



CITY OF FLORENCE

PARKS AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

March 3, 2022

PRESENT:

Roger Malfatti, Carlos Washington, James McLaughlin, Nikki Player, Barry Wingard, Scott Murphy, Walter Sallenger, George Scipio, Thomasina Foster, Bruce Mallick, Sanovia Arcenaux, Bubby Floyd

OTHERS:

Chuck Pope, Jerry Dudley, Tim Wilson, Victoria Nash, April Alston-Frederick

ABSENT:

Jerry Keith, Simon Lee, Donnie Carter, Alexis Fleming, Anna Belk-Wentzell, Michael Montrose

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the February 2022 meeting were approved.

APPEARANCES/REQUESTS BEFORE COMMISSION:

- Truth and Fellowship Global Outreach Ministry wants to have a baptism, Fish Fry and Easter Egg Hunt at Northwest Community Park picnic shelter on April 15 @ 12:00pm – 4:00pm. **Approved but No Baptism.**
- Johnica President of Transformed By His Grace Ministries International wants to have a Praise and Worship Concert and Easter Egg Hunt at Northwest Community Park picnic shelter on April 16 @ 11:00am-3:00pm. **Approved after receiving Certificate of Liability. Update: We have received their COL.**

MEMBERSHIP STATUS:

Membership status is still full.

- Jerry Keith term expires on June 30.
- Alexis Fleming term expires June 30
- Chuck stated that the City's Manager office will be reaching out to the members who term will be expiring soon.
- Roger stated that Darlene used to handle it.

- Victoria reached out to Casey Moore at the City Managers office in reference to this. Casey stated that they will send out a letter for a response to those members who terms will be expiring.

STAFF REPORTS:

Chuck:

- Lawton-Chase house will be a venue and available for rent around May. Renovations have been done on the inside and outside of the Lawton-Chase house. We have gone a little beyond the Lawton-Chase house to near the Gazebo area. We are making the space on the west end a more useful space. There is a World War II monument that is located near the house that has been cleaned up as well.
 - Insurance will have to be purchased to have any event at this facility.
 - Capacity of the facility is unknown now. There are different areas of the facility to host a pretty good size event.
- Whoever rents this facility will have to provide their own catering services and rental company for tables and chairs because we will not be responsible for setting up or breaking down events that will be held there. This facility will be available for corporate events, wedding receptions, meeting, and other things.
- The Timrod Park Neighborhood Association has been meeting at this facility for the last 3 months for their monthly meeting.
- We are refurbishing the Gazebo itself. We have put some fresh paint to give it a new look.
- Sports Complex if moving forward.
 - Stadium Field is about 75% complete and may be finished by the end of May. The lights are up at all the fields. We have a total of 7 fields: the main stadium and 6 other fields that will be used for our recreation league and tournaments.
 - The track facility will be as good as any other collegiate facility. We will have our track events there, and bring in outside track meets as well. In the next month or so, the access road will be extended and should be completed within the next month or so.
- We have signed the contract with Palmetto Paving to do the 3 sidewalks at Veterans Park (1. The sidewalk behind the flag ring to the Wall of Honor, 2. The one that's goes to the World

War I monument, and 3. The Gold Star one). We are also looking to get the Veterans Park committee input about changing the wooden walkway by the Purple Heart Monument to concrete. The walk way is located on the back side of the park but the monuments will still be wheelchair accessible.

Tim:

- Baseball, we made the switch from Dixie Youth to Little League Baseball.
- We have roughly around 430 kids signed up for Baseball. (10 teams in Tee Ball, 10 teams in Coach Pitched, 9 teams in Minor and 9 teams in Majors)
- Our numbers has increased from last years.

Victoria:

- We will have a Story Book walk at Lucas Park, March 18 – 20. Book: The Missing Piece by a local artist. Friday, March 18 from 2:30 – 3:30, we will be giving a free book to the first 20 kids that come though the trail.
- Spring Break Camp will be April 18 – 22, Monday – Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm, the price is \$26. Registration will be March 7 – 28.
- Free Tutoring still going with 4 certified teachers at Northwest, Barnes St. and Dr. lola. It is held every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00pm – 6:00pm, for children in grades K – 8th.

Roger:

- There was a group of people who cleaned out Jefferies Creek. It is mentioned to send a Thank You to Keep Florence Beautiful.

Barry

- There is some trash further down Jefferies Creek that needs to get cleaned on the Westeria Side and Hillside.

Thomasia:

- First, I want to give kudos to the group that did the program for the 4 – 6 years old Basketball league. Then she asked about giving all participants in Athletics a Certificate of Participations.
- Tim: We have over 3000 kids that come through our Athletic programs, that will be a challenge unless the different league is willing to do it.

Donnie:

- Is ESAB being locked Up?
- Tim: Yes. People have been destroying the fields and engaging in illegal activities, so the Soccer League decided to lock up the fields.

Scott:

- We have been working hard at keeping our gateways nice and neat. McLeod Blvd is our best entrance into Florence. If you notice that there are oak trees in front of Lowe's that have been cut down, and now they look like bushes. How much say do we have with trying to create the image with our gateways, I know billboard companies may have the right of way, but what can we do? We are currently battling with billboard companies because they have the right to tell you to cut down nearby trees with over 300 feet live site, so people can see the boards. So, one year we had to get a tree cutter to cut the trees down. The only way to solve this issue is for the public to get involve.
- There has been movement with the rail trails. There has been a survey and we a just waiting on few things to get it moving.

Old Business: Nothing

Veteran's Park.

- Memorial Service for Buddy Hewitt is March 19. Visitation will be at 11am and the ceremony at 12.
 - We will not be able to assist with the sound for this event. We just don't have the staff to work this event.
- Michelle Gordon-Law promotion sermon will be on March 26. She on active duty but will be back by then.
 - We will not be able to assist with the sound for this event. We just don't have the staff to work this event.
- There will be a ceremony in Charleston, where they will be planting a tree for Belleau Wood, which was a huge battle during World War I. Someone who was attending this event, wants to investigate getting one of the trees to plant at Veterans Park near the WWI monument.
- We only have 6 Wall of Honor names. I have about a dozen applications out to people who said that they wanted them. The deadline is normally Aug to submit the applications but because of logistic reasons, they want the applications by the end of May. Because of this turn around, I'm not sure if we will have the Wall of Honor ceremony this year.
- Lake City is building a monument.
- The National Mustang Show will be 1st weekend in April at the Florence Center. There will be 304 mustangs that will be visiting. I'm thinking about have a table set up to have information about the Veterans Park.

Park Oversight:

- **George:** We had a few events at the centers with a good turnout. Our concerns are there is not enough shade:
 - They will be getting a picnic shelter soon.

Roger: Any other business

- **James:** Who makes decisions with activities shifting from one park or area to another park or area, especially with sports or activities?
 - If different areas are privately owned or City owned, they must provide a Certificate of Liability to use these areas. If they don't provide the proper documents, then they can't use these areas. We are not running people off from different property for kicking balls around or just hanging out, only if it is brought to our attention that an organized game is going on or if it interferes with our activities. When different groups comes and host different tournament, they must provide the Certificate of Liability and name City of Florence as additional insurer. It's not "The City" saying you must provide insurance, it's our insurance company saying you must provide insurance. Even the contracted employees have to provide insurance to conduct classes on our premises.
- **Nikki:** How is the attendance at the parks?
 - lola Jones Park we have 27 participants signed up for the afterschool program.
 - Levy Park we have 20 participants signed up for the afterschool program.
 - Northwest, we have 6 participants signed up for the afterschool program.
 - Maple, we have 10 – 12 participants signed up for the afterschool program.
 - Levy Senior we have 15 participants that come out every day.
- **Roger:** Chuck, do you think it's a possibility to schedule a parks tour once the weather gets better and COVID starts calming down?
 - **Chuck:** Yes, it could be sooner than later.

Roger: Motion to Adjourn**Meeting was adjourned****NEXT MEETING DATE:**

April 7, 2022

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