

## **TOWN OF FLORENCE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**

### **MINUTES OF FLORENCE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2025, AT 6:00 P.M.**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Leaman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chair Leaman, Vice-Chair Bracco, Boardmember Gutierrez, Boardmember Little, Boardmember Babson, Boardmember Palaia, Boardmember Hitchcock, Boardmember Smith, Boardmember Jaimes

Absent:

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Leaman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **PARKS MAINTENANCE PRESENTATION**

The new Parks Maintenance Superintendent, Steven Dennis Perry, discussed his plans to improve the town's parks and facilities. He shared his experience from working in Chandler and Prescott, and his goal to elevate the town's standards to match those of Chandler and Glendale. He mentioned the recent overhaul of Padilla Park and the current maintenance of various sites by two crews. Steven emphasized the importance of accountability and clear roles for the crews, with each crew member knowing their tasks and responsibilities. He also mentioned his foreman, Michael Groves, who assists with various tasks.

Mr. Perry discussed the implementation of new standards for maintaining the fields. The standards include a dense grass coverage of at least 95%, regular deep thatching to remove excess grass, and maintaining grass heights at 2 inches. They also aim to eliminate gophers from the fields.

Mr. Perry highlighted the implementation of new standards and processes for various amenities, including shade structures, benches, and charcoal grills. Liaison King also emphasized the importance of certifications, such as a certified arborist and playground safety inspector, to ensure proper maintenance and safety. Mr. Perry and Liaison King both shared their plans to renovate fields and improve irrigation systems and expressed their commitment to making the town's facilities more healthy, safe, and visually appealing. The team also discussed their efforts to remove tree stumps as a safety hazard, with a focus on continuous improvement and maintenance.

The discussion also touched on the use of inmate crews for maintenance tasks, which has proven beneficial. The department plans to incrementally increase the inmate crew size as needed.

Liaison King acknowledged that these standards may not be met every week due to various challenges, but they are committed to achieving them. The new standards were introduced to train new employees and to improve the efficiency of their maintenance operations. Mr. King expressed hope that these standards would make their jobs easier and improve the overall appearance of their fields, parks, town facilities, and amenities.

## **DISCUSSION OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 GOALS**

The Board discussed the progress of two projects: the Wildflower Project and the Javelina Project. For the Wildflower Project, staff are researching costs and locations, with a focus on preserving historical areas and considering maintenance by relevant departments. For the Javelina Project, the board is considering sponsorship and memorial options, with a potential for expansion beyond the initial two sculptures. They also discussed the possibility of a donation effort for the Javelina Project, with a focus on design and placement. The Board agreed to further research and discuss these matters, including potential involvement of various departments and the possibility of running ideas by Marcella Benitez, Senior Planner for the Town of Florence's Community Development department.

The Board discussed the potential expansion of teen facilities and programming. They considered using the fitness center, the library, and the aquatic center for teen activities. However, they noted that the aquatic center's extended hours and safety concerns might limit its use. They also considered repurposing the fitness center's backroom as a teen space. The teen room in the library was mentioned as a potential option, but its capacity was uncertain. The Board also discussed the installation of shade structures at Little League Park, which would provide shade for spectators. The cost estimates for these structures were still being finalized. The Board agreed to bring back data on current programming numbers and usage for future discussions.

The Board discussed the idea of combining the Founder's Day event with the annual Home Tour event to create a more family-friendly atmosphere. The aim was to attract a wider audience, including families with children, by incorporating activities such as games, rides, and entertainment. The event would also serve as an educational opportunity to learn about the town's history and culture. The planning for this event would start with expanding the home tour budget and then move forward with the planning process.

## **DISCUSSION/APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION OF MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2024**

On motion by Boardmember Babson, seconded by Boardmember Gutierrez, and carried (9-0) to approve the meeting minutes of October 23, 2024, and November 14, 2024.

## **DISCUSSION/UPDATE OF MONTHLY ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES IN THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

The Community Services Advisory Board discussed their upcoming events, including the playground opening event, the Pooch parties, and the Home Tour event. They also discussed

the possibility of obtaining T-shirts or name tags to identify themselves as board members during community events. The board expressed excitement for the New Year and their projects, including the artisan residence and the Home Tour event. They also discussed the need for more public involvement in their committee and the potential for partnerships with local organizations. The conversation ended with plans for further discussions on branding and leadership protocols.

#### **CALL TO THE PUBLIC/BOARD RESPONSE**

**CALL TO THE PUBLIC FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON ISSUES WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD. COUNCIL RULES LIMIT PUBLIC COMMENT TO THREE MINUTES. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS MAY RESPOND TO CRITICISM MADE BY THOSE COMMENTING, MAY ASK STAFF TO REVIEW A MATTER RAISED OR MAY ASK THAT A MATTER BE PUT ON A FUTURE AGENDA. HOWEVER, MEMBERS SHALL NOT DISCUSS OR TAKE ACTION ON ANY MATTER DURING AN OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS THE MATTERS ARE PROPERLY NOTICED FOR DISCUSSION AND LEGAL ACTION.**

No public comment.

#### **CALL TO THE BOARD – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY**

*Boardmembers Palaia and Jaimes left the meeting at 7:23 P.M.*

Vice-Chair Bracco

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Boardmember Hitchcock, seconded by Vice-Chair Bracco, and carried (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 P.M.

Approved:



Kathleen Leaman, Board Chair