

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

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by at 8:32 a.m.
2. Roll Call. Members present were: Susan Boehlert, Nancy Steinberg, Sandra Surber, Jimmy Rodriguez. Absent: Ed Simon, Roger Holstein, Karen Smith, and Sandra Roumagoux, City Council liaison.

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Protiva.
3. Introduction of New Members: Jim introduced Nancy Steinberg and Jimmy Rodriguez.
4. Approval of Minutes. Susan moved to approve the minutes of January 16, 2011. Seconded by Jimmy. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.
5. Concerns or Comments from Citizens. Stephanie Simpson asked for clarification on the rumors she had heard about the status of the City Pool, and wanted to show her support for the pool and its programs. Stephanie discussed the various programs that are run through the pool and how the City could upgrade the building that we currently have, rather than building a new one. Jim noted that the City Council would be discussing the idea of privatizing the Rec. Center and Pool at its March 7th noon meeting and gave the Committee an overview of the revenues and expenditures generated by both. Stephanie noted that the YMCA had previously run the pool and failed, which was then taken back by the City. She noted that she was more than willing to help promote and assist the pool and its programs.
6. Report of the Director: Jim noted that the Rec. Center had just started Zumba classes 3 times a week and has been very successful. The Weiner mobile is due at the Rec. Center on Thursday and will visit with our Afterschool Program. Basketball is in full swing with Liam managing over 30 teams, including an adult league. The Celtic Festival and Highland Games are on schedule, with Liam Hughes leading the planning. There is a committee handling the organization of the events, which will take place in June. The County has donated the Fairgrounds, the Destination Newport Committee has contributed \$5000 for advertising and marketing, the News-Times has agreed to be a sponsor and will do a large part of the advertising and marketing at about \$30,000 of in-kind donations, Rogue Brewery is getting involved and will handle all of the food and beverages, donating 50% of their profits, and Toby Murray has just announced that they will be a signature sponsor with a \$8000 donation. For a first year event, this is really coming together. Jim explained the particulars of the event, including the athletic and cultural aspects.

Fred Meyer brought a crew of people, loaded with flower bulbs and planted them around the Rec. Center and Senior Center. They brought kids with them and made a great day of it. Fred Meyer has also announced that they will donate funds received in their boxes at the check-out stands from the end of January through May 21st.

The pirate ship for the Coast Park is on its way and should be here in the next day or so. It will be placed in the next month or so near the Performing Arts Center, future site of the Coast Park.

March 1st is the date we re-open Frank Wade and Agate Beach Park restrooms which have been closed down for the winter. Most of the others are left open during the winter.

Nancy asked about a timeline for the completion of Coast Park. Jim noted that the project was now being handled by the Public Works Department, and to his knowledge, Coast Park and Deco Park were going to be put to bid very soon.

Big Creek Park suffered quite a bit of mud damage from the big storm, but through volunteer efforts and City staff, the mud had been removed from the parking lot and playground areas. We need to get some new wood chips put in place, and there is still silt and mud, but it's very difficult to remove from the grass and gravel areas. It will take some rain to settle into the grass areas and clean it all up.

Baseball season is upon us and our baseball community is very strong and they are going to do some improvements down at Betty Wheeler field, paint the batting cage, replace old gutters, and some other small projects.

7. New Business: None.
8. Old Business: None.
9. Other: Sandra asked about the possibility of glassing in the entry at the pool which would open it up to pool parties and increase the revenues. Jim said that it had been discussed before, but perhaps they should get some cost estimates and look into it further.

Stephanie asked if anything would be happening with the prospect of a new pool since it did not pass at the fall election. Jim said that he was not sure and that it might be discussed at the March 7th Council meeting.

10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16th, 2011