

ADOPTED

MARION OAKS MUNICIPAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD FOR RECREATION SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

9:30 AM

ROLL CALL:

Board Members

Kathleen Martin - Chairperson

Alice Mitchell

Joanne Coast - Not Present

Muriel "Mim" Chappell-Eber

Marion County Marion Oaks MS Representatives

Marion Oaks Community Center Manager, David Pierce

Marion Oaks Facilities Trades Supervisor, Charles Aman - Not Present

Marion Oaks Recreation Specialist, Kari Coates

General Public: See Sign In-Sheet

Chairperson Kathleen Martin called the meeting to order at 9:42 AM.

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

VOTE ON ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Kathleen Martin presented the July 15, 2025, draft of minutes for adoption. A motion was made by Mim Eber seconded by Alice Mitchell to accept the minutes. Approved by all.

REPORTS

RECREATION SPECIALIST - Kari Coates

Weekly Classes

The following continue to offer weekly class for members as part of their membership:

- 19 exercise classes
- Outside instructors – we offer 13 classes a week
- 2 In House Pool Tournaments
- Masterpiece Mondays has not missed a beat and continues to do well; Wendy is now running this program
- Belly Dancing with staff member Eva

*** *All of these will continue*

Weekly free community programs and activities included:

- 2x a week shuffleboard (new staff member Wendy is overseeing)
- 2x a week pickleball lessons w/ Marilyn & Jose – they continue to do a great job and gain new participants weekly
- Master Gardener - first Thursday of the Month (we have also added Sell & Swap Plants Flowers, and supplies during this time)

Marion Oaks Plant Swap takes place on the 3rd Saturday of each month

ADOPTED

Health Department Mobile Health Bus comes 2x month – we are their largest enrolled site
Walgreens is now offering flu shots at our location once a month

July August Sept October programs activities and events with Kari

- Back-to-School Expo took place with dozens of vendors and school supply give-a-ways. We had great donations of school supplies provided along with cash donations, where Kari was able to purchase a great amount of additional supplies
- Kids Toy Sale
- Christmas in July
- Van and Motorcoach trips with 13 trips available from July until Oct 9
- Back-to-School Glow Party was extremely successful again this year – Staff Member Marilyn assisted
- Community Dinners include: July 24 Pasta and Live music with John Goulet, August 19 and September 18 Newlywed Game theme – all did very well
- Teddy Bear Picnic – Staff member Gwen ran this for me while I was out and she did great
- Pirates Day – success in finding treasure with all ages participating, we had an outstanding amount participate this year
- Annual Fall Health Fair – Continues year after year growing and was successful
- Annual Community Yard Sale – original date was rained out and rescheduled for Oct 11. We had about 40+ set up to sell, with a couple hundred people looking for deals. This year, staff member Jose joined in early to help assist getting all the sellers in place and he was a great help, especially with him being bilingual.
- Fall Prevention Class – had a nice turn out
- Comic Book Party – was cancelled due to staffing
- Cancer Expo – had a dozen plus vendors providing wonderful information and support
- Monthly themed days have also taken place

Upcoming Months new activities and programs are being added but here are just a few:

Van and motorcoach trips *(11 more scheduled between now and the end of the year)*

October

Oktober Fest this Thursday tickets were \$8

Annual BOOtastic safe trick-or-treat takes place on October 25; any board members that are able to assist at station would be great. With the BOOtastic, I am continuing to work on sponsors for candy donations and sponsors for safe trick-or-treat stations.

Halloween Party for adults and families October 28 for a cost of \$8.

Dessert Cook off

For November

Nacho Bar Day, PJ Party, Jersey Day, Family Feud Community Dinner, Sesame Street, Monopoly Day, Thanksgiving Luncheon, Can/Dry good food drive to benefit our local food pantries

ADOPTED

We will also be offering a free Christian music concert thanks to "We Are One" musical group who is donating their services this will take place on November 20.

For December

Cookie exchange, Community Dinner Price is Right, Christmas Luncheon and of course a number of Christmas themed activities

We also have our Annual Holiday Extravaganza, Light Up Marion Oaks (were I am continuing to work on donations, vendors, entertainment). This will be the first time we have done both in one day and all at night.

Due to scheduling, Night Under the Stars Dance - will be taking place in early 2026.

The first quarter of 2026 scheduling of events, programs and activities are already underway.

Members in general have been extremely busy, and numbers are growing each day.

Wendy has added a new family night on Tuesdays with her goal of getting parents and families involved with each other; her planned activities take place outside. Wendy is doing a great job.

Both Wendy and Gwen, our newest employees, have been a great help in jumping in to help assist me without missing a beat.

COMMUNITY CENTER MANAGER – David Pierce

Maintenance (*presented by Dave in Chip's absence*)

- Staff will be wrapping up on mowing season over the next couple of weeks.
- Current staff has been doing double duty custodian work and will continue to do so until the Lead Custodian position is filled.
- Staff is currently applying much to the playground. There is 50 yards coming and some already applied. Mulching around the Annex will start next week.
- Splash pad passed final State inspection of the year yesterday. Chip and Tom have done a great job keeping the pad up and running all season.
- Once mulching is complete, staff will start work on tree trimming around the grounds. As the mowing season ends, they'll work on cosmetic maintenance - touching up the splash pad, painting, and anything they need a chance to do when the mowing is at its height.

Staffing Updates / Developments

Isander "Nico" Montanez, Lead Custodian, accepted a position with Marion County Animal Shelter effective September 23. Nico was utilized in many capacities with our recreation programming, including being the driving force behind our annual Hispanic cultural event on September 20. We wish him the best of luck and he will definitely be missed.

We conducted several interviews on October 2 and hope to have this position filled shortly.

We recently advertised a new position, Recreation Supervisor, geared to create and expand on active recreation programming during our PM and weekend hours. Interviews will be scheduled next week and hope to have this position filled soon.

ADOPTED

Budget Update

I put a copy of our new budget for 2025-26, that went into effect October 1, in your folders. Mainly due to the Marion Oaks population increase over the last couple of years, I believe that our budget is in very good shape. On the downside, with all the people moving in our community, the center seems to be shrinking as space is getting tight in a lot of areas. During our pre-budget workshop meeting, I spoke on how many residents are asking about having a community pool. I will be obtaining some pool designs and estimated costs to bring back to this board to see if a community pool is something we would like to explore further. Besides adding a community pool, these are some of the regular requests I have been receiving from different groups and residents: a separate larger exercise room, senior services needs larger area, more rental availability as wait time is up to 9 months for building A, large state-of-the-art conference room, deed restrictions needs more space, full size indoor gym, annex building needs more room to expand recreation programming, more outdoor sports courts, outdoor restrooms at ballpark. Considering the state of our budget and rapid growth of Marion Oaks, we really need to look hard at our facilities as a whole and make decisions on priorities of what is needed for expansion or addition to what we currently have to offer our residents.

Dave suggested a special meeting to go over the options between a pool and new building in the same area, and touring pool facilities with board members to see what other community facilities have for their members to enjoy.

Kudos to Kari for what she has coming in for offerings.

Advisory Board Vacant Position

Applications have been sent to Administration for replacement of Mr. Bobby Whipple. Waiting to hear back on selection.

Fall Frenzy Pickleball Tournament

The Fall Frenzy Pickleball Tournament is this weekend and we anticipate a thriving sporting event. This year, we are welcoming kids to play for free and have 4-6 teams on the Youth roster. Adult participants can choose from Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles in the under 55 and over 55 categories. A special kudos to Board Member Mim Eber for taking the lead organizing the tournament, scheduling the roster, and making sure everyone has a partner to play with. She has been instrumental to the success of this tournament, doing 90% of the work necessary to ensure its success.

AED FOR BUILDING B

Board Member Mim Eber brought forward the purchase of an AED defibrillator for Building B. Highlighted was the inconvenience in an emergency to obtain the AED location in building C. Dave noted that a new unit could be purchased for around \$2,600, it would likely be located in Marion Oaks Facilities Trades Supervisor, Charles Aman's office, and that all staff would be trained on proper usage. Mim Eber made motion to buy the AED defibrillator, seconded by Alice Mitchell. Kathleen Martin approved.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

After a long discussion, public comment was made by citizen Janis Brennan, who suggested looking at the Glen Aire pool. Brennan noted that vandalism/upkeep led them to close it and wondered if there is money in the budget to keep up with the upkeep of a pool amenity. She pondered if most citizens utilizing the community center would benefit to using a pool, or would they benefit to having a larger building or gymnasium more.

ADOPTED

Citizen Rebecca Lewis commented on the current state of the Marion Senior Services program, which was once housed in building A, but currently operates in the Annex Lunch Room. She suggested providing a space for Senior Services to have a large program, since they cannot currently take any more participants despite a large and growing need in Ocala.

NEXT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Kathy Martin reminded the Board of our next meeting on January 13th, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. and asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Kathy Martin and seconded by Alice Mitchell.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Minutes Submitted by Gwen Bittner

Kathleen Martin

Chairperson, Kathleen Martin

1-13-26

Date