

City of Newport  
Parks & Recreation Committee  
Minutes 01-21-2009

ROLL CALL: Members present were: Paul Reed, Karen Smith, Susan Boehlert, Sandra Surber, Sarah Follett, Roger Holstein. Absent: Ed Simon.

Also present: Lon Brusselback, City Council liaison.

Staff present: Jim Protiva, Judy Mayhew, Bobbie Nyhus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Sarah moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2008 minutes. Seconded by Roger. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Susan moved to appoint Paul as Chairperson. Seconded by Roger. All voted Aye and the motion was approved.

Susan moved to appoint Sarah as Vice-Chairperson. Seconded by Paul. All vote Aye, and the motion was approved.

CONCERNS OR COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: Jim reported that the Recreation Superintendent position was open and being advertised. He stated that it would be approximately one month before they would conduct interviews. Activity on trail concepts has been occurring with various landowners and community members. There are several areas being discussed and many details to be worked out. The Sports Program is in full-swing, with over 150 kids of various ages playing league basketball. Jim stated that they were very close to an agreement with the Swim Team and that the City's legal team had approved it. Sarah noted that she had attended the Swim Team meeting and that they had really stepped up to the challenge, forming new committees for finances, etc. There are now 69 kids participating in the Swim Team. Lan asked if the agreement was a new one and how many years it would cover. Jim reported that it will be a 2 year agreement and is an overhaul of the previous one. The Senior Center has applied for a Community Development Block Grant for an expansion and upgrade to the building. They are looking to improve the downstairs level and the area under the kitchen. Park Maintenance is looking at new projects, waiting for the weather to improve. All their equipment has been serviced and a lot of pruning and weeding is being done.

RECREATION CENTER BUSINESS: Bobbie Nyhus reported on the Mentor's Matter Program, noting that it was running under a grant through the Recreation Department for 9 months. The program is very similar to the Big Brothers and Sisters programs. There are currently seven matches with ongoing pursuit for more. There will be a fundraiser on January 31<sup>st</sup> to benefit the program.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Jim displayed the conceptual designs for a new park near the Performing Arts Center. There is a group of people working on the concept of the “Coast Park” plan. It would have large play structures, hillside slides, benches and a small performing area. Currently there is no funding for the park, but once the design is completed the funding source would be the next step.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Jim stated that parking signs for the Senior Center were being discussed. Currently, the signs do not state what hours are for Senior parking only, and there was debate that they should read between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. the parking spaces were for Seniors only. The committee discussed this idea and requested that Jim take the suggestion to the Senior Committee.

A request was made to check on the water pressure of the drinking fountains at the Performing Arts Center. It was noted that fountains inside and outside of the Center had very low pressure and were hard to drink from.

**OTHER:** There was a discussion regarding traffic near the Pool and the concern for pedestrian and children safety. It was noted that the crosswalk was not painted and that cars rarely stopped at the Stop sign at the corner. Jim stated that he would immediately address the situation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2009.