



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
June 25, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

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

Board Members absent – Anita Perkins; Heidi Tweeten;

Also present –Matt Yokiell, Executive Director;

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of April 23, 2015 Regular Meeting

Motion by Meconis, seconded by Aguilar-Downing, to approve the Park Board Minutes of April 23, 2015 as amended. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, the motion carried.

4. PIONEER DAY 2015

Chairperson White - Pioneer Day is August 9, 2015. Up on our screen is showing a diagram of Pioneer Park and tents. The red circle is where we will be. I know HPC will be over by the warming house. Didn't the Library have a tent as well?

Vice-Chair Meconis - Yes, the Library had one and I believe the Post Office had a tent one year.

Chairperson White - I don't know who those others are, maybe we'll be sharing with the Library Board and that's why it's bigger. I'm not sure what those other white ones are next to it. I wanted to talk about what we need to do for that day. I know some of us are involved in other things that day. Tom, what do we need to bring?

Tom Aguilar-Downing - Last year, we had photos from the photo contest, the board with the volunteers for the adopt-a-trail.

Vice-Chair Meconis - Do we want to bring along forms?

Tom Aguilar-Downing - Yes.

Chairperson White - Does the board need to be updated?

Tom Aguilar-Downing - I'll check with Renee, she'll have the forms as well. We also had buckthorn information at the booth.

Vice-Chair Meconis - Didn't Laura bring an invasive species bouquet? It might be nice to get that again, I can email her to see if we can borrow it.

Chairperson White - I don't know if we can do it but we had a giant root of buckthorn one year.

Vice-Chair Meconis - We could do that again. We might be able to find some garlic mustard as well.

Chairperson White - Let's check with Susan to see if she has anything that she could share with us.

Tom Aguilar-Downing - Two years ago, we had a flyer listing all the programs. I could make that again.

Chairperson White - I believe the City will provide a table but I'll check.

Tom Aguilar-Downing - I'll bring a park board banner. The last couple years, I've brought my crystal sticks, do they attract people to the tent?

Vice-Chair Meconis - You should bring them, it brings people in.

Tom Aguilar-Downing - The only problem is that if I'm the only person there it's difficult for me to do both. I can be there the whole time.

Chairperson White - Should we have two shifts?

Vice-Chair Meconis - That would be good, I may be able to be there the entire time.

Chairperson White - So 12-2:30 and 2:30-5.

Tom Aguilar-Downing - I'd usually start around 11.

Chairperson White - Let's check with Heidi and Anita. I would like to work a shift.

Vice-Chair Meconis - I can take the first shift.

Chairperson White - Let me check with Heidi to see if she can take the last shift and I'll help out as well. I'll check with Susan and do a punch list. Is there anything else? I know the survey Susan is doing isn't necessarily Park Board.

Executive Director Yokiell - I know she's half way through, we're going to meet soon.

Chairperson White - Was she going to present to us or the Council?

Executive Director Yokiell - I don't know.

Chairperson White - I'll check with her. I think it's worth having the garlic mustard there because a lot of people don't know what it looks like. Anything else?

Vice-Chair Meconis - I don't think it's worth brining the computer set-up, it doesn't seem to get much attention.

Chairperson White - Are there any other forms?

Vice-Chair Meconis - I don't think so.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT -

Chairperson White - Nothing to report.

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Marge Meconis - Talking more about garlic mustard, the Woodbury Senior Service Day went forward and we had five students show up. Susan Lindoo lead the group and her husband was with. Heidi did show up too. They pulled out 45 pounds of garlic mustard. Susan noted that the 45 pounds would turn into 450 pounds next year. I think it went really well, hopefully we'll be able to get them again next year and continue to work on the garlic mustard.

Chairperson White - 45 pounds doesn't sound like much but it's small.

B. Anita Perkins - Not present.

C. Tom Aguilar-Downing - I have two things. First, the spring photo contest's deadline is June 30th. There are two categories, black and white or color. Photos can be emailed to Renee or dropped off at City Hall. The rules are on the City's website. Secondly, I received an email from a Karen with the DNR and she writes:

"Laura Duffey, my coworker, gave me your contact information. I work for the MN School Forest Program and was wondering about the Newport Park Board goals. We are currently working on a grant for the US Forest Service and are recording action in School Forests that meets management goals. A long time ago there was a DNR management plan for the Newport Bailey School Forest but it seems that many retirements have caused the document to go missing. I spoke with Bruce at the city of Newport and he said they mostly follow the advice of the board.

When I was reading through some of the park board minutes, I noticed that the 2015 goals are mentioned but I was unable to find any documentation of what those were. Do you by chance have anything that notes these goals? It would be helpful to have that for the work that I'm doing here. The Newport Bailey School Forest does so many great management activities!

Any help is appreciated. Thank you."

I believe she's talking about the Park Board goals, which may or may not be specific to what she is doing for the grant. I will point her to those, which are probably in the Board minutes.

Chairperson White - The two things we do have is the buckthorn pull and the garlic mustard.

Vice-Chair Meconis - I know Laura had contacted me earlier asking for that agreement and I have the original but that's not the management plan they were looking for. I'm surprised there's not an actual document with the City and School District.

Chairperson White - Who was the original science person?

Vice-Chair Meconis - Wayne Gail and he retired a while ago.

Tom Aguilar-Downing -I've seen a governance plan but am not sure if I ever saw the management plan.

Vice-Chair Meconis - I think it was done around the same time they did the controlled burn which was many years ago.

Tom Aguilar-Downing - Do you remember what was in it?

Vice-Chair Meconis - I don't know.

Chairperson White - Bruce might know, do you want to check with him? Has anyone talked with Bruce? I can't believe the City wouldn't have kept that.

Vice-Chair Meconis - I can look up when the controlled burn was, it was in the 90's.

D. Heidi Tweeten - Not present.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Yokiel - I did talk with MnDot about getting volunteers to pick up trash along Highway 61. I was first told that it was already adopted but was then told it wasn't. I asked if we could get people out there and he said yes, we just have to watch an online video, wear vests, and have a chaperone. By the time we got that worked out, it was past the deadline for the Senior Service Day. I believe MnDot got a sentence to serve crew to clean it.

Chairperson White - Would everyone need to watch the video?

Executive Director Yokiel - Yes, I don't believe it's very long, just general guidelines. We can keep it in mind for next year. We did get the surrounds built around the port-a-potties at the parks and thought we would put the informational boards on those.

Chairperson White - They look really nice.

Vice-Chair Meconis - Yes they do.

Chairperson White - Do we know any more about the signage at the pocket parks?

Executive Director Yokiel - Yes, I talked with Bruce and John about it and it wasn't included as part of the construction project so it's something that we would need to do.

Chairperson White - I was talking with Matt about the dedicated trees at Pioneer Park as well and Matt thinks they'll do a conceptual drawing of the trees and place that on a plaque. Hopefully that'll happen soon because the person that asked me when it was going to up was adamant about getting it up.

Executive Director Yokiel - Yes, I think we'll put it near the entrance. We're just waiting for a chance to build it.

Vice-Chair Meconis - I was asked by a citizen if there would ever be a bench at the upper level of Loveland Park. People like to walk up there but it's quite a hike and people would like to sit up there to catch their breath. We had talked about putting a Leopold bench, something that's nice and easy. It was just a thought.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Aguilar-Downing, seconded by Meconis, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 6:55 P.M. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Executive Analyst