

City of Newport  
Parks and Recreation Committee  
Minutes 3-17-2010  
8:30 a.m.

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

Also present: Lon Brusselback, City Council liaison.

Staff present: Jim Protiva

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

CONCERNS OF COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Diana Purdy, with Concerned Citizens for Clean Air presented the Committee with an update of their recent activities regarding the spraying of herbicides at City Parks and property. Ms. Purdy noted that the City Council had heard their presentation and was taking it under advisement. The Committee was hoping that the Parks and Rec. Department would initiate their own policy regarding chemical spraying. Mr. Kerns said that there is new law regarding vegetation management at schools. It will be in effect by July 1 of 2012, and thought it would be best for the City's Parks Department to adopt something similar because children were the main user of parks. The law states that no herbicide be used purely for cosmetics, purely preventative, and no herbicides be used that have warnings or danger associated with them. Mr. Kerns stated that the Concerned Citizens group would be available to assist in the development of a policy for the Parks Department. Jim Protiva said that the Parks Department was now using signs in any location where they are spraying. Protiva noted that the information the group had requested was forthcoming, but that it had needed to go through the public request process per City policy. He also stated that the City Council was discussing the issue as a sustainability issue and that will formulate a policy. Lon Brusselback stated that it might be a good idea for the Parks and Rec. Committee to create recommendations and present them to the City Council. The Committee discussed various ideas and possibilities for developing ways to sustain the beauty of local parks without using herbicides.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: Protiva reported that 3 people had been laid off within the Department. Childcare would not be available after March 31<sup>st</sup>, and the Youth Coordinator was reduced from 40 hours per week to 20 hours per week. Cardio attendants had also been reduced, and there will be a reduction in hours of operation at the swimming pool and Rec. Center. Both places would reduce hours by 11 per week. Revenues are not coming in as anticipated and in order for the Parks & Rec. budget to balance, cuts had to be made now as the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the budget year begins. Paul Reed asked for a clarification on the hours of operation at the pool. Reed also said that the loss of fifteen minutes of lap swimming time because of a later opening would crowd the lap swimmers and independent exercise users more. He suggested that the independent exercise users should share in the time reduction by beginning at 8:00 AM. Protiva stated that he would look into the issue.

Protiva gave an update on the restrooms being placed at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hurbert Street and the Bayfront across from the Undersea Gardens. He noted that by the next meeting they should both be in place and functional.

Protiva reported that the Geocaching event held on March 13<sup>th</sup> brought in over 80 people from out of town who as part of the event visited local businesses to compete for prizes. Many of the participants

stated that they would spend the night in Newport and all reported they would be eating at least one meal here as well.

An increase in fees at the Senior Center was recently put into place, as approved by the City Council. They have so far received no negative comments on the new fee structure.

Protiva reported that the City would be putting together some conceptual drawings of what a pool might look like connected to the Rec. Center. It would mostly likely be on the Southside of the Rec. Center, and would take up the patio area and some of the parking area. The City would be getting cost estimates for construction and operation. Ultimately the community would make the decision as this would go out as a bond measure. The Committee discussed the various options regarding a pool and what it would mean to the Parks and Rec. Department.

Protiva mentioned that he had just been to Springfield Oregon to give a presentation on a grant request for a trail in the South Beach area. The trail would connect the South Beach community to the Community College. The trail would ultimately connect with the Wilder development parks and trails, and eventually wind up at the Mike Miller trail. Protiva said they should hear if the grant would be funded in the next month or two. The total project would be about \$100,000.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: Protiva announced that the Coast Park would probably not be completed by the end of the summer, but would be well underway. Protiva has had meetings with the landscape architect who is finalizing the grading plan showing how the different elevations and paths would work. Other steps would take place before actual construction would start, but hopes are that by the end of summer, weather permitting, the ship will be in place and paths would be built, but not all of the equipment placement and landscaping would be done.

Paul Reed asked if there was any development in the off-leash park the Committee had discussed. Protiva noted that it was working well and the Department had received no complaints or opposition to it. The park is located at 60<sup>th</sup> street at the Agate Beach Park. It was noted that there may be an additional off-leash park in the new Wilder development.

Lon Brusselback asked about the status of the lights at Don Davis Park. Protiva noted that the repairs were being done by Jerry Sabanskas, and that he would give an update on the repairs at the next meeting.

Sarah asked about the coating that was put on the tiles at the pool, and if the problem had been rectified. Protiva noted that Kathy Cline was handling the problem.

Sandra asked about the proposed trail on the South side of 101 in South Beach and if the plans were to meet up with the other South Beach Trail that the Parks Department was developing. Protiva noted the current plan did not include that, but there was a potential for them to do so.

Sarah asked about the pipe that sticking out on the blue divider in the gym and noted that it was a safety hazard. Protiva mentioned that currently a cone was covering the end of the pipe and he would find out the status on it and report back.

OTHER: None.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2010.