



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
January 23, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members present – Tom Aguilar-Downing; Marge Meconis; Anita Perkins; Emily White; Laura Duffey;

Board Members absent –

Also present –John Neska, Executive Director;

3. NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2014

Executive Director Neska - Since this is the annual meeting we will start the meeting off with election of officers, the first will be for Chairperson. I'll open the nominations.

Marge Meconis - I would like to nominate Tom Aguilar-Downing for Chairperson.

Emily White - I'll second.

Motion by Meconis, seconded by White to appoint Tom Aguilar-Downing as Chairperson for 2014. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Executive Director Neska - Nominations are now open for Vice-Chairperson.

Marge Meconis - I'll nominate Emily White as Vice-Chairperson.

Laura Duffey - I'll second that.

Motion by Meconis, seconded by Duffey to appoint Emily White as Vice-Chairperson for 2014. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of October 24, 2013 Regular Meeting

Motion by White, seconded by Meconis, to approve the Park Board Minutes of October 24, 2013 as presented. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

5. REVIEW GOALS

A. Approve Year-End Summary of 2013 Goals

Motion by White, seconded by Perkins to approve the Year-End Summary of the 2013 Goals. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

B. Discuss 2014 Goals

The Park Board reviewed the 2013 Year-End Summary as outlined in the January 23, 2014 Park Board Packet to determine the 2014 goals. Updates are as follows:

Program Goals:

- **Winter Family Fun Night:** This will be on Saturday, February 8, 2014.
- **Adopt-a-Park Volunteer Recruiting:** This will continue in 2014.
- **Support NAA Baseball League:** This was removed from the 2014 goals.
- **Adopt-a-Park Volunteer Appreciation Potluck:** The Park Board will do thank-you notes but will not have the potluck due to it being sparsely attended.
- **Family Camp Out:**
- **Pioneer Day:** This will continue in 2014.
- **Program at Pedestrian Park:** This was combined with the history/fun walk for 2014.
- **History/Fun Walk:** This will continue in 2014 and will take place along the pedestrian bridges. The Park Board will look into having some local talent perform at the end of the walk.
- **Buckthorn Pull:** The Executive Director recommended having the compost site open free of charge for two or three days in place of Buckthorn Day which would need Council approval. The Park Board would like to continue Buckthorn Day at Bailey School Forest in 2014 but will discuss the possibility of combining the two.
- **Update of Bailey School Forest Interpretive Piece:** This was completed in 2013 and removed from the 2014 goals.
- **Geocaching Course:** This was removed from the 2014 goals.

Facility Goals:

- **Hastings Avenue Planters:** This was completed in 2013 and removed from the 2014 goals.
- **Natural Plantings at Overlook Parks:** This will continue in 2014.
- **Signage at Frances and Henry James Pocket Park:** This will continue in 2014.
- **Solar Panels at Phillips Pavilion:** The solar panels were installed in 2013. Staff is working on the interpretive signage for the solar panels so this will continue in 2014.
- **Skateboard Facilities:** This was removed from the 2014 goals.
- **Finish Parking Lot Resurfacing at Loveland:** This was completed in 2013 and removed from the 2014 goals.
- **Resurface Tennis/Basketball Courts at Loveland:** This was completed in 2013 and removed from the 2014 goals.

Administrative Goals:

- **Develop an Email/Blog Process:** This was removed from the 2014 goals.
- **Joint Governance Committee per DNR's School Forest Regulations:** This will continue in 2014.

The following items were added to the 2014 goals:

- **Warming House at Loveland:** Staff will be residing and reroofing the warming house in 2014.
- **Natural Resource Plan:** The Great River Greening Group needs a Natural Resource Plan from the City prior to doing any projects in Newport. Laura Duffey is attending a Great River Greening meeting and will ask for examples of Natural Resource Plans.
- **Interpretive Signage at Loveland:** The Park Board will look at posting interpretive signs at Loveland Park regarding the trail system and history.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

A. Discussion Regarding Winter Family Fun Night

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing presented on this item as outlined in the January 23, 2014 Park Board Packet. The Winter Family Fun Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Lions Park. There will be several events such as bowling, tug-of-war, push-push-pull, and speed skating in honor of the Olympics. There will be some Volunteer Firefighters at the Fire Station during the event so it will be open for participants.

B. Discussion Regarding Photo Contest

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - We advertised this in the winter newsletter and it'll be in the spring newsletter as well. I'm getting posters together. Renee has setup a webpage for this contest as well. The deadline for the winter contest is March 31st. There will be three categories, best nature shot, best people/animal shot, and best black and white shot. There will be both youth and adult divisions. I'm working to get some judges and criteria for judging. I will contact the Newport Elementary Principal and I also thought of contacting local photographers. The photos can be submitted electronically to Renee Helm, rhelm@newportmn.com. Finally, I'm looking for facilities to display them.

7. BOARD REPORTS

A. Marge Meconis - Nothing to report.

B. Anita Perkins - Nothing to report.

C. Emily White - Nothing to report.

D. Laura Duffey -

Laura Duffey - Buckthorn Day that happened on October 26, 2013 attracted over 100 students and families, mostly from Lake Middle School, as well as Newport residents. John hauled out quite a bit of buckthorn. It was a good time and has built up some good momentum.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Recognition of Mary Ann Newman for her Time on the Park Board

Executive Director Neska - Mary Ann Newman was a charter member of the Newport Park Board. She came on board in 2005 and came full of enthusiasm. She became Chairperson in 2008 and held the position through 2012. Her meetings will be remembered for keeping things on track. Her husband Ed and herself were always hard workers. They shared the responsibility of weeding our three gardens along with other Park Board members. She and her husband were also involved in every event that the Park Board sponsored. She's also worked in other areas throughout the community such as the food shelf and elections.

Anita Perkins - I think we're going to miss Mary Ann so hopefully she stays involved a little bit.

Marge Meconis - I'll second that. It's been really great to work with you and on the Park Board with you.

Executive Director Neska - She became a great friend to everyone. We have a plaque for her.

Mary Ann Newman - I grew up in a state without trees so I was really excited about parks here. It's been a pleasure working with all of you and all of the volunteers.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Thank you for mentoring me in this position.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by White, seconded by Meconis, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:50 P.M. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tom Aguilar-Downing, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Helm
Executive Analyst