

TOWN OF FLORENCE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Leaman called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Chair Leaman, Vice-Chair Bracco, Boardmember Hitchcock, Boardmember Smith, Boardmember Gutierrez

Absent: Boardmember Jaimes, Boardmember Ezzai, Boardmember Little, Youth Liaison Fedor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Leaman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SUMMER AQUATIC SEASON – JONATHAN WUBBENA

Jonathan Wubbena, Recreation Coordinator for the Town of Florence Community Services Department presented to the Board on the 2025 Aquatic Season. Mr. Wubbena presented data on the Aquatic Center's operations, highlighting its role as a community recreational facility. The center had 305 hours of available usage, with 10,063 total participants, including 6,220 kids and 3,843 adults. Swimming lessons saw 168 hours of classes with 258 participants, while the shark swim team had 48 hours of practice with 71 participants, achieving second place in a regional championship with 30 first-place medals. Staff logged 5,117 hours on-site, with 10 lifeguards on duty at any time. Comparing 2024 to 2025, swimming lesson participation decreased from 365 to 258 due to reduced evening hours. Jonathan discussed the Aquatic Center's operations and future plans, and shared updates on the Junior Lifeguard program and changes to instructor-to-participant ratios.

The Board discussed potential staffing needs and ways to improve recruitment.

Council Liaison Buccellato suggested adding more information about aquatics programs on the REC website. The team also talked about using Starfish Aquatics Institute for swim lessons instead of the American Red Cross.

Boardmember Gutierrez suggest staff send him and Boardmember Ezzai flyers for upcoming events to notify students.

DISCUSSION/APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL OF RECOMMENDATION OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, REGULAR MEETING

On motion by Boardmember Hitchcock, seconded by Boardmember Gutierrez, and carried (5-0) to approve the minutes of September 11, 2025, meeting

DISCUSSION/UPDATE of Community Services Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 25/26

Paul King, Community Services Director, and Jarod Thiele, Project Manager, highlighted plans for pool replastering, painting projects, and perimeter fence replacement at the Aquatic Center. They further discussed several infrastructure projects and maintenance activities. The perimeter fence project is ready for council approval on November 4th, while the slide resurfacing and pool plaster projects are also scheduled for council review with the pool project coming in under budget. The cemetery landscape design has progressed with a specialized design firm engaged to handle both the general layout and the columbarium placement, with the team receiving positive feedback on recent improvements. Parking lot maintenance is ongoing, with Heritage Park Lot scheduled for seal coating on November 7-8, and discussions are underway about the cost-effectiveness of adding shade structures to various town facilities, including a potential \$50,000 swing shade that may be re-scope. Other updates included: The meeting covered updates and discussions on a range of park, facility, and infrastructure improvement projects. Mr. Thiele reviewed progress on the Main Street Park redesign, which will include new restrooms, utility upgrades, and a mini storage facility for recreation and parks equipment. Lighting upgrades across various park sites were also discussed, with plans to install solar lighting at Jaques Square and Arriola Square, and LED fixtures at other park locations. In addition, the department is exploring options to replace the synthetic turf at the Aquatic Center with a more suitable material, while removing existing turf from other areas due to environmental concerns.

Liaison King provided updates on several ongoing projects and planning initiatives, and a meeting with the Charles Whitlow Rodeo Grounds Board is scheduled for the 23rd to discuss updates to the facility's master plan. Work continues on the trail design project along the CAP canal, though several challenges and blockages remain to be addressed. The town is also moving forward with wayfinding and interpretive signage projects funded through a \$10,000 grant. Additionally, there are plans to redesign the breezeway near Main Street to improve accessibility and add lighting.

Further updates included progress on infrastructure and facility upgrades. The Fitness Center received funding approval and is being outfitted with new equipment, while the library is evaluating an RFID system to help reduce material loss and improve efficiency. Recent improvements also include the addition of decomposed granite along Cemetery Road, playground enhancements, and the purchase of new equipment for sports facilities. A new bucket truck approved by Council is ready for shipment, and the library will be closed for approximately one month to complete flooring renovations.

DISCUSSION/UPDATE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD FY26 GOALS

Liaison King updated the Board on ongoing projects and upcoming events in the community. They reviewed progress on the wildflower project, Javelina project, and Teen Center initiatives.

Wildflower Project:

Liaison King discussed challenges related to obtaining seed recommendations from local organizations.

Javelina Project:

Javelina Project remains in production at the Art Center.

Teen Center:

Liaison King reported that future teen events are planned at the Senior Center, and he will update the Board of upcoming dates and/or feedback from attendees.

Shade at Little League Park:

Liaison King reported that the shade structure over the Little League bleachers has been completed. And noted that project can be marked off the list.

Founder's Day:

Liaison King reported that the Founder's Day celebration will be incorporated into the Historic Home Tour scheduled for February.

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

Liaison King updated the Board on the Aquatic Multi-purpose fields. Paul discussed ongoing issues with gophers and mosquitoes at a sports facility, and explained that despite increased efforts, including doubled gopher control contracts and staff filling holes, the gophers continue to reappear quickly. Regarding mosquitoes, Paul reported that staff spent hours pumping water and using bacillus in standing areas, though the problem persists due to nearby standing water. The facility looks better but still faces challenges with both pests, with no perfect solution yet found.

Liaison King asked the Board to start brainstorming new goals for next fiscal year's budget cycle.

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

The Board all expressed relief for cooler weather and are looking forward to the upcoming Florence Makes a Difference Day event.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Boardmember Gutierrez, seconded by Boardmember Hitchcock, and carried (5-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 P.M.

Approved:


Kathleen Leaman, Board Chair