



**City of Newport  
Park Board Meeting  
March 28, 2013**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Board Members present – Tom Aguilar-Downing; Anita Perkins;; Laura Duffey

Board Members absent – Marge Meconis; Emily White; Mary Ann Newman;

Also present –John Neska, Executive Director;

**3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES**

**A. Park Board Minutes of February 28, 2013 Regular Meeting**

**Executive Director Neska** – I had a couple items. The first was under facility goals where we talk about the planters. I just wanted to make sure that it was noted that we will send a letter to the Bailey’s. The second was in regards to the skateboarding rinks, it would replace the tennis courts, not the ice skating rinks.

**Motion by Duffey, seconded by Perkins, to approve the Park Board Minutes of February 28, 2013 as amended. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent, the motion carried.**

**4. REVIEW 2013 GOALS**

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – The goals have been revised to reflect our discussion from last month’s meeting. I saw that I had volunteered to review other skateboard facilities. I haven’t made any contacts yet but I did notice that Woodbury is upgrading their park going from wood to concrete. I was wondering what they are doing with their old equipment.

**Laura Duffey** – In regards to the Joint Governance Committee for the Bailey School Forest, I haven’t been able to call a meeting it yet but I have been able to discern some more teachers by reviewing the annual report to the DNR. They do seem active, they are meeting their five visits per year. Secondly, the DNR is giving away aluminum trail entrance signs that says “You are in the Newport Bailey School Forest.” We can get a 2 ft x 2 ft road sign and/or a 1 ½ ft x 2 ft entrance sign.

**Executive Director Neska** – I think we can take one of each.

**Anita Perkins** – I like the idea of one of each.

**5. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – I attended the Cottage Grove Youth Expo. It was well attended and well staffed. There were about 15-20 different tables. I put the handouts that I collected on the table.

**6. BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Preparation for the Adopt-a-Park Volunteer Letter and Potluck**

**Anita Perkins** – Talking about the volunteer potluck. We are having it on May 19 from 5 to 6:30 at Loveland Park. We'll provide hotdogs and everyone else will bring a dish to share. Letters should be going out shortly. Do the "Thank-You" cards need to have the City logo?

**Executive Director Neska** – I'll take a look, I don't think we have card specifically.

**B. Content for the Summer 2013 Newsletter**

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – We would like to put something in each of the newsletters and the deadline is April 15 for the Summer Newsletter. That'll include the camp-out and adopt-a-park information. I'll volunteer Emily to do a write-up for the camp-out and the adopt-a-park information.

**C. Bailey School Forest Trail Guide**

**Laura Duffey** – I am having some teachers review the trail guide and am hoping to have it finalized soon.

**D. Request for Partnerships – Great River Greening**

**Laura Duffey** – Great River Greening is looking for partners to restore important natural habitats. I would have to look into it a little bit. We did miss the deadline this year.

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – I was thinking that we could look at it now and think about applying for it next year.

**Anita Perkins** - So do we have to come up with what we want to have done and find funding for it?

**Laura Duffey** – We would need to get sponsor partners.

**Executive Director Neska** – It sounds like the City would be responsible for half of the costs. I think it is something to look into for 2014.

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – One of the things that jumped out at me is one the first page stating "Lands must have an approved natural resource management plan in place or must be developed through this grant." Do we have something like that?

**Executive Director Neska** – No. We have somewhat of a plan for the Bailey School Forest.

**Anita Perkins** – Laura, can you provide an example of a Newport project?

**Laura Duffey** – I was thinking the bluff behind Raceway to Fun, Bailey School Forest, Red Rock Cemetery area, if we get that island or the Mill Pond area.

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – I think we should look into it for next year. I would suggest that all of the Board members volunteer for one of their projects. I'll do it myself.

**Laura Duffey** – I am a volunteer supervisor myself. The last project I did was across the river in Inver Grove Heights. There were about 70 individuals there.

**Executive Director Neska** – It might be something 2 to 3 years down the road along Cedar Lane as well.

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – Laura, I think you would be the perfect person to research it for the Board.

**7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Executive Director Neska** – I received an application today from Central Bank on Hastings Avenue. Central Bank adopted the Red Rock Cemetery. I'll be in touch with her in the next couple days. We appreciate their interest.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Perkins, seconded by Duffey, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:25 P.M. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent, the motion carried.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Aguilar-Downing, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Helm  
Executive Analyst