City Council or the views or opinions of any other Councilmember. This newsletter is not an official record nor a transcript of the matters presented to, or the decisions made by, the City Council and should not be interpreted as such.

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