

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

### **MINUTES OF FLORENCE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 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 Palaia, Boardmember Hitchcock, Boardmember Jaimes, Boardmember Smith, Boardmember Ezzai  
Absent: Boardmember Gutierrez, Boardmember Little

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Leaman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **LIBRARY PRESENTATION**

Library Manager, Lisa Lewis, presented the Board that the library's name had recently been changed to the Viney Jones Library, named after a long-time librarian, Viney Jones, who was passionate about children's programs.

Ms. Lewis then presented library statistics from the fiscal year 2023-2024, highlighting the number of items available for circulation, items checked out, library card holders, and program participants. Ms. Lewis also discussed the library's special collections, including a homeschool collection, vinyl collection, dyslexia collection, parenting collection, seed library, cultural passes, steam kits, library of things, and a library of toys. The library is also in the process of adding a library of medical equipment and expanding its Maker Space with various equipment for community use.

Ms. Lewis discussed the various programs and services offered by the library, including makerspace certification classes, youth and adult programming, and community events. The makerspace offers access to expensive equipment for public use, with certification classes held monthly. Youth programming includes story time, sensory activities, and STEM explorers, while adult programming includes cardio drumming, DIY crafts, and virtual escape classes. The organization also hosts family events, such as a nacho fiesta, and offers a community baby shower with resources for new parents.

Ms. Lewis introduced a new audio system called Wazoo, which can be checked out by families for their children. The system offers various stories, jokes, and music tailored for different age groups.

#### **DISCUSSION OF CURRENT TEEN PROGRAMS AND TOWN ACTION ITEMS FOR TEENS**

Liaison King briefly discussed the programs for middle school and high school students, including early releases, career exploration, and service projects.

Ms. Lewis mentioned the library also hosts a "Library After Hours" program, which has gained popularity with kids participating in activities like a glow party and drive-in movie night. Ms. Lewis also mentioned the need for a larger space for the kids to hang out and be louder.

Liaison King mentioned there are two upcoming teen events: a teen night at the Community Center on February 28th and a Tween and Teen Night at Heritage Park on April 25th.

**DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATIVE UPDATES** *\*item was moved to be discussed before item 4a. Presentation*

Jeff Graves, Communications and Intergovernmental Relations Manager for the Town of Florence, provided an update on House Bill 2021, which proposes changes to the food tax, including potential impacts and legislative actions. Mr. Graves discussed the elimination of the food tax in 71 cities and towns, including Florence, which charges a 2% tax on food for human consumption. The tax, approved by voters in 1990, funds parks, capital improvement projects, and safety improvements. Mr. Graves stated the potential loss of revenue from food tax, which could amount to \$850,000 or 8.5% of their total sales tax revenues. This comes after a \$3 million loss from a prison closure in 2021 and a potential corporation closure. Mr. Graves also mentioned that the League of Arizona Cities and Towns is lobbying against additional funding legislation. A bill currently in the House could lead to a vote by the public if it passes. Mr. Graves suggested that if the bill passes, the food tax should be frozen for cities and towns.

Mr. Graves recommended contacting the bill sponsor and other House members to oppose the legislation unless an amendment is adopted. Mr. Graves encouraged community members to voice their opinions on these issues, emphasizing the importance of mentioning local experiences and affiliations when contacting legislators. Town staff will send out talking points and contact numbers for outreach to the Community Services Advisory Boardmembers.

**DISCUSSION/APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION OF MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2025**

On motion by Boardmember Hitchcock, seconded by Boardmember Jaimes, and carried (7-0) to approve to recommend the meeting minutes of January 9, 2025.

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

Liaison King discussed potential opportunities for the town, including the sale of a building and the hiring of an arborist for the Parks department. He also mentioned the installation of new granite in the cemetery to control dust and erosion, and the installation of two chemical feeders at the pool to improve efficiency. Liaison King also mentioned the holiday decorating contest and the presentation of awards at the last council meeting.

**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 discussed recent events and upcoming activities. They reviewed the success of the playground grand opening and the Historic Home Tour, which had 515 participants. The board approved ordering six new swings for the playground. Boardmembers shared positive feedback about volunteering for the Home Tour and interacting with visitors.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Boardmember Ezzai, seconded by Vice-Chair Bracco, and carried (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 P.M.

Approved:



Kathleen Leaman, Board Chair