

City of Newport
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
June 26, 2013
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order.** The meeting was called to at 8:37 a.m. by Ed Simon.
2. **Roll Call.** Members present were Ed Simon, Sandra Surber, Nancy Steinberg, Jimmy Rodriguez, Mark Saelens, Fred Springsteen, Richard Balzer, Alisha Kern, Lori Mackey. Absent: Karen Smith, Jennie Scarborough.
3. **Staff/Guests Present:** Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Protiva.
4. **Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2013.** Fred moved to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2013 meeting. Nancy seconded. There were no objections and the motion passed.
5. **Concerns or Comments from Citizens.** None.
6. **New Municipal Pool Updates.** Jim reported on the public meeting that was held two weeks ago which had unveiled the conceptual designs for the new pool. The next step would entail Jim presenting the progress of the project to the City Council, and after that there may be another public meeting or two and then he would be presenting again to the City Council on the first Monday in August, asking them to move forward with the project and put it on the ballot for the public to decide. The Committee discussed some of the issues associated with the new pool design and project.
7. **Report of Director.** Jim noted that the sprint triathlon was scheduled for the next weekend and invited the Committee to participate or watch the excitement. He noted that summer programs were in full swing with lots of kids participating. The pool is busy with summer rec. swims and lessons. The Senior Center is busy as well with their regular programs and summer trips.
8. **Report of Committees.**

Municipal Pool – Jimmy reported that he was working on parking issues in conjunction with the new pool design.

Tree City USA – Nancy noted that she had seen the Tree City USA sign posted at the south end of the city, but she had not seen if they have been posted in the remaining three directions. She also noted that she was researching what needed to be done to maintain their status as a Tree City USA and the possibility of receiving a “growth award.”

Rec. Center, Programs, Sports, Events – Judy Mayhew and Shannon Rackowski gave a short introduction of a new machine the Rec. Center had purchased and how it might help to build a relationship with Samaritan.

Foundation – Fred reported that the foundation was up and running and informed the Committee of new rules that may have an effect on donations.

Parks, Trails and Forests – Alesha informed the committee that she has been working on updating the walking map to include trails with the final map being printed and available to the public. Jim mentioned the new retaining wall at Betty Wheeler Park. Nancy announced that she was looking into an education program that involved Forest Park and the Newport Prep Academy which was working with a local private tech company that is developing an app that tracked forest health.

9. **New Business.** Jim presented a poster he had received which informed staff and public on how to respond to an active shooter.
10. **Old Business.** Nancy reported that PAADA had conducted a youth survey on use of recreation programs and activities and what they would like to see made available to them. She noted that she had not collated all the information yet, but would be presenting it at the next meeting.
11. **Other.** Jim mentioned that he had received a letter from the American Legion requesting the Rec. Center be available to active military personnel and their families at no cost or compensation. He stated that they would be presenting the request to the City Council.

Lori reported on the Newport Walking Club which was organized through meetup.org and currently has 97 people enrolled. Typically, they average about 8 people per walk, with 4 walks per week in the summer.

12. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2013.