

ADOPTED

MARION OAKS MSTU ADVISORY BOARD FOR RECREATION SERVICES AND FACILITIES Tuesday, July 27, 2021

ROLL CALL:

Board Members

Alice Mitchell-Chairperson

Carole LaMotte

Kathleen Martin

Bobby Whipple

Joanne Coast – Excused Absence

Marion County Marion Oaks MSTU Representatives

MSTU/Assessments Director, Alan Jones

Marion Oaks Community Center Manager: David Pierce

Marion Oaks Recreation Specialist: Kari Coates

Staff Assistant III: Marlene Maldonado

General Public: See Sign In-Sheet

Before getting started David Pierce wanted to recognize 3 residents that recently passed away: Mary Johnson, Andrew Dennison (Rick's son), and Marvin Dooley.

Chairperson Alice Mitchell called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM.

Chairperson Alice Mitchell requested everyone rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

VOTE ON ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Alice Mitchell presented the April 13, 2021 draft of minutes for adoption. A motion was made by Kathleen Martin and seconded by Bobby Whipple to accept the minutes. Approved by all.

RECREATION SPECIALIST REPORT – Kari Coates

- **Van Trips**

We've had 16 van trips since the last board meeting. Trips included adult and youth outings. Next week will be the last trip of the Summer and our youth will be going to Dave & Busters in Gainesville. The trips range from \$5 to \$40 which include the transportation and activity. We've had several trips with waiting lists and were able to accommodate residents by adding more van trips. Adult trips will be starting back in August. Youth trips will be continuing for home-schooled groups along with days youth have off from the Marion County Public School system.

- **Lunch Bunch Club**

Starting in August. We will be going to different locations for lunch. Most places we will be going to will have importance from a book that was geared to that particular location or local history.

- **Mother's Day Luncheon – May 10, 2021**

We are excited to say that we had a wonderful turnout. Those who attended were delighted to be back at one of our events. In some cases it had been over a year since people had been around others.

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RECREATION SPECIALIST REPORT – cont'd:

- **Youth Summer Programs**
Each week we offered programs and activities including arts and crafts, movie day, water day, fun in the park, roller skating tournaments, and more. We also had cooking classes that went over very well. Staff member Thomas Wilcox did a great job hosting a Nintendo Switch video game tournament and it was thoroughly enjoyed by the youth.
- **Gentle Carousel Horses**
Gentle Carousel returned this year with their horses and reading program, with the book “Be Kind”. This program did very well and was enjoyed by all ages.
- **Back to School Glow Party – August 6, 2021**
This will be our last planned program for the Summer.
- **Other Programs**
Kung Fu, Tang Soo Do and Zumba continue to do very well. The public seems to be very happy with these classes along with our DVD classes.
- **Music in the Park/Show Off your Ride – hosted by staff Victor Adams**
This event takes place the first Friday of each month. We will be continuing with that event.
- **Adult Activity Room-Recreation & Fitness Center**
We have added table tennis to this room, along with darts and corn hole. All of these have been a hit for both men and women. Members seem to be very happy with these additions. We are also trying to organize corn hole and dart teams so that we can start having tournaments.
- **Marion Oaks Bowling League**
This will be in conjunction with AMF Bowling West in Ocala near easy street. We have started a sign up sheet and are looking forward to seeing where this will take us. Our goal for this program is to be at the same level as our billiards league.
- **Billiards League**
We are in the process of starting our in-house leagues, along with our traveling leagues. The issue that we are having with bringing back the billiards traveling league as a whole, is many of the 55 plus communities are still not open to the public. What we have offered since we are fully open, is that we have the tournaments at our location. This would typically be one day a week.
- **Membership**
Membership is growing at a rapid pace since COVID 19, and new construction is bringing in new residents. Our previous members are feeling better about returning to public activities and we feel that the current trend of rising membership will continue.
- **Community Polls**
We've started several community polls to see what residents are looking for. These should give us a better idea on what direction we should go. Home-schooling is something that we are pushing forward with this year.
- **Dept. of Health – COVID-19 Vaccinations**
Vaccinations will be given once a week every Thursday for five weeks from 1:30 to 3:30 pm, starting July 29th at the Marion Oaks Recreation Building.

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RECREATION SPECIALIST REPORT – cont'd:

- **Mother/Son Dance**

This is our last big event for the kids and it will take place on Friday evening, July 30th. We encourage all moms to come with their sons of all ages.

COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER REPORT – David Pierce

STAFFING UPDATES:

Recreation Leader, Micaah Woodley resigned as of May 19th to pursue a career with the Marion County School System. Recreation Leader Jena Vann has also resigned. Her last day is August 2nd, and she is leaving to continue her education. Both young people definitely put a spark in our staffing here and they both have bright futures. That left us with 3 vacant positions, including the part-time position that Mike Davis vacated. A job fair was held here in the Annex Building on June 29th, and we had several very good candidates. It was Sheri Sloan's idea from the General Services MSTU to have the job fair and it was very successful. We had more candidates come through at our local job fair than we did when it was held in the Marion County McPherson Complex. We selected two candidates – Robert Beach to replace the part time position, and Jose Marrero for the full time position. They both went to orientation yesterday and both started this week with us. This leaves us with one vacant position once Jena leaves on Friday. We have one good candidate from our interviews and are looking to push his paperwork through to HR so we can get him on board as soon as possible, and then be fully staffed. All three people have a strong sports background.

BUDGET:

A copy of our 2022 proposed budget as was outlined at our workshop back in February, has been included in the Board Members folders. Alice Mitchell, Chairperson and David Pierce, Community Center Manager represented our Department at the Marion County Board of County Commissioners' workshop of July 13th, where our Director, Alan Jones presented our budget. There were no questions raised by the Commissioners. Our budget is a very bare bones budget this year as we are trying to keep the millage rate at 1.02 for at least one more year. The good news is that were able to do that. If the real estate market continues to improve we feel that we will be in very good shape going forward. Alan Jones will keep us informed.

ORGANIZATIONS:

Staff member Trish Martin has reported that many of our registered organizations have resumed their meetings. Bingo has not resumed, but they usually don't meet in the Summer. We are hopeful that they will come back in September. The Womens' Club is no longer with us as an organization after many years of service to the Community. With the exception of those two most of our organizations are back. We hope that they stay and that their confidence level is such that they will continue to come back.

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COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER REPORT – cont'd:

SPLASH PAD:

Our splash pad has seen tremendous usage this summer. Recreational activities with Jena and when Micaah was here, was phenomenal. We offered a lot to the community. The van purchase that the board approved last year was one of the best purchases we ever made. The kids had a blast at the last van trip to Ponce Inlet, and more and more people are showing interest in the van trips.

MAINTENANCE:

Since the last time we had our advisory board meeting on April 30th, we had Mid-State Electric come out and replace the annex building parking lot lights to all LED lighting. Also on May 15th we put LED lighting in front of the entrance to the annex building. As we go throughout the light change over, we will be replacing all our lights over to LED. We started on the outside, and about 25% of our outside lighting has been replaced, and Chip is getting estimates from Mid-State Electric for our community center and inside the auditorium. LED lighting is much cheaper to run and is a lot brighter. As soon as Chip gets the cost, it will be presented at our next board meeting. On June 24th we had to make a repair to the A/C Unit in the Sheriff's Office at a cost of \$294. On June 24th we had our annual fire alarm inspection and our fire alarm monitoring inspection conducted by ASI at a cost of \$355. On July 16th we had 25 yards of mulch delivered and we added the new mulch to whole front of the annex building. We have a pending delivery date for another 25 yards of mulch which we will be adding around the community center. Within the 10 days since we received the mulch for the annex building, mulch has gone up another \$100.

Unfortunately with the rise in construction and this COVID environment everything has been affected. We purchased a new membership photo card-making system for the annex building. The old cards have gone away and the new cards will be more professional. The cost for that system was \$1,295. We are still waiting for our IT Department to install and set up the software. New doggie waste stations have been installed in our ball park, and pictures of those have been placed in board members folders. We have many dog walkers in Marion Oaks and a lot of people utilize the ball park for their dogs. The two stations have been a big hit so far. When we get to better economic times, and we know our budget is in a good state we will bring up to the Board the possibility of expanding the park into some type of little doggie park. We will put together a proposal to include the cost of fencing, which would not be a huge expense. A lot of that ball park is not utilized and we believe that the residents here in Marion Oaks would appreciate it.

SPLASH PAD MAINTENANCE:

On July 20th we needed a repair to the splash pad. It was \$1,765. The issue was with our UV lighting. The UV lighting kills any of the bacteria the chlorine does not kill, and when that goes down, the whole system automatically shuts down, and we were down for three days. Chip contacted the company and got it up and running.

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COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER REPORT – cont'd:

INCIDENTS:

There are no issues to report at this time, except being contacted by the coach of MCYFL letting us know that some kids were riding dirt bikes at the park, but as far as the grounds we have had zero incidents.

Alice Mitchell asked if we had painted the splash pad, to which David Pierce responded stating that while they were down for three days Chip took the initiative to paint the splash pad.

Henry Munoz asked if the dirt bikers can be directed to the retention ponds to ride their bikes. David Pierce responded that dirt bikes should not be driven anywhere here in Marion Oaks. Also, David was told by the Sheriff's Dept. and also by our Legal Department that while we may have a video recording of something, no action can be taken by the Sheriff's Dept. unless the Sheriff physically catches them. If we do get the identification of where they live the Sheriff will stay close to their house until they ride back. Again, it has been minimal – we haven't had a lot of it.

OLD BUSINESS: Alan Jones, MSTU Director presented the board with Policies & Procedures manuals for the MSTU Recreation Facilities. Alan advised the Board that Marion Oaks had their own Policies and Procedures Manual as well as all the other MSTU Recreation and Community Centers, but our Policies & Procedures were combined and used as a guide for restructuring the new manual. There is not any significant change to our policies and procedures, but more so to the other community centers. This new manual will help alleviate the issue of the County having separate policies for each center. The manuals are for the Board to keep and review. There is a welcome letter that David Pierce prepared so that if anyone requests a copy they will get the manual accompanied with the letter so that they feel welcome, and understand what the mission of the community center is. In the back of the Policy and Procedures are indexes. Index A relates specifically to the Marion Oaks Community Center, and contains the rules and regulations specific to us, including costs associated with renting the facility, and the necessary forms. It is a little bit different for each community center so we wanted to keep those separate.

Currently this has been approved by our Legal Department and Alan is presenting it to this Board today for their review. After this if our Board has no questions or concerns, it will be presented to the Board of County Commissioners for their approval and will be put in place. Alice Mitchell asked to confirm that their Board did not have to make any decision on this today, to which Alan Jones replied that she was correct, the Board just needs to review it and get with David Pierce or Alan Jones with any questions or concerns.

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OLD BUSINESS - cont'd:

Alan wanted to introduce a new MSTU employee, Matt Leibfried who is the new manager at the Community Improvement Division and heads the team that does the road projects and the building projects in a lot of our MSTU's. Alice Mitchell welcomed him.

NEW BUSINESS: none

NEXT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Our next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. in the meeting room in Building B.

Chairperson Alice Mitchell asked the Board for a motion to adjourn, motion was made by Kathleen Martin and seconded by Bobby Whipple. Approved by all.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by Marlene Maldonado



Chairperson, Alice Mitchell



Date