



## CITY OF FLORENCE

### PARKS AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

**March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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**PRESENT:** Roger Malfatti, Barry Wingard, Donnie Carter, Thomasina Foster, James McLaughlin, Michael Montrose, and Sanovia Arcenaux.

**OTHERS:** Chuck Pope, Victoria Nash, and Tim Wilson.

**ABSENT:** Alexis Fleming, Nikki Player, Walter Sallenger, George Scipio, Bruce Malik, Simon Lee, Jerry Keith, Jr., Scott Murphy, Anna Belk-Wentzel, Bubb Floyd, 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 February 2021 meeting were approved.

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

##### **Veterans Park – Elaine Sansbury – Request to host wedding within the park.**

The ceremony has been approved to be held in the park. It was suggested that Ms. Sansbury contact the Florence Center for any options of hosting the reception just outside of the park. – CEREMONY APPROVED

#### **MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

No vacancies.

#### **STAFF REPORTS:**

##### **Victoria:**

Spring Break Camp registration will begin on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the camp will be held April 5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. There are fifteen spots available at each site. Ages 6-12 will be hosted at the Dr. Iola Jones Park Community Center, Levy Park Youth Center, Maple Park Community Center, and Northwest Community Center. Teens (ages 12 and in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade – 18) will be hosted at the Barnes Street Activity Center. The cost is \$26 for the week with lunch included each day.

The Recreation Services Division is hosting a city-wide Easter egg hunt, Hoppin' Around Flo-Town. There will be ten large eggs hidden throughout the City, each with their own unique QR code to be scanned to be

entered into a contest.

**Chuck:**

Jerry is absent this morning as he is preparing for the Comprehensive Plan meetings that are scheduled with some of the neighborhood organizations today.

The contract has been signed for construction of the new Sports Complex. The contractor is Edcon out of Peak, South Carolina. A meeting is being held on March 4<sup>th</sup> for a pre-construction conference with hopes that they will supply a schedule of construction. This project is expected to start in the next several weeks, weather permitting.

The possibility of meeting in person was brought up. When City Council decides to begin meeting in person the thought is that this commission will follow suit.

**Tim:**

Youth basketball comes to an end tonight, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Adult basketball will finish this weekend. Soccer has started and baseball is starting. Maple Park has started practice and evaluations for McLeod Park are scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>.

The PAL baseball league is low for registration numbers. Registration has been extended until March 11<sup>th</sup> with hopes to get more participants signed up. There is a total of 8 participants signed up across the age groups as of now.

The softball season has been pushed back due to the fencing project at Freedom Florence. The season is scheduled to start the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. A new contractor has been brought in for the lower project with hopes to speed up the project at Freedom. A new contract is also being discussed for the upper fencing project.

There have been no major COVID related issues.

**Old Business:**

**Committee Reports:**

**Tree Removal Request**

No Requests

**Program Development**

No Report

## **Annual Plan Committee**

### **Roger:**

The Annual Plan that was edited by City staff with updates that have taken place throughout the past year will be sent out this afternoon to the Commission members.

The City made way on several projects in the past year. Once members have had a chance to review the plan please send any requests for additions to Gracie to be added and compiled for the coming year's annual plan. This Annual Plan will be discussed in the next meeting to be held on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The projects that have been discussed for the Veterans Park will be included such as the sidewalk connectors.

Previously a bid was put out to correct the Oath of Enlistment. There were no submitted bids for that project. The hope is to get that out to bid again. Chuck has discussed with Pat Brown about the possibility of him helping the City find someone that would be willing to do that project.

## **Bylaws Committee**

No Report

## **Arbor Day**

No Report

## **Trails**

No Report

## **Veterans Park**

### **Barry:**

The WBTW Three Degree Guarantee raised \$1,300 for the Veterans Park from Florence Toyota. A symbolic presentation of the check is to be scheduled and members of the committee will be notified in hopes that everyone can be there.

A goal will be to get the Wall of Honor application added to the City's website.

There is an additional flag to be added in the park, a flag for the Space Force. The thought is to move the POW/MIA flag closer to or beside the POW/MIA monument, making room for the additional flag among the flag poles that are currently installed in the park.

Barry has been contacted by someone interested in doing something

dedicated to military working dogs as well as something to be dedicated to the Ed Young family who donated the land for the park. A WWII monument is still on the list of things that would like to be seen within the park. Barry has a meeting with a major charity organization today at 10:00AM with hopes of getting a contribution for a WWII monument.

Next Tuesday, March Mach 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM two teachers from Poyner will be bringing their GED and ESL students to the park for a tour. Any committee members are invited to attend.

The Lions Club has invited a speaker from the Veterans Park for Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>.

Barry would like to continue to discuss the possibility of hosting an event in remembrance of 9/11.

Woody Williams would like to plan to come to the park. The hope would be to host a separate event. Woody Williams is the last living Marine that served in WWII and earned the medal of honor.

**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.**