



City of Naples

City Council Chamber
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 34102

Community Services Advisory Board Meeting – January 27, 2026 – 2:31 p.m.

It is noted for the record that all documentation electronically appended hereto is also contained in the file for this meeting with the City Clerk's Office.

1) Call To Order

Chair Muracco called the meeting to order and presided.

2) Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Christina Muracco, Chair

Cassie Barone, Vice Chair

Laura Oscher

Nathaniel Smith

Suzanne Klym, Alternate Member

Board Members Absent:

Brian Smith

Staff Members Present:

Chad Merritt, Community Services Director

Heather Shields, Urban Forest Manager

Aaron Hopkins, Dep. Dir. of Community Services

Ali Duran, Executive Assistant

3) Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Barone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Announcements

None.

5) Public Comment

None.

6) Changes to The Agenda

None.

7) Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Barone to APPROVE the November 18, 2025, meeting minutes; seconded by Oscher and carried 5-0 (Barone-yes, Klym-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith-absent, N. Smith-yes, Muracco-yes).

[November 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#) 

8) Regular Agenda

8.A) Approval of the Naples Urban Forest Green Print 2025.

Community Services Director Chad Merritt introduced Urban Forest Manager Heather Shields, who provided an overview of the 2025 Urban Forest Green Print for the City, noting that the document outlined the accomplishments in 2025 and the goals for 2026. She explained that the City retained Arbor Pro, a company based in California, to complete a comprehensive tree census and update its tree inventory, which was last completed in 2019. She noted that the Urban Forest had 20,323 inventoried, managed trees and palms, with 149 different tree species represented in the City, worth over \$162 million. Urban Forest Manager Shields announced that the City was honored as a Tree City USA for the 28th year and a Tree City of the World for the 6th year, as well as earning the Tree City USA Growth Award for the 18th consecutive year. She also mentioned that the City of Naples Tree Fest 2025 had its largest attendance at 300 people, and that Tree Fest 2026 will be held on June 6th.

Responding to questions, Urban Forest Manager Shields stated that property owners were not permitted to install plantings and trees in the right-of-way without a permit, except for the rights-of-way and medians by the Naples Beach Hotel, which are the responsibility of the Naples Beach Hotel.

MOTION by Oscher to RECOMMEND APPROVAL of the Naples Urban Forest Green Print 2025; seconded by N. Smith and carried 5-0 (Barone-yes, Klym-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith-absent, N. Smith-yes, Muracco-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [2025 Naples Urban Forest Green Print](#) 

8.B) Approval of the Level of Service Report for 2025.

Community Services Director Chad Merritt presented the 2025 Level of Service Report (LOS), announced that there were no deficiencies, and noted that it reflected the standards set forth by the Comprehensive Plan and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). He stated that the NRPA standards identified in the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan were outdated and will be updated in the near future. Questions were answered during the brief discussion.

MOTION by N. Smith to RECOMMEND APPROVAL of the 2025 Level of Service; seconded by N. Smith and carried 5-0 (Barone-yes, Klym-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith-absent, N. Smith-yes, Muracco-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#) 

8.C) Director and Staff Report.

Community Services Director Chad Merritt informed the Board that staff had initiated the process of updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and that a survey would be mailed to a randomly selected group of residents to solicit feedback. He further reported that staff had recently completed a pre-bid meeting for the Cambier Park playground and that the Board would be presented with proposed designs in the near future for recommendation to the City Council. Director Merritt also highlighted recent employee promotions, noting that Jake Jenkins was promoted to Marina Manager, Sydney Noble to Dockmaster, and Cecilia Urbina to Administrative Specialist Senior. He additionally provided updates regarding playground replacement projects, installation of shade structures at the Tennis Center, Naples Pier construction, beach end repairs, and median projects.

Community Services Deputy Director Aaron Hopkins provided updates on Recreation Division activities, including River Park Aquatic Center pool updates, results of the annual Christmas Parade, social media viewership metrics, Tennis Center membership, City Dock fuel sales and transient slip rental rates. Questions were answered throughout the presentation.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Director and Staff Report - January 2026](#) 

9) Member Communications

Member N. Smith stated he attended a performance at the Norris Center and was very impressed with the staff and the performance and encouraged residents to support the Norris Center.

10) Adjourn

3:13 p.m.

Approved: 3/17/2026.