

ADOPTED

MARION OAKS MSTU ADVISORY BOARD FOR RECREATION SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

9:30 AM

ROLL CALL:

Board Members

Kathleen Martin - Chairperson

Alice Mitchell

Carole LaMotte

Bobby Whipple

Joanne Coast – Absent (excused)

Marion County Marion Oaks MSTU Representatives

MSTU/Assessments Interim Director, Matthew Leibfried

Marion Oaks Community Center Manager: David Pierce

Marion Oaks Recreation Specialist: Kari Coates

Staff Assistant III: Marlene Perez Maldonado

General Public: See Sign In-Sheet

Chairperson Kathleen Martin called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM.

Chairperson Kathleen Martin requested everyone rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

VOTE ON ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Kathleen Martin presented the April 11, 2023 draft of minutes for adoption. A motion was made by Carole LaMotte and seconded by Bobby Whipple to accept the minutes. Approved by all.

RECREATION SPECIALIST REPORT – Kari Coates

- **Memberships:** Continue to grow – we are up to 2021 members
- **Quit Tobacco classes:** These classes continue
- **Dept. of Health and Langley Dental Buses:** Continue to offer their services at our location with the Health Bus coming twice a month and the Dental Bus coming once a month
- **Elder Options:** Continues to offer classes at our location
- **Master Gardeners:** Continues to provide their free plant clinic the first Thursday of each month
- **Food Truck Fridays:** 3-4 food trucks will be participating every week, community support varies each week
- **Youth Programs-Summer:** Included operation of the youth room from 8am – 8pm, art classes, art projects, movie van trips, Dave & Busters van trips, weekly water days and more. June, July and August we continued our regularly scheduled programs and activities.
- **Instructor lead classes:** continue to be offered and are doing well. This includes Salsa, Zumba, Martial Arts, TangSooDo, TaiChi, Zen Meditation, Art Classes, and Women's Strength Class.
- **Van Trips:** continue to be sold out
- **Theme Days:** have gone well and included a visit from Winnie the Pooh, and our bear mascot. Yes, we have a bear mascot and we are asking the community for suggestions for a bear name. This is going to be a contest.
- **Events:** 1) Job Fair – did well with over 100 people attending, 2) Quartermania did well and participants asked that it take place quarterly

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RECREATION SPECIALIST REPORT – Cont'd

- **Upcoming Events:** Back to School Bash will have a dozen community youth related organizations participating, including the Marion County Public School System, Heart of FL, Girl Scouts, Marion County Fire Services with the Children's Safety Division, and FL Dept. of Health. Yard games will be offered, along with music and food trucks. For anyone who wants to join in the fun, armbands can be purchased from Central Florida Bounce and Ocala Knockerball.
- **Additional Upcoming Events:** Community Yard Sale, Bootastic
- **Sponsorships:** VIP continues to be a sponsor for us, we also have a new sponsor Careplus and in September they will be sponsoring the cost of the live entertainment that we will be providing at the community dance which will be free.
- **Donation/Collection Drives:** 1) Annual School Supplies, 2) Eyeglass Recycle Program, 3) Ink Cartridge Recycle Program. Office depot will pay us \$3 for each cartridge we return which would be put on a gift card. This is something that was suggested to our past director and we were able to implement now and if all works out can also be done throughout Marion County.

COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER REPORT – David Pierce

STAFFING UPDATES: Our part time Recreation Leader Dakota Webster resigned to pursue another career and the position has been posted. We will interview for it within the next couple of weeks. The County recognized Marilyn Proberbs and Sugrim Ramsawh for their five years of Marion County Service. They both received a pin from the County.

MAINTENANCE: On July 3rd a motorist ran into the fence in front of the playground parking lot. They took down approximately 24 feet of fencing. Chip has already gotten quotes and the motorists insurance is responsible for that. The cost of that was \$2,240.

Splash Pad: We have had no issues with the splash pad this summer and David Pierce wanted to thank and recognize Chip Aman and Thomas Wilcox for the hard work that they put in behind the scenes which allows the splash pad to remain in good running condition.

Proposed Budget 2024: David Pierce reported that on Tuesday, July 11th he and Board Chairperson Kathy Martin attended with MSTU Director, Matt Leibfried as he presented the budget to the Board of County Commissioners. During the discussion part of this meeting we will go into the budget and break it down. It did not seem like there was any push back with our budget whatsoever.

Pickleball: Right now we have 74 active members in pickleball. We offer open play on Tuesdays and Fridays at 10am, Sundays at 8am, and we offer pickleball lessons for beginners Wednesdays at 6pm. There is also a pickleball team that residents have formed. The season was very successful and we will be starting up again in the Fall.

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COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER REPORT – Cont'd

Hike with Dave: Over the last several months we have offered hiking trips. We actually have a sponsor for the hikes to help with the purchase of water, Gatorade, etc. We do it once a month and walk 6-8 miles. It has been very well attended. We will continue to do it throughout the Summer and our next walk is scheduled for July 25th at 8:30 am. We will be going to Citrus Springs Trailhead. Several residents have requested biking. In the Fall David will look into that and see if we can transport people's bicycles and start along the walking trail on the Florida Greenway. It will probably be 10-15 miles each month.

INCIDENTS: We are having some issues in our outdoor restrooms. Mostly with the youth and some vandalism, eg., toilet paper and stuffing toilets. We are keeping the bathrooms locked at 6pm and staff is out there to let anyone in that is in need of a restroom. Other than that everything is running smoothly.

Kari Coates wanted to add that the Civic Association had a Clean Up Marion Oaks day a few weeks ago. Participating along with them were Marion County, our Recreation Dept., and MSTU General Svcs. Wastepro also participated. Residents were able to bring whatever it is they wanted to get rid of from appliances, household trash, yard trash, tires, etc.. Part of that event was crowning the King of Marion Oaks and that crown was given to Miguel Sanchez for all the work he's doing within the community as far as cleaning it up and being out there every single day in the heat, rain, and cold weather picking up trash to try to keep the community clean.

David Pierce remarked that it was a great community event. He also stated that the Deed Restrictions Office is making a big difference in this community. He expected to find a lot more garbage than what he did. Areas that were known to be dumping areas were relatively clean. Marion Oaks should be proud.

Kathy Martin asked if any identifying information is found in the garbage does the County do anything with that. David Pierce responded in the affirmative and stated that our Director, Matt is having some of his staff take the code enforcement test to become certified code enforcement officers so that they can follow through in those type situations. This is going to be a very useful tool.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS None

Outcome of July 11th Proposed Budget 2024 presentation to BOCC – David Pierce

Our budget is in the strongest position it has ever been in since 2005 due in part to the increase of property values and new construction in our area. Our assessment has increased from \$963,046 to \$1,341,555; a \$400,000 increase. That is the assessment we collect from the Marion Oaks residents to supplement our budget. Next year it is most likely we will be in an even stronger position. Along with that, our projected income that we will receive from rentals at the community center will increase to \$112,000. The outlook is very positive. An additional part time recreation leader position has been added to assist with the future dog park that was approved by the Board. Residents have also requested that we open on Saturdays, so that person would be used to fill both of those duties. Hopefully construction will start in October.

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Outcome of July 11th Proposed Budget 2024 presentation to BOCC – Cont'd

With all the new homes that are being built we have more families than we've ever had before. We really have to expand to keep up with the influx of people. We now have a capital improvement fund that now has \$463,838 in the budget. That's almost half a million dollars for future projects. We don't need to be spending money wastefully, but we do need to take care of our residents and make sure that we are looking to their needs. Some of the residents, for example the pool players are concerned about how crowded the Billiards room can get. 17 people in that area is very tight and we need to find a way to expand, and get more pool tables.

Another area of concern is the gym. Residents are complaining that the gym is too small. At night there is some frustration. We also need to look at opening on Saturdays since these families work during the week. Another area of concern are our pickleball courts. Some of our players are going to other pickleball courts because they can't get in to our courts here. We need to be attentive to what our residents needs are and expand where needed and try to get ahead of the curve.

Even from an employees' standpoint, we have concerns about storage space in our buildings. One of the groups asked to have us store something and we had to tell them we have no storage space. We actually don't even have sufficient garage space to keep our vehicles in. We are also running out of rental space and need to expand in that area.

David Pierce asked that the Board please keep in mind that if they see something that could benefit us as far as future projects that will help keep us ahead of the budget to let him know. If anyone does think of anything, they can come see him.

NEXT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Our next advisory board meeting will be October 10, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by Marlene Perez Maldonado



Chairperson, Kathleen Martin



Date