



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
April 23, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

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

Board Members absent –

Also present –Matt Yokiell, Executive Director;

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of March 26, 2015 Regular Meeting

Vice-Chair Meconis - I just have one thing. I was absent last month so my report should list that I was absent instead of "nothing to report." I could have gone through to see what we've done before but I thought it was just left blank. It wasn't that I didn't have anything, I just wasn't here.

Motion by Meconis, seconded by Perkins, to approve the Park Board Minutes of March 26, 2015 as amended. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

4. PIONEER DAY 2015

Chairperson White - Pioneer Day is August 9, 2015. We talked about this last time but I want to make sure that we want a presence at Pioneer Day. My assumption is that other boards will also be there like the HPC and Library Board. The only question we had and I saw from the map Renee sent out that it looks like we are being put in the same spot and our concern with that was that no one went down to that end of the park because nothing else was going on down there. Was someone going to talk with Renee?

Executive Director Yokiell - Renee mentioned that last year the reason the tent was placed there was because of high rock and the size of the tent. She will speak with South Suburban Rental about getting a smaller tent so we can have more options on where to put it. I haven't heard anything else or seen a layout.

Chairperson White - It's too bad that the groups, not just ours, but they spend the day to visit with people and people won't go down there if there's nothing else going on. We've also had new people to sign up for the adopt-a-park program and so on. I think it's important for the citizens to see what we are doing. We'll keep an eye on that.

Executive Director Yokiell - Where were you last year?

Chairperson White - Behind the Veterans' Memorial. Even if there were other vendors down there, people would walk down for them. Any place that has a little more foot traffic. My assumption is that we're all willing to give it a shot again. Who has the display boards?

Tom Aguilar-Downing - I do. I didn't have forms for people to sign up last year so I'll make sure to have those.

Chairperson White - Great. Anything else?

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT -

Chairperson White - One of the things I mentioned before we started tonight, was in our goals and by the way, the Council did approve them. Anyways, the Winter Family Fun Night, I'd like to give that a date for next year. We're thinking January 30, 2016. The first weekend in February is Super Bowl and the second weekend is Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. Another thing on the goal sheet is the volunteer thank you notes.

Anita Perkins - I sent those out.

Chairperson White - Ok, our goals had 2014, so I'll just change the date. Otherwise, I got all of the dates on the goals sheet including Buckthorn. The other thing I wanted to bring up is that we talked about possibly changing our meeting time to be earlier. One of our members had a conflict but no longer has that. I would propose that our meetings start at 6:30. Do we need permission from the Council to do that?

Executive Director Yokiell - I don't know, I'll ask Renee.

Chairperson White - I doubt we do but I think if we entertain the motion and pass it here, the Council will let us know if it's not ok.

Motion by Aguilar-Downing, seconded by Meconis, to move the meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Marge Meconis - I have two things. The first is a comment on MN Green, they provide plants, seeds, all kinds of stuff for public use. They had another offering this past month, leftovers from the Home and Garden Show. Emily went down to see what we could get and picked up a couple bucket loads of daffodils and hyacinths that we planted at the Frances and Henry James Park. Next spring, we'll hopefully have a lovely row of daffodils along the front. Thank you MN Green for that contribution to the City. There was also an azalea that we planted. The other thing was that I was contacted by Mr. Nunn at Woodbury High School and they are having their senior service day again. In the past, they've helped us with a spring buckthorn pull and road cleanup. They're offering their labor if we need them. This is for you Matt if you know of anything. We had talked about having a spring garlic pull, so they could do that as well. The date is May 27th from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. We should decide if we want to do a small group and Matt if you have anything for a larger group. You put in for how many students you want. When I was discussing the garlic pull with Susan and Anita, we talked about the School Forest and thought we would only need 6-8 students. For a bigger project like cleaning up Hastings Avenue, that could have been 15-20 kids.

Executive Director Yokiell - We have the east side cleaned up but the west side of 7th Avenue could be cleaned up.

Chairperson White - Newport Lutheran has agreed to cleanup 7th Avenue from 12th Street to Tinucci's. They are doing that through the County sometime in May. What about, on the east side on the Highway side. I don't ever see MnDot cleaning that up and it's horrible. Can we do that?

Executive Director Yokiell - You need a vehicle with a crash attenuator on it so you need to line it up with MnDot. I agree, it's an eyesore.

Antia Perkins -What about going along Glen Road? That's never done.

Executive Director Yokiell - We can clean that up.

Chairperson White - It's not the safety issue that it could be. Although if you go further down 61, those sections are adopted and there aren't vehicles with them. They need the vests and yellow bags. I don't think anyone has adopted that section.

Vice-Chair Meconis - I'll pass his email to you. I think there's a May 1st deadline. Do we want to put in for the garlic pull?

Tom Aguilar-Downing - Yes, we talked about it.

Vice-Chair Meconis - I think we would need to be responsible for taping off an area and having a couple people to direct them.

Chairperson White - I can help with the garlic pull. I'd have to have Susan show me what to do.

Vice-Chair Meconis - Susan said she would be there as a guide. I'll email Mr. Nunn for that and send his email to Matt.

Executive Director Yokiel - Sounds good and I'll check out about Highway 61.

Vice-Chair Meconis - And they might not want the kids along the Highway.

Tom Aguilar-Downing - It sounds like the County has a process for doing cleanups along the Highway.

Executive Director Yokiel - It would be the State. I haven't looked into what we need to do.

Vice-Chair Meconis - When I've talked to the school in the past, they would rather not have projects along the Highway.

B. Anita Perkins - Getting back to the garlic mustard. Susan and I met on April 12th to do a preliminary pull. I have some pictures here. It's a problem that we have and it crowds out the native plants. It's a biennial plant. The first year, it's small rosettes, and the second year it produces a stock with a white flower. We were pulling up the second year plants. If anyone has a plant like this in their yard, please start pulling them. I also did the volunteer cards and Renee sent them out the volunteer week. We do want to thank you for helping out the City.

C. Tom Aguilar-Downing - Tagging off of Anita, my wife and I do Bailey Park and it's primetime to do cleanup for all the winter stuff that has accumulated. Thank you to all of the volunteers for doing that. I did walk by the bus stop today and saw all of the garbage along Highway 61 and realized that the parks do stay pretty clean. Sadly, we did not have any entries for the Winter Contest. I think we need to up the marketing for it. I redid the poster and emphasized the cash prizes. I have the pictures from last year's Spring Contest on the poster and displayed throughout the City. I'll get the posters out to our normal places and the parks. It'd be great to get these laminated for the parks.

Chairperson White - I have a cold laminator, how many do you want?

Tom Aguilar-Downing - Probably 10.

Chairperson White - I'll laminate these.

Tom Aguilar-Downing - This would be something that we would put on the bulletin boards. It might be nice to have a logo on the bulletin boards similar to the park signs. I saw a brochure on Red Rock Crossing out in the lobby, it's very nice. Monday is the open house from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. The brochure talks about area 3 and it says that funds are committed to significant improvements to Lions Park including new play structure, ice rink upgrades and parking. That's good to know. They also talk about the park on the River.

D. Heidi Tweeten - Nothing to report.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Yokiell - We have a few prices on the bulletin boards and will be coming up on a final concept.

Chairperson White - When does your summer help start?

Executive Director Yokiell - I believe early May. I'm hoping to get one of the guys on it soon.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Meconis, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:26 P.M. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Executive Analyst