



**City of Newport  
Park Board Meeting  
March 26, 2015**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Board Members present – Emily White; Anita Perkins; Tom Aguilar-Downing; Heidi Tweeten;

Board Members absent – Marge Meconis;

Also present –Matt Yokiell, Executive Director;

**3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES**

**A. Park Board Minutes of February 26, 2015 Regular Meeting**

**Motion by Perkins, seconded by Aguilar-Downing, to approve the Park Board Minutes of February 26, 2015 as presented. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.**

**4. REVIEW 2015 GOALS**

The Park Board reviewed the 2015 Goals as outlined in the March 26, 2015 Park Board packet. The new items are the garlic mustard pull and the Loveland Park invasives survey which Susan Lindoo has agreed and volunteered to do.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - We have free buckthorn drop off at the compost site. John had talked about it but I don't think we did it last year. The idea was that people could drop off buckthorn free of charge for that day or weekend. Do we want to continue that idea?

**Chairperson White** - Can you check with Bruce on that? If it is something that we're going to do, we probably want to advertise it in our newsletter. Next we have the sign at the Frances and Henry James park.

**Executive Director Yokiell** - I spoke with John regarding the sign at the Frances and Henry James park and there was never an agreement to put a sign there.

**Chairperson White** - So that would be a MnDot agreement?

**Executive Director Yokiell** - I don't know, there was never an agreement to place it there as part of the project.

**Chairperson White** - That's City property right?

**Executive Director Yokiell** - Yes.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Should it be on the goals? Did you get the impression that it's not going to happen or that no one brought it up?

**Executive Director Yokiell** - I was under the impression that it was part of the project and got overlooked and missed so I asked. Bruce said that there was no agreement to have it installed as part of the project.

**Chairperson White** - Do the other pocket parks have signage?

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - They have signs but not names.

**Chairperson White** - So we would need to talk about whether or not there would be funding for it.

**Anita Perkins** - There should be a sign. We have the little signs by the pedestrian bridges so something like that.

**Chairperson White** - Ok, I'll add the other pocket parks too. Maybe we can look into it to see how much it would be for next year. The solar panels are up but we're still working on signage correct?

**Executive Director Yokiel** - Yes, we have found diagrams but they're not good enough quality to blow up. We're still working on it.

**Chairperson White** - Next is the joint governance meeting for the Bailey School Forest. I know they didn't meet last year. I'm not sure who is supposed to call that meeting. Marge would probably know that, I'll check with her. Next is the garlic pull.

**Anita Perkins** - I have been in contact with Susan and she'll let me know when we can get out there and start pulling.

**Chairperson White** - She could just email all of us and if we can help, we can.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - We talked about getting school involvement.

## **5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT -**

**Chairperson White** - Susan was at a seminar and she came across a project that's called Community Tree Treks. The fellow who did this lives in the Mounds Park area and did a Mounds Park Tree Trek. You would put signage at trees that identify the trees at that particular spot. Susan contacted the fellow and he was more than willing to give a lot of information on it including the signage. It doesn't sound like it would be too difficult to do and she'd like to do it at Bailey School Forest. The signs are about \$30 each. I'm not sure how many varieties of trees are at the Bailey School Forest. I'd like to hear your thoughts on it. I'm not sure it's something we would do this year but maybe next year.

**Anita Perkins** - I think it's a good idea. If it's a school forest, it might be educational for individuals to know what each tree is.

**Chairperson White** - They signs also give a description.

**Anita Perkins** - It also looks like there's a QR code so they could get more information.

**Chairperson White** - Yes.

**Heidi Tweeten** - I'd be interested to find out what grade level that is for since it's going into the School Forest.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - I would like to see getting classes to get involved in this project such as identifying how many trees. That would lead to the joint governance committee meeting.

**Heidi Tweeten** - It said the signs last for about three years.

**Chairperson White** - I think that's the sticker and I think that would depend on where they are.

**Anita Perkins** - Could we put Plexiglas over it to protect it a little better.

**Chairperson White** - I wonder when he did it because it'd be interesting to go take a look.

**Heidi Tweeten** - How does the arboretum do it?

**Chairperson White** - I don't know.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Taking a look at the pictures, it could be largely black and white or gray. We could do something like the bat house signs and those would be permanent. We could just buy the content from him.

**Chairperson White** - We wouldn't need to buy the stickers from him. He'll send us the documents.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - I'm thinking of some media that's more permanent.

**Anita Perkins** - Our signs at the pedestrian bridges have been durable.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - That might cost more but have a longer lifespan. So there's two things here, one if we can get the schools involved to identify the number of trees and two, taking a look at costs so we can put together a budget proposal.

**Executive Director Yokiell** - You'll just want this along the trails?

**Chairperson White** - Yes. I'll add this to our goals and try to get up to Mounds Park to get some pictures of the signage. I think it would be nice to get a classroom involved.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - That could take place in spring or summer, spring would be better for budget reasons.

## **6. BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Marge Meconis** - Absent

**B. Anita Perkins** - National Volunteer Week is coming up in April and I'll be working on the thank-you notes for all our volunteers and get them out that week.

**C. Tom Aguilar-Downing** - We have the deadline coming up for our winter photo contest. The deadline is March 31st. Photos can be dropped off at City Hall or emailed to Renee. There are two categories, black and white and color and two divisions, adult and youth. We'll also have two prizes at the end of the year, one for the best juried photo and one for the people's choice. Those who are looking to see the photos and rules can go to the City's website at <http://ci.newport.mn.us/ParkPhotoContest.php>. We're looking forward to a good turnout. Brian North, Kari Leyland and Jamie Smith will be returning as judges and Marge and Rich Ramano from the school will be new judges this year.

**D. Heidi Tweeten** - I have three things. First, the Veterans' Memorial in Pioneer Park, feedback in the neighborhood is that the spotlight for the flag is a bit much at night and is casting shadows on houses. I'm wondering if there's something that could fix that.

**Chairperson White** - Could you check on that Matt?

**Executive Director Yokiell** - Yes.

**Heidi Tweeten** - Second, the hockey rinks at Loveland and Lions, are there any uses for those in the summer time? I was wondering about turning them into a dog run. I know we have Kaposia Dog Park nearby but it's not walking distance for everyone. It'd be a relatively small investment of just adding a chain link entrance and one of those poles with the bags on them. I think people are doing it already.

**Chairperson White** - I think that should go to the City Council because there's the liability issues. Usually you need to have a double-fenced area for a dog park. That would only be available in the summertime. Most people that go to dog parks go because they want a big area for dogs to run and socialize. I would contact a Councilmember or the Mayor.

**Heidi Tweeten** - Ok. The last thing I have to give kudos to the gentlemen that prepared the video for family fun night. It was a great video. That night was a great night.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Speaking of media, we got an offer from the St. Paul Camera Club to be a judge as well and I asked how he got wind of it and he said that there was an article in the Star Trib and Pioneer Press so kudos to Renee.

## **7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Executive Director Yokiell** - We've started trying to figure out how we want to do a bulletin board for the parks. Just trying to decide if we need to cover it or a roof line. My concern is if we do Plexiglas, it would get vandalized so I think a cork board would work best.

**Chairperson White** - We probably wouldn't put anything up long-term.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Well, where this started in my mind was when we were talking about buckthorn and education. If we have in addition to the short-term announcements, we also have educational sheets which would be longer-term. Did you get the photos that I took? I like the one at Kaposia. I think the Plexiglas is significant. I wouldn't want to spend the kind of money without protection. I am concerned with vandalism but I'm not sure Plexiglas would invite that.

**Executive Director Yokiell** - You can get people etching into the face of it.

**Chairperson White** - But if it's something that's posted, I think they would rip it down.

**Executive Director Yokiell** - I wouldn't think we'd lock it if we want people posting items in there.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - We can. I think we'd give the keys to Park Board members or the City then we wouldn't have people posting everything. I would like to see something protecting it. I do hear the concern of vandalism.

**Chairperson White** - I would agree with that too. We have plastic over the one at the Community Garden.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - There's also a question of where to put it. I think Bailey is pretty clear at the entrance. I'm not sure where at Loveland. There's two options at Pioneer with the pavilions.

**Chairperson White** - I think it would be better near the small pavilion at Pioneer Park. At Loveland, as you drive in and go to the right, if it's just down from the pavilion there. It's by the little playground and pavilion.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - And then Lions Park, it would go by the pavilion. Depending on the design, we could go both ways. Have you cost it out yet?

**Executive Director Yokiell** - No, we wanted to figure out what we wanted first.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - And then will we get them all in one year or spread them out over years. We could get one with Plexiglas and one without and see how it goes.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Perkins, seconded by Tweeten, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:39 P.M. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz  
Executive Analyst