



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
March 27, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

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

Board Members absent – Laura Duffey;

Also present –John Neska, Executive Director; Tim Geraghty, Council Liaison

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of February 27, 2014 Regular Meeting

Marge Meconis - On page 2, it's Bess with two S's.

Motion by White, seconded by Perkins, to approve the Park Board Minutes of February 27, 2014 as amended. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

4. REVIEW 2014 GOALS

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - The 2014 Goals were approved by the City Council on March 20. There are no updates to discuss.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT -

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - We have the photo contest coming up. The deadline for the winter contest is March 31st. The contest is for any Newport resident. Photos must be taken in Newport Parks. There are three categories: Best Nature Shot, Best People or Animal Shot, and Best Black and White Photo. There are two divisions for each category, an adult division and a youth division. We'll have a contest for each season. If you would like to submit, the photos can be from any winter season, and can be dropped off at City Hall or emailed to Renee Helm at rhelm@newportmn.com. More information is on the City's website. We have judges lined up. I spoke with Kari Layland, a photographer in Newport, has joined the judges so we have five.

Emily White - Have we had some come in?

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Yes and we're looking for more. I did receive an email from Tom Marcus, who did a presentation on disc golf last month, to see if we made any progress. I did take a drive down to 4th and 5th Avenue by the Ashland properties. You said there are 6 houses down there?

Executive Director Neska - There are probably 8 or 10 that are gone and they do own everything east of 5th Avenue that is wooded. If we did something in conjunction with them, they could maybe open that up. It would be something for discussion.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Has any discussion taken place? Did you talk with Councilman Sumner?

Executive Director Neska - No, I can follow up on that.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - One of those two streets goes right into the entrance of the plant itself and there is no parking around there so we would need to look into that. In your packet there are two pieces that Renee included. There is an article from the Star Trib on the Cedar Lane park. Any comments on the article or process? The only thing I didn't like is that they described the area around the transit area as blighted. I don't think it's blighted. The other item is the deer count map. I found that really surprising. They found 40 deer total and that compares to two years ago where they found 75 deer.

Marge Meconis - When was this taken?

Executive Director Neska - Two weeks ago.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Two years ago we had to wait for some snow cover and did it in March as well. I've asked Deb if she's talking with Peter Mott who is the County Coordinator on it. She has a call into him. They've been doing surveys at Lake Elmo park for a number of years and I wonder if they do see these fluctuations from year to year. I would also be curious to see if the other communities took a dive as well. Did the harsh winter affect the herd or was it the hunt? The hunt only took 6.

Executive Director Neska - I think traffic has taken a lot of them too.

Emily White - How do they do the survey?

Executive Director Neska - A helicopter. The three at the top, I saw those this morning.

Marge Meconis - There are 10 that frequent my yard.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Deb is going to follow up with the DNR as well to see if this is out of the ordinary.

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Marge Meconis - Nothing to report.

B. Anita Perkins - We have our volunteer appreciation next month. I'll be sending out thank you cards to all of them.

C. Emily White - Nothing to report.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Nothing to report.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Meconis, seconded by White, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:11 P.M. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tom Aguilar-Downing, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Helm
Executive Analyst