



December 15, 2020
9:01 AM
Newport, Oregon

Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

The Newport Parks and Recreation Committee met electronically, via Zoom, on the above date and time in the Council Chambers of Newport City Hall. On roll call, Steinberg, Smith, Brown, Beeson, Gilhuly, Norris, Baker, Saelens, and Council Liaison CM Hall were present.

Staff and guests in attendance were Mike Cavanaugh, Parks and Recreation Director, and Leslie Palotas, Vision 2040 Program Coordinator.

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes - October 27, 2020

MOTION was made by Beeson, seconded by Brown to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2020 meeting. The motion carried in a voice vote.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Greater Newport Vision 2040 Committee Update

Palotas provided the Committee with an overview of the Vision 2040 program and discussed the Vision 2040 goals and projects that directly connect with Parks and Recreation. Palotas mentioned the virtual Culturalfest event and the 2020 Community Vision Awards that would be happening in the next month.

Subcommittees Ordinance

Cavanaugh updated the Committee that, at the recommendation by the City Attorney and City Recorder, the sub-committee language should be removed from the Committee ordinance and to integrate the sub-committees' areas of responsibilities into the language defining the committee's rights, responsibilities, and authority. Cavanaugh added that the committee should not include language addressing the Friends of Newport Parks & Recreation Foundation.

Tree City USA - Annual Planting of a Tree

Cavanaugh updated the Committee that the City's annual application was going to be submitted later that day. Cavanaugh brought up the annual tree-planting event and the effects of COVID-19. Steinberg suggested, with Committee approval, to reschedule the tree-planting event to April and closer to the Arbor Day date.

Open Committee Position - Applications

Steinberg discussed the interview and approval process for filling a vacant seat. The committee agreed to simplify the process to be completed during one meeting and not taking place over three meetings.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Cavanaugh mentioned that programs and services at the recreation and aquatic center have slowed down to the closing and reopening of the facilities due to COVID-19 mandates from the State.

Cavanaugh stated that Judy Mayhew, Recreation Superintendent, and Jenni Remillard, Recreation Program Coordinator, have been working diligently to recruit and retain childcare staff.

Cavanaugh noted that the Memorial Bench Policy has been finalized and the program is now open to receiving applications.

Cavanaugh added that he attended the Department Finance Planning Meeting to discuss the development of a 5-year financial outlook for staffing and capital equipment and capital outlay projects.

Cavanaugh mentioned that an addendum to the Newport Trail Stewards agreement is needed to address in more details concerns related to insurance limits and trail inspection standards. Cavanaugh is hoping to have these new documents completed in the next several months.

Cavanaugh stated that Park Maintenance is planning a large maintenance push through each park over the next several months. This plan is to get each park back to an adequate maintenance level through mowing, trimming, hedging, brush removal, trash removal, and other facility repairs.

Cavanaugh noted that Peggy O'Callaghan, 60+ Activity Center Supervisor, was awarded a grant for technology equipment. The equipment will be used for implementing a technology-learning program where patrons, who have no access to a computer or internet service, will be allowed to checkout this equipment to use at home.

Cavanaugh added that O'Callaghan is continuing with her virtual Zoom programing with 60+ Activity Center patrons.

Cavanaugh mentioned that Kathy Crews, Aquatic Supervisor, is still working with contractors on a solution to fix the spa's discolored water issue. Cavanaugh stated that the water is safe, but he indicated that a high volume of metal in the water is causing the discoloration. Cavanaugh added that more details will be provided as a viable solution is developed.

Cavanaugh stated that work has begun with Barbara James, Human Resource Director, to rehire the Sports Coordinator position.

Cavanaugh noted that the Friends of Newport Parks and Recreation Foundation had a meeting and approved for new signers to be added to the organization's bank account. The organization's funds are now accessible and all past fees owed to the State were paid. Cavanaugh asked the committee to let him know of any possible candidates that might be a good fit to this organization.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Steinberg noted that the Transportation System Plan survey has been extended and reminded the committee to share the survey with the community and to complete the survey themselves.

Steinberg reported that the City Manager, Spencer Nebel, had read her statement on diversity and systemic racism and was awaiting comments back for edits before being discussed with City Council.

Develop Next Agenda

Vacant Committee Seat Interviews

Establish Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting date is scheduled for January 26, 2021.

Adjournment

Having no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 AM.