

ADOPTED

MARION OAKS MUNICIPAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD FOR RECREATION SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

9:30 AM

ROLL CALL:

Board Members

Kathleen Martin - Chairperson

Alice Mitchell

Muriel "Mim" Chappell-Eber

Rebecca "Becky" Lewis

Teresa "Terry" Newcombe

Marion County Marion Oaks MS Representatives

Marion Oaks Community Center Manager, David Pierce

Marion Oaks Facilities Trades Supervisor, Charles Aman

Marion Oaks Recreation Specialist, Kari Coates - Not Present

Marion Oaks Recreation Supervisor, Eva Sanders

General Public: See Sign In-Sheet

Community Center Manager Dave Pierce called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Pierce requested everyone rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

VOTE ON ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Kathleen Martin presented the October 14, 2025, draft of minutes for adoption. An affirmative motion was made by Muriel "Mim" Chappell-Eber, followed by Teresa "Terry" Newcombe and Alice Mitchell. Approved by all.

REPORTS

RECREATION SPECIALIST - Kari Coates (*presented by Dave in Kari's absence*)

Van & Motorcoach Trips

Pierce highlighted Kari's offering of continued van and motorcoach trips to members and the general public:

- Noting the St. Augustine Night of Lights – a full bus trip allowing members to see the spectacular Christmas lights of the city.

"She goes about everywhere in Central Florida you could possibly go," Pierce said.

October November December January programs activities and events with Kari

- Monthly Community Dinners (including The Price is Right and Newlywed Game)
- Holiday Luncheons
- Increase in fitness trainers, keeping the full building overflowing with activity
- Light Up Marion Oaks & Holiday Extravaganza

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"She keeps herself very busy; she keeps the Marion Oaks residents very, very well entertained," Pierce said.

RECREATION SUPERVISOR – Eva Sanders

2025 was successful in terms of programs/events

- Our most attended weekly program was Playtime with the bunnies (We had anywhere from 20 – 115 attendees gathered to interact with the community center bunnies. It posed no cost and was easy to execute
- Beginner Belly Dance class had anywhere from 6-11 attendees. No out-of-pocket costs as I have my own equipment.
- Kid's Pickleball was another program that performed well. We regularly had over 10 children across all age ranges. Parents would often join as well. No cost.
- Content creation class (Aug. 8) brought 9 people with varying goals across different social platforms together to learn about content creation strategies to grow their audiences. No cost.
- Indoor Community Luau (Aug. 24) brought together 70+ people to enjoy the festivities of a Luau in the comfort of the auditorium for just \$8 per ticket.
- Talent show (Sept. 30) brought a total of 11 acts. Concessions were low cost and medals also fell under low-cost items.

2026 Programs

- Giant volleyball regularly attracts more than 10 players of all ages to engage in camaraderie on the court.
- Saturday Block-out over 100 people along with nearly a dozen vendors came to bring the community together through mutual support. Vendors pay no fee to come out.
- Dinner Social for individuals with intellectual disabilities. A free event in a low stimulating environment for individuals with intellectual disabilities seeking socialization.
- Pickleball Tournament. \$10 per bracket; \$12 if you want to do a second, and children are free.
- Rock and Roll Skating Party aims to bring people on wheels of all ages together in a safe and controlled environment. We will seek out vendors.
- One Short Mile is a fun run inspired by the movie Wicked in collaboration with Girl Scouts of West Central Florida (GSWCF). Participation fee will be \$2 per person to secure the runner's spot. Complimentary water and popsicles will be included, and we will seek out food vendors as well.

FACILITIES TRADES SUPERVISOR – Charles Aman

- New lights were put up at tennis courts at cost of \$2,500. New fence is being worked on.
- Two A/C units went down at the Annex Building. Fan motors went out on Unit 2 & 10. Each motor was \$770. "We're still waiting on one motor to come in," Aman said.
- Mulching completed around the Annex Building, Playground, Buildings A & B, and at Dog Park.
- Completed annual maintenance on all vehicles & equipment.
- Preparing to trim trees and perform annual maintenance on splash pad.

COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER – David Pierce

- Dave highlighted Wendy's contribution to programming. Every Tuesday night she stimulates family outdoor play with her Family Fun Nights. "She's out there in the dark. How she gets all

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these people I don't know," Pierce said. "She's been a tremendous addition to our staff." Mondays she does Masterpiece Mondays.

- Shuffleboard has become increasingly popular in Marion Oaks. Residents Ruthie and Bryan formed a shuffleboard club; they average between 20-24 players each Monday night, and Tuesday mornings.

Staffing Updates / Developments

Currently we have two vacant positions:

- Full Time Lead Custodian (vacated when Isander "Nico" Montanez accepted a position with Animal Services in September 2025). We did do one round of interviews, which was unsuccessful. A second round of interviews is scheduled for January 14, 2026.
- Full Time Recreation Leader (became vacant when Eva Sanders was interviewed and selected for the Recreation Supervisor Position). Interviewing for that position January 14, 2026 as well.

"Eva's position was created to expand recreation activities for the most parts on the nights and the weekends – something that we haven't been able to do before," Pierce said. "Active recreation, keeping people moving and then trying to generate interest with families and the younger generations."

Pierce reported an incident on Sunday, January 4th to board members. Recreation Leader Victor Adams was struck in the head by a youth while attending the restrooms. There was a commotion in the restrooms. There were five youth in the restrooms, and as he asked them to leave, one of them hit him in the back of the head, causing Victor to fall to the ground. The Sheriff's Office was called, the youth had taken off from that point. Pierce noted an arrest will be made if the suspect can be identified.

Board member Kathy Martin questioned if there were cameras present to identify the subject. Pierce noted that no cameras are present in the bathroom. Staff and the Sheriff's Office reviewed the camera footage of the grounds but is too grainy to make a positive identification.

Budget Update

Over 100 yards of mulch has been delivered and installed at the Annex Building, Playground & Dog Park Areas. There is a 10-foot area of fencing being installed around the tennis court (cost \$11,620). We purchased two new ProMaxima treadmills (cost \$5,148.97 a piece, and average 5 years of life) using State Contract pricing. We purchased a new Ferris 60-inch commercial zero-turn mower replacing an older mower. This purchase was done at Yard Stop at a price of \$10,813.97, utilizing State Contract pricing.

Fall Frenzy Pickleball Tournament

The Fall Frenzy Pickleball Tournament on October 16th was extremely successful. Without Mim and Tom taking the lead on that, it couldn't have been done. The tournaments are getting larger and larger. We are hosting another one on February 7th. At the Fall Frenzy Tournament we had a kids bracket for the first time, it was an absolute blast. They will be part of our tournaments from this point forward.

AED for Building B

At our last meeting, we discussed the purchase of an AED defibrillator for Building B. That purchase was made in November; it's been set up. We now have an AED that's in the maintenance office here and in the Annex building as well.

Budget Workshop

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The budget workshop is set for February 10th. This is a very crucial time for us. We are looking to either expand the amenities we have out here, expand our facilities, improve our facilities. It's very important we try to hit up and get information from as many residents as we possibly can on what they're looking for. Board members are urged to reach out to friends and family living in Marion Oaks and ask them what they'd like to see out here added, improved upon etc. in preparation of our pre-budget workshop. There's been a lot of input from surveys distributed by Deed Restrictions.

At the workshop, we're going to look at getting the buildings painted. If there's someone on the board that would like to take the lead on color selection... These buildings were last painted in 2010. We should do them all at the same time, in my opinion. The colors are a little dated.

There is significant damage in building A from the roof leak that needs to be repaired, including sheet rock and miscellaneous work. A color change could happen inside building A at that time as well. Citizen Florence "Punky" Charbonneau asked about the status of the curtains in building A. Pierce noted the last time they were changed was over 20 years ago, but there is a high cost to replacement. Previous Board talks included replacing the curtains or removing them to add dark tint. Charbonneau suggested putting real stage curtains in the auditorium as participation increases, and Marion Oaks' presence as an entertainment center is solidified.

Anything that you can see – this is the time to bring it up.

"That building is more popular than ever," Pierce said. "You can't even get into that building on a Friday or Saturday night unless you're willing to wait 9 months."

Pierce said the MSTU director advised that adding Wi-Fi to the auditorium was not cost effective. When priced, it was several thousand dollars and a high monthly maintenance. As of right now, that's totally put on hold, Pierce said.

Two New Board Members

The two new board members were formally introduced: Rebecca "Becky" Lewis and Teresa "Terry" Newcombe.

Lewis has been in Marion Oaks since 2003. She has served on the Marion Oaks Civic Association Board for eight years, president of the women's club for eight years, served in the capacity as a community outreach person welcoming new businesses to Marion Oaks, solicited for books printed in Marion Oaks, director for the parade for many years, as well as Meals on Wheels, and now works at the Lutheran Church Pantry on Tuesdays. She runs a travel agency business in the community.

Newcombe has been in the community for three years and is trying to get involved in more things within the community. She participates in exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the community center. She volunteered a great deal in her previous hometown in Connecticut, and now it trying to get more involved in Ocala.

Chair Replacement in Building A

Board Members were presented three color options for chair replacement in Building A – black with gold trim, black with black trim, and burgundy with gold trim. They are vinyl. Over 500 chairs will be ordered. After consideration, board members chose the black-on-black option. Board member Muriel "Mim" Chappell-Eber noted it's a safe choice considering they do not know what color they will paint the auditorium yet. Martin, Chappell-Eber and Newcombe preferred the black option, while Lewis and Mitchell preferred the burgundy with gold option. Black on black was chosen 3-2.

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Set a Date to View Other Community Centers

Following up on a previous board discussion, the Board decided to set a date to view other community centers, touring their facilities and pools. Facilities discussed included Summer Glen, Glen Aire, Silver Springs Shores Community Center. Pierce suggested taking the van and traveling together.

More discussion was held concerning the Glen Aire pool. Florence "Punky" Charbonneau said it closed because Marion Oaks residents went in and did a lot of damage. They cut the fence, broke into the building, and were caught swimming in there on several occasions. Glen Aire has pressed charges against these individuals. Board Member Kathy Martin said she'd prefer an indoor pool safe from vandalism. Citizen Janis Brennan said the occurrences at the Glen Aire pool were not isolated, and happened over the span of many years, and there was a high cost for residents to keep it up.

Pierce noted installing a pool is the number one request at civic meetings.

A touring date was set for March 27 at 10am.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen Joanne Coast asked the board if there was any discussion about signage and changing the name of the buildings. Pierce said there has been some talk about unit signs in the community. In 2011 a decision was not made to what the name of the Annex building would be, so the "Annex" was always supposed to be a temporary name, Pierce said. Any suggestions would need to be an agenda item.

NEXT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Kathy Martin reminded the Board of our next meeting, a pre-budget workshop, on February 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. and announced intent to adjourn. A motion was made by Muriel "Mim" Chappell-Eber and affirmed by Kathy Martin.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by Gwen Bittner



Chairperson, Kathleen Martin



Date