



Prebble Q Ramswell

Positive Change By and For the People. Florida's Future Begins With Us!



THE RAMSWELL REVIEW

A monthly newsletter from Destin City Councilmember Prebble Q Ramswell

November 28, 2014

Top stories in this newsletter



I WANT YOU



FOR FEEDBACK!



What's Ahead...

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Stormwater Grant



The city was just notified that we will receive approximately \$3.6 million in grant funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for stormwater improvements. City staff submitted the grant application this past summer with a goal to enhance, maintain and restore the ecological integrity of Choctawhatchee Bay, Joe's Bayou, Indian Bayou and Destin Harbor through the accelerated implementation of the final six projects identified in the city's 2004 Master Stormwater Management Plan.

The six project sites funded for survey, engineering, design, permitting, construction, construction administration and inspection are: Indian Bayou, Snapper Drive, Maltezos Street, Spring Street and Whippoorwill Avenue, Juanita Avenue and Snapper Drive, Maltezos Street, and Calhoun Avenue. The next step in the process includes working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to determine a funding schedule. Once that is established, the city will begin the design phase of the projects. *(for the full story, visit cityofdestin.com)*

As most of you know, I have been a vocal proponent of a stormwater utility, raising the millage, anything to try and target this significant need. This grant will help significantly, and I cannot thank the city staff enough for their efforts in making this a reality. Though this grant will make a nice dent in our problems, there is still a large remaining need, so our battle is not yet over.

Planning for Our Future



The Nov. 20 Special Council Meeting served a great purpose: a true forum of different voices and perspectives from our community. It was truly a wonderful evening and an example of what a community meeting should be. The resounding request was clear: bring in a professional planner without ties to the city, a fresh set of eyes with a new perspective.

Speakers spoke on topics ranging from tourism to demographics to development. As I said at the meeting, there were three comments that really struck a chord with me: The first was the comment that many owners and developers with vacant lots are standing-by, waiting to see the direction Destin is headed before and if they build. Second, was the comment made that, the reality is, we can't advertise our way out of our current situation. Third, that our fleet is vulnerable.

Destin was, is, and always should be, our lucky little fishing village. Our harbor and fleet are second to none, the bread and butter of the city and our foundation. We must not jeopardize them in any way. We must start listening to our residents, our community, and planning for ten, twenty years ahead, not tomorrow. I firmly believe that we must change our focus from catering to tourists to catering to our residents. As the saying goes, "build it and they will come;" Destin is here—tourists will always come. Let's focus on our residents.

Community Input

I WANT YOU



FOR FEEDBACK!

From Walter: A recent news article by the National Association of Realtors references that builders of single family homes are worried about the rising costs of evolving building codes, particularly those that center on adding fire sprinkler systems. We as a community should be at the forefront of life safety codes and leading the way in fire safety. Other areas have sprinklers that are mandatory in new single family homes. Sprinklers have been proven to reduce fire spread and the saving of lives.

From Jennifer: In anticipation of lighting my fireplace for the first time this year, I checked my fire extinguishers and noted that both were reading "Empty" on the dial, so I went to purchase another. At this time of year, with people using their fireplaces, frying turkeys, and burning candles as part of holiday decorations, it is a good time to remind folks to check their safety gear. I called the fire department to see if they sell extinguishers. They do not, but maybe if they purchased them at cost and marked them up a bit that could be an idea for fundraising? Just a thought.

Follow Up



YMCA: Pool is slowing losing water causing the pool tank to begin rising and the deck to start lifting and cracking. This primary asset of the Destin Y will be destroyed if it is allowed to drain much more. No word from the trustee on how we or anyone can step in and help.

Dumpsters on City Property: Negotiations are ongoing between the county and Destin Water Users; we thank DWU, Inc for stepping up to assist.

"Dip" Sign: Staff is following up with FDOT.

TDC (now TDD) funds for Maintenance of Public Parks: Staff is following up.

Norriego Point Recreation Closure/No Parking: Current status—Dredge is occurring; NRDA has been awarded; no activity on point as we proceed with planning for the point's stabilization

Meetings:

City Council: December 1–6pm; December 15th- 6pm @ Annex

Local Planning Agency : December 4, 5:30 PM @ City Hall

Public Works/Safety: December 9, 5:30 PM

Harbor CRA-AC: December 10, 5:30 PM @ City Hall

Town Center CRA-AC: December 17, 5:30 PM @ City Hall

Events:

City of Destin Christmas Tree Lighting: Dec. 4th at 6pm at the Community Center

The Destin History and Fishing Museum will be hosting the **28th Annual Holiday on the Harbor Destin Boat Parade & Fireworks** Sunday, December 14, 2014. Festivities will be held that afternoon all along the Harbor and the Lighted Boat Parade will start at 6 P.M. with awards upstairs at Harry T's Restaurant. Boats will start lining up in the Harbor between 5 and 5:30 PM.

What's Ahead...



Have a Wonderful Holiday and a Blessed New Year

Hello Friends!

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.

There are many important issues to face in the coming weeks and months and it is important that we are all as educated and informed as possible so that we can make the best decisions for Destin. 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.

Best,
Prebble



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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. 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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