



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
May 26, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members present – Emily White; Anita Perkins; Heidi Tweeten; Paul Hansen; John Graber

Board Members absent –

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

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of the April 28, 2016 Workshop Meeting

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Hansen, to approve the April 28, 2016 Workshop Meeting Minutes. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

B. Park Board Minutes of the March 24, 2016 Regular Meeting

Commissioner Perkins – I had one question, under the people that are talking sometimes it said “commissioner” and one time it said “councilperson”. Let’s change that, we don’t want to be called “councilpersons”.

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Hansen, to approve the March 24, 2016 Park Board Meeting Minutes as amended. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

4. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Chairperson White – The community garden is up and running, we still have lots of plots available which doesn’t have anything to do with the Park Board but it kind of does because it is City property. I will not be here for the June meeting so we might have to do things via e-mail for Pioneer Day because we will need people to work the booth and we share one tent with HPC. In the past we’ve had a big board that has the parks on it and all the places that people have adopted to clean up. Tom had pictures of those people and which spots they’ve adopted. A lot of those are not accurate anymore so what do we want to do for a display at Pioneer Day?

Commissioner Perkins – I think the board is a good idea, it’d be nice to get a few more people to fill those spots.

Chairperson White – Maybe that would be a way to get people, we could have applications there. It goes from 12 to 5, unfortunately some of us are on many different things that day, me being one of them. Between Paul, John, and Heidi, maybe you can think about Pioneer Day and if you can be at the booth at some point that day and we can decide later on what those shifts would be. We certainly wouldn’t want you stuck there all day. It’s pretty much just to be there to answer questions if someone comes through.

John Graber – I can be there but I’m not sure what kind of questions I could answer.

Chairperson White – I think the biggest questions that we would want you to answer are about where our parks are and you certainly know where the parks are. I think that if they ask about adopting an area, we’ll have the description and

applications there. It's just a 1 year commitment initially that we ask for. It would mainly just be somebody standing there by the board asking them if they're interested in adopting an area.

Commissioner Perkins – Are we going to see if we can get some buckthorn and garlic mustard?

Chairperson White – I'll ask one of our auxiliary members if we can get some buckthorn and garlic mustard. What happens with buckthorn is that because it grows so prolific, it crowds out any natural native things. The garlic mustard has also moved in and taken over up there.

Commissioner Perkins – It's not a lot of questions people just come to look to see what we have.

John Graber – I've heard that some townships have pullers for buckthorn but we don't have one of those.

Chairperson White – When we do the buckthorn pull we borrow them.

John Graber – It would be nice to have a puller there to show people. I've always wondered what one looks like.

Executive Director Yokiell – I think we could probably do that.

Chairperson White – Yeah if we can get one.

Councilman Lund – Could the City order one? Just to loan out to the residents.

Executive Director Yokiell – I'm sure we can.

Chairperson White – Yeah maybe check on that.

5. BOARD REPORTS

A. Anita Perkins

Commissioner Perkins – I got those volunteer “thank you” cards for the “adopt a park and trail” mailed out in April.

Paul Hansen – Pauline and I got together the other day and we checked out the landings from the foot bridges and discussed what would be the best thing to put in there. Something that's not too labor intensive and something where you could depend on rainwater. There were some native grasses she had pictures of and I also thought that in addition to native grasses, there are a variety of hostas that work quite well in the sun and some of the smaller spurias also which I bought two by mistake last year I planted 17 of them and 2 of them are actually small and require very little care and are just absolutely gorgeous. The same thing with the dwarf lilacs, if you ever go over by the state office building on Rice Street there you'll see a pile of them and the aroma is to die for and I don't think requires intensive labor to maintain.

Chairperson White – Do those lilacs spread out?

Paul Hansen – They will spread yes.

Chairperson White – The dwarf ones I don't know enough about...

Paul Hansen – I have to go over to Gerten's with a few questions next week. One of my questions will be about maintenance.

Chairperson White – Hostas have no maintenance to them it's almost like you couldn't kill them if you tried.

Paul Hansen – Sedum would probably be another. I've had very good luck with them, very low maintenance and the blossoms attract a lot of butterflies and bees which is great for the habitat. I think we need to draw up some type of game plan on paper.

Chairperson White – The other thing with that too is if we get volunteers to pick up trash at the landings there, we could just ask those people to do that as well, whatever it needs. Are you taking those dead trees out?

Executive Director Yokiel – We will be.

Chairperson White – The only thing I want to mention is our “Libraries on a Stick”, I think that’s what we’re officially going to be calling them. We’ve got the five of them built and they’ve all been primed. My neighbors actually did the bulk of the work by purchasing, cutting, and pretty much putting them together. We have a work day set where we’re going to paint them. I’m also going to work with the summer rec. director to see if she would be interested in having the kids come up with some designs and then they would actually paint the fun stuff on them. We’re going to try to get them all installed before Pioneer Day, there will probably be one at Pioneer Park and we’ll probably do a dedication at Pioneer Park. At Oliver Street we’re going to be working on the tops of the flood markers.

Executive Director Yokiel – The one thing I’d say about the little libraries is probably post some kind of notice at the library.

Chairperson White – Yeah we’ll advertise when we’re going to do it.

Councilman Lund – I’d like a little input. There’s some resistance on the Council level to fund any extra park projects mid-year but I’d like some input on the Park Board if I’m going to try to push something through on what would be a priority whether it’s irrigating the fields or lighting. I think we have a workable plan to put the fishing pier back in where it was.

Chairperson White – I don’t think we want to put the fishing pier back where it was.

Councilman Lund – Well that’s the only place it fits at the moment.

Chairperson White – Well at the moment but I think when we talked we’d rather have it go off of Cedar and do it correctly.

Councilman Lund – I think we can do it correctly where it was.

Anita Perkins – Right now with the ball teams I think the fencing would be a priority in my opinion.

Paul Hansen – The fishing pier would probably be too that’s my take on it.

John Graber – I believe that there has to be a little more access to the river than we currently have. We had the access but we put in the fence.

Chairperson White – We removed the fishing pier because it wasn’t ADA compliant.

John Graber – Yeah I agree with that but what I mean is that we used to have more river access. I’m not saying that this is safe access that we should have I’m saying that we used to have more.

Chairperson White – I just think that if we’re going to spend money I would rather see it built like fishing piers are on lakes now, more of a permanent structure.

Councilman Lund – Here’s the “back of the napkin” plan to get the fishing pier back where it was. It’s to extend the road as far down the road as we can take it and probably have some kind of ball and a handicapped parking spot somewhere down the hill because the City owns the access all the way to the water. I think we had a design back in the day that was horrendously expensive for a wheelchair ramp that was going to wind back and forth all the way down the hill but if we extend the road further then the slope of the ramp only has to start from where the road ends and we have a handicapped parking. So then we would need a much smaller ramp that would be to our fishing pier. I spoke with Bruce about it and his preference would be to hire someone to be in charge of moving the fishing pier in the spring and fall which I think would be doable. There’s 3 marinas within a mile so they’re close to each other and they’re very experienced moving

docks so I don't think it would be as expensive as it was. There are potentially some plans to get some kind of asphalt paving this summer so maybe it could be paired up with it. Are we doing something with the Raceway to Fun site?

Executive Director Yokiel – Anything that they did they would have to repair and right now they're talking about just making two connections to the water main and putting in their own lift station so it wouldn't be like 10th Avenue where we're going to tear it all up and redo the whole thing. So that would be the big paving project and the other one would be 11th Street and 5th Avenue if we end up doing that.

Councilman Lund – If that were to happen would it be more efficient at that point to.....

Executive Director Yokiel – Most likely yes. The mobilization cost is a big cost.

Councilman Lund – We would want to piggyback this but that would require more design than on the “back of a napkin”.

Chairperson White – When we've talked before though we don't feel that that's the ideal site. We think Cedar would be the ideal site. When that becomes a passive park, it's not on the main channel like it would be at the end of 6th. If it's a passive park there could be a small parking area there and have something that wouldn't have to be pulled in every year.

Councilman Lund – What I'll be pushing for is a fishing pier in both spots and we're probably not going to get anything on Cedar for 5 years.

Chairperson White – Right.

Councilman Lund – You guys could pass a resolution supporting a “fishing compatible” fence.

Chairperson White – A “fishing compatible” fence?

Councilman Lund – Yeah something a little shorter. My understanding is that because it's a man-made wall, if someone has an accident and falls off of it, it would be the City's responsibility but we're not responsible for someone that tries to climb over a fence.

Motion by Graber, seconded by Hansen, to Support Installing a Shorter Fence on Oliver Street Overlook that would be Compatible to Fishing. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

B. Heidi Tweeten

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Nothing to report.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hansen, seconded by Perkins to adjourn at 6:31 p.m. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Brunick
Administrative Intern