



## CITY OF FLORENCE

### PARKS AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION MEETING

April 2, 2026

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**PRESENT:**

Darryl Mitchell, Carlos Washington, Itisa Harley-Williams, Andre Chaplin III, Kiana Brown, Curtis Reid Sturgeon, Jarvis Eaddy, Wesly Snow

**OTHERS:** April Frederick, Victoria Nash,

**ABSENT:**

Sanovia Arcenaux, George Scipio, Michael Montrose, Terrance Legette, Walter Sallenger, Josiella McWhite-Williams, Ross McMillian, Bruce Malick, Scott Murphy

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER:**

Darryl Mitchell called the meeting to order at 8:42AM.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

The minutes for March 2026 meeting.

- Motioned to approve minutes.
- Minutes accepts

**APPEARANCES/REQUESTS BEFORE COMMISSION:**

- Betsy Hoyle – Master Gardener
  - Location: Lucas Park
  - Date: May 2
  - Event: Pruning of the Azaleas
  - This event is just to clean up the gardening boxes. She also included other dates for doing clean ups or planting for the garden boxes at Lucas Park. They will have the participants sign waivers and media waivers and partnering with Keeping Florence Beautiful.
    - Questioned was about getting a irrigation system at this park.
- Adonikam Hudson- - Embassy Apostolic Church and a Pastor
  - Location: Mordecai C. Johnson
  - Date: May 2
  - Time:

- This event is a community gospel explosion and food giveaway. Partnered with other resources to offer free screening. They also want to create positive behavior.
  - Victoria mentioned about doing a walk through so they can look at the power and setting up a stage.
- April asked the parks commission members, "Do we want to require customers to attend the parks commission meeting to discuss their community event?"
  - Moving forward, we will require the customer to attend the meeting. We will add this line on the applications: " The parks commission board can't approve any events without you attending the parks commission meeting, which is held on the first Thursday of every month at 8:30am".
  - A board member asked about the screening of community events. We just recently implemented a questioner about the end results or how the different events outcomes were. We have been aware that some events are held at the parks without our knowledge or permission.

#### **MOTION TO MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 9:10AM**

- Discussion regarding proposed contractual arrangements involving appearance and requests.

#### **RESUME OPEN SESSIONS: 9:16AM**

- Motion to approve Betsy Hoyle for May 2.
  - Approve unanimously.
- Motion to approve Adonikam Hudson on May 2.
  - Approve unanimously
- Motion to defer Shanequa Joe event to staff discretion.
  - Approved unanimously
- Motion to defer Micheal Zimmerman to another or next meeting.
  - Approved unanimously
- Motion to approve following dates: April 16, June 25, August 13, September 10, October 8, and November 12 for Betsy Hoyle for Lucas Park.
  - Approved unanimously

#### **MEMBERSHIP STATUS**

- Membership is full.
- New member-Veteran Park Committee- Pastor Martin Quick.

## STAFF REPORTS:

- Tennis
  - Saturday Fun Day March 7 and 21 – Free tennis lessons for adults and children
  - Nucor Charity Pickleball Tournament – March 29 – 22 at Timrod
  - USTA tournament – March 14 – 16 and March 27 – 29
- Special Events
  - Story book Trail at Timrod
  - Hoppin' Around Flo-Town – April 2 – 5
  - Family BINGO Night – April 17
  - Bo-Time Dash – Aug 29
- Freedom Florence
  - Registration for Adult Softball and Kickball – March 1
  - Pee Dee Pitch Off – March 5 – 7
  - Batting Cages is open
  - Top Gun Tournament – March 14
  - Little League Opening – March 21
- OWLS
  - Hosted Staying Safe-Avoiding Identity Theft and Scam
  - 12-week Beginner YOGA
- Sports Complex
  - Hosted 4 Track Meet – March 3, 10, 17, and 20
  - Moore Middle school uses the field for games.
  - High School Baseball Day – March 21 – 6 teams
  - Perfect Game Tournament – 27 teams - March 27 – 28
  - Flamingos had a St. Patrick's Day Festival and 5K – Carolina Bank Stadium
  - Flock Star Field Trip – Field trip for Florence Elementary students
- Soccer Complex
  - We had Recreation and Select games.
- Upcoming Events:
  - Planting vegetables in the community gardens at Dr. Iola and Mordecai C. Johnson
  - DC Fastpitch tournament – April 11
  - Adult Softball Tournament – April 18 – 19
  - FMU Sorority will be doing a 5K – April 18
  - Top Gun baseball and softball tournament – April 25 & 28
  - QAT Pickleball Tournament - May 2 -3
- Project Updates
  - Tennis Center Expansion – We are close to selecting the firm.
  - Pearl Moore Expansion – We are close to selecting the firm
  - Football Expansion – Just submitted permits.
  - Levy Park – Waiting on cost analogist to see how far the \$18 million will go.

- Timrod Park Amphitheater – we are putting an awning and dressing it up.
- Questions were asked about football updates – We have started getting permits, fields will be done by session.
- Another questions – Will there be another entrance? No because staff will make provisions on scheduling.
- Donnie Carter – April 13 – 1pm – during city council meeting, council will be honoring Donnie for his years of service to board. They will be making a resolution.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

- **Tree Removal Request -**
- **Program Development**
- **Annual Plan –**
- **By-Laws**
- **Arbor Day**
- **Florence Trails –**

### **VETERANS PARK**

- Request – Barnes Street Teen programs want to go to Veterans park on June 10 at 10am. They will need someone to show them around and explain the monuments.

### **PARK OVERSIGHT**

- Jarvis Eaddy will take over Lester Park.
- Questions were asked about Jeffries Creek playground – We will be replacing the playground.

## **NEW BUSINESS/REQUEST**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: 9:38am**

### **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

May 7