



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
March 23, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members present – Emily White; Anita Perkins; Heidi Tweeten; Jared Flewellen; John Graber

Board Members absent –

Also present –Matt Yokiell, Executive Director; Dan Lund, Council Liaison

3. NOMINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2017

Motion by Tweeten, second by Perkins, to nominate Emily White for Chairperson for 2017. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Motion by Tweeten, seconded by Flewellen, to nominate Anita Perkins for Vice-Chairperson for 2017. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

4. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of October 27, 2016

Motion by Flewellen, seconded by Perkins, to approve the Park Board Minutes of October 27, 2016 as presented. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

B. Park Board Minutes of January 26, 2017

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Tweeten, to approve the Park Board Minutes of January 26, 2017 as presented. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

C. Park Board Minutes of February 23, 2017

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Flewellen, to approve the Park Board Minutes of February 23, 2017 as presented. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

7. BASEBALL FIELD SCHEDULE FOR LOVELAND PARK

Steve Bern, Newport Athletic Association, spoke about the baseball field schedule for Loveland Park. Mr. Bern has been working with the East Ridge Athletic Association and Woodbury to reserve the Loveland Park fields. Mr. Bern handed out a schedule for the 2017 season and the City's responsibilities for maintaining the fields. He will talk with Public Works about the responsibilities and would like to see them well maintained and utilized. He would also like to see a fence and irrigation installed at Loveland Park. Additionally, Mr. Bern suggested that someone on the west side of Highway 61 should work with Woodbury and East Ridge Athletic Association to get a younger team to reserve the fields on the west side of Highway 61. The East Ridge Athletic Association integrates kids from Newport and Woodbury. The Park Board would like to see younger children grouped with other children from Newport.

Vice-Chair Perkins asked how students get enrolled because Newport Elementary hasn't had anyone from East Ridge Athletic Association come out to solicit kids. Mr. Bern noted that the Association doesn't do any solicitation through elementary schools. The City of Newport has information on its website under the "Newport Athletic Association" regarding the East Ridge Athletic Association. Mr. Bern believes staff needs to set a partnership with Woodbury as a priority for 2017 and that the City should allocate a FTE to this.

The Park Board discussed placing this on their 2017 goals and trying to get others involved in this effort.

5. REVIEW 2017 GOALS

The Park Board reviewed the updated 2017 goals (attached).

6. PROPOSAL FROM NEWPORT ON THE MOVE

The Park Board discussed the proposal from Newport on the Move regarding the protection of tree seedlings in Bailey School Forest. Newport on the Move will fund the project and volunteer all of their time.

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Tweeten, to accept the proposal from Newport on the Move. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

8. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT-

Chairperson White - Nothing to report.

9. BOARD REPORTS

A. Anita Perkins - We do need volunteers for the adopt-a-park program so if anyone is interested, please call Renee at City Hall.

B. Heidi Tweeten - I have several things. We were going to get a report on if there's been any spending.

Executive Director Yokiel - I was going to update you on major purchases. I was going to under my report.

Heidi Tweeten - And then the ex-officio status, is there any progress on that?

Mayor Lund - I am a liaison. It was changed in the code. A liaison is just here to answer questions and observe, whereas an ex-officio member participates in the meeting but doesn't vote.

Heidi Tweeten - I've been in contact with Kris about the prairie restoration project in Bailey School Forest and she gave me some contact info for places in Washington County that fund projects like these. I'm not sure what to do with that, it's out of my purview.

Chairperson White - I think there needs to be a proposal on the project to bring forward to the City Council.

Heidi Tweeten - One of these agencies would do a site visit to determine if the prairie is worth restoring. I wanted to get that done before bringing a proposal forward.

Chairperson White - I think as long as there's no costs for the site visit, you can get that done and bring it back to us to formally recommend to the City Council.

Heidi Tweeten - Would I hand over the contacts to a Council member?

Mayor Lund - I think you would make more progress if you took on the responsibility. It might be helpful to get Park Board approval for the planning.

Jared Flewellen - I think staff recommendation would be higher than us.

Heidi Tweeten - So everyone is comfortable with a site visit?

Chairperson White - Yes.

Heidi Tweeten - The tree trek should be picking up soon. Was there any more thought on using the pond areas for a dog park?

Chairperson White - It's not top on my list because there are so many dog parks that people can go to. I think that needs to be a Council decision.

Mayor Lund - I would encourage you to pass a resolution here and then kick it to the Council.

Heidi Tweeten - I would love to bring it to the Council if we had a site.

Executive Director Yokiell - We talked about the ponds but our main concern is the steep grade to the ponds. I don't have an idea on where the best place would be. I'd leave that to you.

Jared Flewellen - Can we bring this up at a future workshop?

Executive Director Yokiell - Where are we sitting on the tree trek?

Heidi Tweeten - We have one person who is doing the species list but we could buy the signs now.

Executive Director Yokiell - That will need to go through the governance committee since it is the Bailey School Forest to make sure they're ok with it before we place anything.

Chairperson White - Yes, I don't think they'll have an issue with it.

Executive Director Yokiell - I think we should have a short presentation to give to them.

Mayor Lund - I would encourage you to plow ahead and then if we think it needs to go to the Board, we can try to get a meeting together.

Heidi Tweeten - Ok. And then basketball courts, could we upgrade the ones at Newport Elementary?

Vice-Chair Perkins - The School District owns that land.

Jared Flewellen - Does the City have a joint-powers agreement with the School?

Executive Director Yokiell - Just for the diamonds.

Jared Flewellen - I'm guessing the school would have something on their CIP for that.

Mayor Lund - Newport has had the lowest enrollment so it's not a priority for the CIP. I think that would be a good option.

Heidi Tweeten - Just a point of perspective, we get disheartened by attendance on a lot of things. I think it's important for us to remember that our town has a population of 3,480 and if we get 10% to show up, that's 348 people. Oftentimes, we compare ourselves with Eagan or Woodbury and 10% of their population is almost 7,000. So when we're talking about installing amenities and spending large amounts of money and then being sad that people don't use, we have to remember our population.

C. Jared Flewellen - I think one of the things we should keep in mind is inviting some of these outside groups to our meetings to hear from them.

D. John Graber - Nothing to report.

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Yokiel - Our shelters have arrived for Busy Beaver Park. Two weeks ago, sentence to serve came and picked up along Hastings Avenue in the morning.

Chairperson White - We have five girl scout troops that meet at Newport Lutheran and I'm trying to organize some trash pickup behind the habitat houses.

Executive Director Yokiel - Do you know about the senior service day?

Vice-Chair Perkins - You should contact the school district.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Graber, to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Assistant to the City Administrator

Newport Park Board - 2017 Goals						3/16/2017
Newport Park Board - 2017 Goals	New / Remaining Work	Board or Staff Leads	Involved Volunteers	Accomplished	Budget	
Program Goals						
Winter Family Fun Night	Saturday, January 28, 2017		NOTM, Fire Fighters	Done		
Adopt A Park Volunteer Recruiting		Whole Board		Ongoing		
Adopt A Park Volunteer Thank You notes		Perkins				
Pioneer Day	Sunday, August 13, 2017	Board				\$50
Buckthorn Pull	Saturday, October - Continued eradication of buckthorn in City parks - Educating and assisting homeowners in controlling noxious/invasive plants	Board or Staff Leads	Friends of the Park Board			
Review Web page	NEW					
Bulletin Boards at Parks	NEW					
Garlic Mustard Pull at Bailey School Forest			Susan Lindoo			
Community Tree Trek	Bailey School Forest	Tweeten	Susan Lindoo			
Hedge at Pioneer Park	NEW					
Facility Goals						
Administrative Goals.						
Continue Meetings of Joint Governance Committee per DNR's School Forest regulations	- Receive the School District's School Forest Annual usage report - Discern most involved teachers	Meconis, Matt	Dan Lund			