

City of Newport
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
November 16th, 2011
MINUTES

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Ed Simon at 8:34 a.m.
2. Roll Call. Members present were Ed Simon, Roger Holstein, Nancy Steinberg, Karen Smith, Sandra Surber and Sandy Roumagoux, City Council liaison. Absent: Susan Boehlert and Jimmy Rodriquez.

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Protiva.

3. Approval of Minutes. Nancy moved to approve the minutes of the October 19th, 2011 meeting. Seconded by Sandra. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.
4. Concerns or Comments from Citizens. None.
5. Report of the Director. Jim noted that the City Council had discussed the Park Rules that the Committee had discussed at their last meeting. Staff had been working with NPD to condense the rules as requested by Council. The one issue that was causing concern was the decision on whether to allow firearms in City parks. The Committee discussed the issue and how it might be enforced.

Jim informed the Committee that John Johnston, Buildings Operation Coordinator had been transferred from the Parks and Recreation Department to work in the City Manager's Department. He is working with Jerry Sabanskas, who is in charge of all City buildings maintenance. Jerry will be retiring in May and the City Manager wanted someone to learn Jerry's position before he retired. Parks and Recreation may request his service as needed. Jim noted that Dene Bateman had given his notice this week. He has been a part time Parks Maintenance Worker who is a long time Newport Resident. Jim also noted that Margaret Janis, a long time staff member, would be retiring as of Friday, November 17th. Jim brought Margaret into the meeting to thank her for her years of service.

Jim mentioned the article that had been in the newspaper regarding the Coast Park development. The article was very positive and noted the many volunteers that had been involved in putting it all together. There was also a recent letter to the editor from a citizen who wrote about their appreciation in the handling of the herbicide use policy development.

Jim updated the Committee on the final work on Coast Park. The slide has been delivered this week and staff is working on how best to place it securely. There is also a pavilion that will be placed up near the ship that will have a picnic table.

6. New Business. Jim noted that our sports programs are doing so well that we are desperate for coaches. We are in need of about 10 coaches to facilitate all the teams, and Liam is scouring the county to come up with folks who are willing to help out.

The pool is seeing significant usage increases in evening lap swims, notably people from the NOAA boats.

7. Old Business. Jim noted that there is a final Herbicide policy passed by the Council which has not been released to the public yet, but would be soon.

The group that will now be putting on the Celtic Festival requested the City Council approve the transfer of surplus souvenirs, t-shirts, trinkets and equipment to them for their future use. The group also requested financial compensation from revenues made from the festival. The Council did not object to the transfer of materials, but did not indicate a desire to transfer any funds.

8. Other. Jim mentioned that the Parks and Recreation Facilities Management Review Task Force has been meeting regularly and were scheduled to meet with the Council at a work session on Monday, but that had been postponed until December. Jim said that he felt that the Task Force would not be giving a recommendation to the Council to privatize the Department, but there was discussion about determining a dollar amount to subsidize it. Ed added that one of the main topics of discussion was the forming of a foundation to support the subsidy needed to run the Department. He noted that it was important to realize that it would not happen overnight and may take 5-7 years to build up the foundation and its resources.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2011