



## CITY OF FLORENCE

### PARKS AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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**PRESENT:** Roger Malfatti, Sanovia Arcenaux, Alexis Fleming, Thomasina Foster, Nikki Player, George Scipio, Anna Belk-Wentzell, Barry Wingard, Bruck Mallick, Donnie Carter, James McLaughlin, Michael Montrose, Carlos Washington.

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

**ABSENT:** Bubby Floyd, Jerry Keith, Simon Lee, Scott Murphy, Walter Sallenger.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

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

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes of the April 2021 meeting were approved.

**APPEARANCES/REQUESTS BEFORE COMMISSION:**

**Suzanne Larochelle** - Suzanne Larochelle and a group of community members would like to host a Juneteenth event in Timrod Park. Ms. Larochelle has stated that voter's registration will be offered and light refreshments. – **APPROVED contingent upon City Council relaxing restrictions on outdoor events**

**The Florence Tennis Association** – The FTA is hosting a tournament and would like to have a gathering with the officials and serve beer and wine.

**-APPROVED**

**MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

No vacancies. There are ordinances and codes that enforce the fact that members can only miss three meetings in a twelve-month period. Zoom and in person meetings will continue, and members are asked to attend.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Jerry:**

Gracie has been promoted to the Special Events and Marketing Coordinator within the Recreation Services Division. Her previous position is posted on the City of Florence website, Office Assistant III.

There are events planned for the community by the Recreation Services Division. There is a Mommy & Me Fitness class being held on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in Timrod Park at the Amphitheater. Senior Appreciation Day for our current OWLS and Lifelong Recreation members will be held on May 13<sup>th</sup> at the City Center Farmers Market.

Classes have begun at the AARP FitLot. Classes will be held each Tuesday and Thursday at 6PM and each Saturday at 8AM. These classes started this past Tuesday but were unfortunately rained out.

Summer Camp at the sites will begin June 14<sup>th</sup> and run through July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Maple Park Community Center (20), Levy Park Youth Center (15), Dr. Iola Jones Park Community Center (20), and the Barnes Street Activity Center (Tween Camp) are full. There are two vacant spots at the Northwest Community Center (13). These numbers of participants that are being allowed at each site are based on the sizes of the different sites.

Renovations to the Levy Adult Center are in the works, a meeting will be held with the low bidder to go over the scope of work next Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. Playgrounds have been chosen for Levy Park, Northwest Park, and Dr. Iola Jones Park.

A hiring event for Recreation Services is being held on May 14<sup>th</sup> in the Council Chambers within the City Center from 9AM to 12PM and 2PM to 5PM. On the spot interviews will be held. There are two full time activity instructor positions, several part time, and several seasonal positions open. There has been an incentive put into place for seasonal workers. If a person is hired as a seasonal worker and finishes the summer season, they will earn a bonus of \$400. Seasonal workers are hired to assist with Summer Camp. Applicants must be at least eighteen years old.

**Chuck:**

The repair to the dam at the Soccer Complex is ninety-five percent complete. City staff is excited for this repair as the fields within the complex desperately need water.

The Conference Carolinas tournament was held at the Florence Soccer Complex the weekend of May 1<sup>st</sup> and was successful.

The City of Florence Sports Complex is under construction. The extension of Jennie O'Bryan Avenue to the new complex has been started. Issues have occurred with the grounds, under the topsoil is gumbo clay that causes drainage issues. The bad dirt is being removed and replaced with fresher and more packable sand as well as geogrid and stone base so the road will last. An

approximate \$100,000 has already been spent on this road construction. Contingency was built into the budget and the hope is that it will cover these unexpected issues.

The Lawton-Chase House (the old Florence Museum) renovations to the inside are complete. New landscaping has been installed and work is beginning on the backside of the venue. The hope is that it will be available for use starting the first of July. The house will be used as a venue for a variety of different types of events and will be available to rent by the public.

There have been changes made to the City garbage routes. Almost half the residents of Florence saw their trash pickup day change. The purpose of these changes was to become more efficient and make the routes more similar in length. Yard waste is another issue. With the nice weather citizens have been out in their yards working and the City is looking at being two to three weeks behind on large pile pickup. The City only has two trucks that can pick up these piles.

**Tim:**

Baseball, softball, and track seasons have started and are going well. Summer league basketball registration started May 1<sup>st</sup>. Football registration will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The PMSL state youth championship was held at the Florence Soccer Complex and brought in thirty-two teams for two days. The Conference Carolinas men and women's championship was also held at the complex and brought in eight teams. There is going to be a vote, but the tournament will most likely return to the complex in November. There is a lacrosse tournament being held at the complex Memorial Day weekend that consists of thirty-five teams.

There were rentals for Pearl Moore for several basketball tournaments over the past months, many of these have been cancelled due to lack of registration of teams. There are still a couple on the schedule for the remainder of the year and hopefully they will be successful.

The Florence Tennis Center is busy with tournaments and events.

The renovations to Freedom Florence are approximately ninety-eight percent complete. A large tournament is being held next weekend to kick off the re-opening of the facility. Adult softball will be starting up, there is a great deal of excitement around this with not having a season last year.

## **Old Business:**

## **Committee Reports:**

### **Tree Removal Requests**

### **Program Development**

### **Annual Plan Committee**

#### **Roger:**

It will be looked at to see if the final 2021 plan has been sent out and approved. If it has not been approved, it will be sent out to Commission members for approval. If it has been approved nothing further needs to be done by the Commission.

### **Bylaws Committee**

No Report

### **Arbor Day**

No Report

### **Trails**

### **Veterans Park**

#### **Barry:**

Another wedding was held in the park and went well.

A tour of 28 people from grades eight through eleven and five adult veterans from St. Anthony's Catholic Church was held in the park. It went well and was written about in the paper.

Sixteen applications have been received for the Wall of Honor, another twenty are needed to install a piece this year for Veterans Day.

Barry feels confident that the Bruce & Lee Foundation will support the installation of a WWII monument in the park in 2022. Barry has met with the grant representative for the foundation twice and he needs a letter stating the City's support for the addition of the monument.

Concrete is still to be installed within the park. The hope will be that this can be done before Woody Williams, the last living Medal of Honor recipient from WWII, visits the park in July. Woody did a great deal to help with the Gold Star Monument that is in the park.

The National Cemetery has restrictions put on them and what they can do for Memorial Day. They will have a flag placement on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 9AM and a small invitation only ceremony will be held after at 10:30AM. The Veterans Park Committee is on the list to be invited.

Barry has proposed a 9/11 ceremony to be held in the park. The City Manager is good with this event being hosted if City Council has relaxed restrictions on outdoor events. Barry will contact Shannon Tanner, Fire Chief, about the event.

**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.**