



## CITY OF FLORENCE

### PARKS AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

January 7, 2021

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**PRESENT:** Roger Malfatti, Barry Wingard, James McLaughlin, Donnie Carter, George Scipio, Michael Montrose, Alexis Fleming, Nikki Player, and Walter Sallenger.

**OTHERS:** Chuck Pope, Jerry Dudley, David Watford, and Tim Wilson.

**ABSENT:** Sanovia Arcenaux, Thomasina Foster, Bruce Malik, Simon Lee, Jerry Keith, Jr., Scott Murphy, Anna Belk-Wentzel, Bubby Floyd, Alexis Fleming, and Carlos Washington.

#### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Roger Malfatti called the meeting to order at 8:30AM.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

#### **APPEARANCES/REQUESTS BEFORE COMMISSION:**

#### **MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

No vacancies.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

##### **Tim:**

The basketball season is continuing, it has been decided to postpone the start of games by two weeks. Youth basketball games will start on January 19<sup>th</sup>, until then teams will continue to practice. There have been no major COVID related issues thus far, a couple individuals involved with the league have tested positive.

Youth soccer registration is open, the soccer season begins in February.

Construction continues. The court resurfacing project is underway. The courts at Northwest Park are completed. The courts at the Dr. Iola Jones park are almost complete. The tennis court resurfacing at Levy Park is almost complete, and the repairs to the basketball courts there have begun. Lucas Park will follow. The resurfacing of the courts at Timrod and four tennis courts at the Florence Tennis Center have been started as well.

The renovations at Freedom Florence are continuing. The lower complex fencing project is roughly eighty-five percent complete. The painting of the

lower pavilion has begun, and the inside renovations are approximately eighty-five percent complete. The renovations to the upper complex look to be started in the next month.

**Jerry:**

David Watford, new Program Coordinator has started in his position. David comes to us with a great deal of experience having worked at McLeod, Circle Park, and as a Youth Pastor working closely with youth and teens. The Recreation Services Division is happy to welcome David into his new position.

All Community Centers are closed until at least January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Florence School District 1 guidelines are being followed. There are a couple of Recreation staff members out due to COVID-19 related issues. Limited O.W.L.S. programming continues at the Barnes Street Activity Center Monday – Friday mornings. Social distancing protocols continue to be followed within the Center and during fitness classes.

The renovations at the Barnes Street Activity Center and Administrative Office have been completed. The offices and Activity Center are being reassembled.

Victoria Nash, Recreation Manager, is still on maternity leave. She is expected back around the first week of February.

Following the incident that occurred at the Northwest Community Center safety protocols at all sites are being looked at. A concern for the lack of light at the Dr. Lola Jones Park was brought up in a community meeting held at the Center. This is one of the many things that considered during this time. A survey of the night lighting will be done and any necessary replacements or an increase in lighting all together will be considered.

**Chuck:**

There has been a request from a group of citizens to hold a non-partisan meet and greet at the Dr. Lola Jones Park. There have been requests like this one made in the past. These groups are always required to submit certain information to the City Manager's Office, including who has been invited.

COVID-19 has put a damper on not only Parks and Recreation but everyone. Our programming is based on people being able to get together, this applies to athletics and recreational programming. We continue to work and plan, but it has had its challenges.

**Old Business:**

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Tree Removal Request**

No Requests

### **Program Development**

No Report

### **Annual Plan Committee**

It is expected that at City Council's next meeting that the Mask Ordinance will be extended. The January Parks and Beautification Commission workshop will be postponed.

### **Bylaws Committee**

No Report

### **Arbor Day**

No Report

### **Trails**

No Report

### **Veterans Park**

#### **Barry:**

There was a wreath laying within the park the week before Christmas.

There has been continued interest in holding a 9/11 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony in the park.

Plans for the Veterans Park continue, these plans include the placement of more sidewalks. With the amount of rain the area has had in the past two months a dry spell is what is needed to move forward with this construction.

The City of Florence released a new website. Within that website the Veterans Park has a page. More information including photographs is needed. Chuck plans to reach out to Bran with Brown Memorials. Bran has offered to help with the layout and content of this page.

### **Park Oversight Committee**

Freedom Florence	Good	Bubby and Carlos
Dr. Iola Jones Park	Good	George
Jeffries Creek Park	Good	Barry
Levy Park	Good	James
Lucas Park	Good	Scott
Maple Park	Good	Thomasina
McLeod Park	Good	Bubby
Northside Park	Good	Thomasina
Northwest Park	Good	Anna
Rail Trail	Good	Walter
Soccer Complex	Good	Bruce and Donnie
South Park	Good	Roger
Timrod Park	Good	Nikki
Tennis Complex	Good	Alexis
Veterans Park	Good	Veterans Park Comm.

**New Business:**

**Meeting was called to adjournment.**