

City of Newport
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
January 19th, 2011
MINUTES

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Karen Smith at 8:37 a.m.
2. Roll Call. Members present were: Susan Boehlert, Roger Holstein, Sandra Surber, Karen Smith. Absent: Ed Simon.

Also present: Sandra Roumagoux, City Council liaison.

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Protiva.

3. Approval of Minutes. Roger moved to approve the minutes of December 15, 2010. Seconded by Sandra. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.
4. Concerns or Comments from Citizens. Two of the applicants for the Parks and Rec. Committee were in attendance and asked if the current committee would be addressing the selection of new members.
5. Committee Business: Jim noted that there were currently 2 vacancies on Parks and Rec. Committee and that historically the Mayor had appointed those positions. The new Mayor, Mark McConnell, has elected to have the committee make recommendations to him and the City Council for approval. The Committee discussed the ways they might come up with recommendations and decided to review the 7 applications and then conduct interviews on Thursday, January 27th at 8:30 a.m.
6. New Business: Jim updated the Committee on the new Mayor and Council and noted that Council members had been shuffled around from one Committee to another, as Lon Brusselback had been the Parks and Rec. Liaison; Sandy Roumagoux was now filling that position. One of the goals the Council is working on is to look at all departments and the services they provide and specifically to the management of the Rec. Center and the Pool. This could include a request for proposals to see if a non-profit is interested in running the Rec. Center and Pool, and if they can do it cheaper than it is being run now. They will be taking a look at the whole operation of the Rec. Center and the Pool and if some cost-savings can be realized. This will happen at the March 7th Council work session. They will also be discussing the condition and future of the Pool, and that given the bond measure for a new pool was only defeated by 250 votes, it is clear that there is a strong desire for a pool in this community. Sandra asked if the department was making any efforts to increase revenues. Jim explained that staff has a marketing group

that meets to find ways to aggressively market the Rec. Center and Pool services. It appears that the marketing efforts are working, as our number of annual pass holders has increased. Part of the revenue increase is due to the 3-year plan to increase user fees, implemented by the City Council. Several new programs have been implemented, including Zumba, a nation-wide popular course. The Department is also putting a Celtic Festival together, which will be held in June.

7. Old Business. Jim advised the Committee on the progress of the Senior Center remodel, and noted that the problems with the flooding in the lower floor had been corrected. The grant for the remodel will pay for a portion of the fix, and the City will pay for the rest.

Jim noted that there are not enough funds to complete the Deco Park project, so with the money that is available, the District has decided to just build the pylon at the corner of Highway 101 and Hurbert Street. As monies become available they will hopefully finish the park.

8. Report of the Director: Jim shared a hand-out with the Committee which he had used to inform new Council members. The two pages showed basic statistics and usage of the four divisions of the Department.

Jim asked the Committee if they wanted to vote on a new Chairperson for the next year. Roger made a motion to nominate Ed Simon, Susan seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion was approved. Karen Smith was appointed as the Vice-Chairperson.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16th, 2011