



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
June 27, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

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

Board Members absent – Laura Duffey;

Also present –Bruce Hanson, Public Works Superintendent;

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of May 23, 2013 Regular Meeting

Mary Ann Newman – The roll call is incorrect, the only absent was Anita.

Anita Perkins – I have a correction on page five where Bob Graves is speaking. I believe it should be “to have activity in the park to move the deer” instead of “more the deer.”

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – Also, on page four, where John says that the agreement will be on the June 6 agenda, it’s the City Council agenda.

Motion by White, seconded by Perkins, to approve the Park Board Minutes of May 23, 2013 as amended. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

4. REVIEW 2013 GOALS

5. CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

A. Report on Bat Houses

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – There was an email from Susan Lindoo, she did not consider the additional costs for installing the bat houses, as such her and Mike have volunteered to cover the costs for installing the bat houses. She would like to do one this year at the Community Garden. I was looking around at Bailey and there is a whole series of wood high-tension wires that run along the edge of the park. I’m not sure if they’re good interpretive places for the bat house but it would meet some of the other criteria.

Superintendent Hanson – They are not in the park and I’m not sure if we’re allowed to place them on the poles.

Emily White – Can’t they go on trees?

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – That makes them available to predators. John Neska did thank Susan for the contribution.

B. Report on the Archery Deer Hunt in Loveland Park and Bailey School Forest

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – I attended the June 6 City Council meeting and brought our concerns to them, the biggest one being that they close the parks during the hunt. The Council did agree with that and amended the contract. There will only be four hunters during the hunt in each park. The hunters need to shoot a doe before they can shoot a buck.

Anita Perkins – Can anyone participate in that hunt or is it a specific group?

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – It's through the Metro Bowhunters Resource Base. Anyone can join that group and volunteer for the controlled hunts. Individuals can still hunt on private property.

C. Discussion Regarding Pioneer Day

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – Laura volunteered for two hours and I plan on being there all day. I would love for anyone that can be there as well. We'll have a board for the Adopt-a-Park program, the schedule, and I would like to have information on the deer hunt. The citizen group recommended that we provide information on the deer hunt to the public.

Mary Ann Newman – Will you have the Buckthorn pictures and brochure as well?

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – Yes.

Mary Ann Newman – I can volunteer as well.

Emily White – I plan on being there.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – I was wondering how hard it would be to get electricity to our tent so we can show videos from the Winter Family Fun Night and Laura's interview on the Bailey School Forest.

Superintendent Hanson – It shouldn't be too hard and a laptop shouldn't take up too much power.

D. Discussion Regarding the Anoka Parks Buckthorn Event

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – You had some printouts regarding Anoka's buckthorn event. The grant period ends in three days so we can't get anything this year. However, they talked about it being a pilot project and taking the buckthorn to an energy plant to burn for fuel.

Vice-Chair Meconis – Haven't we done that in the past?

Superintendent Hanson – We do that already. We bring it there because it's not enough volume for them to come out and collect it.

Mary Ann Newman – I'm on another Park Board and they have a lot of buckthorn but weren't able to get a grant.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – They also talk about using inmates to help clear the buckthorn. I'm not sure if we would want to look into that.

Superintendent Hanson – We use some already for our Compost Site and we have to schedule a year out.

Emily White – I'd rather keep this as a community thing and we don't want to jeopardize what they already do for us.

E. Discussion Regarding Photo Contest for Newport Parks

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – This idea came to me as I was walking the trails in Bailey and I realized that there are a lot of people shooting pictures at parks. I thought maybe we could do a photo contest for all of the parks.

Emily White – The City did something similar a couple years ago but I can't remember what it was for. I think that's a good idea but we probably don't have time to do it this year already but we could advertise it already.

Superintendent Hanson – Pioneer Day would be a good time to display them.

Anita Perkins – What were you thinking of for awards?

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – I hadn't thought that through yet. I figured they'd be online and in the City Newsletter.

Emily White – I think they could be recognized by the City Council as well.

Vice-Chair Meconis – You may want to draw up some parameters for it.

Emily White – We can think of the prizes later. Do we want it to be amateurs?

Mary Ann Newman – Yes

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – Who maintains ownership of the photos?

Vice-Chair Meconis – The photographers do.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – Why don't we discuss this further at the July meeting?

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Marge Meconis - On June 20th, John Neska, Mary Ann, Ed, Mike Bailey and I looked at the wall planters. Mike agreed that it needed some refreshing and will come up with a plan. He said that the roses will be gone due to the pests but didn't have any other specifics for the planters. He is going to do some research and will get back to us. In the meantime, a sentence to serve individual has been weeding it.

Mary Ann Newman – Mike was very good and accommodating. He was hoping he'd know specifics by the end of August.

B. Anita Perkins - Last month we talked about the volunteer appreciation potluck and it was decided that we would contact the volunteers to see what ideas they had. Mary Ann and I contacted 13 families. Of those, a couple families said the date was during a busy time of the year with the end of school, three families said they don't do picnics, one family said that they work Sundays, and a couple other families said the date didn't work this year. We asked them about the cards and they said that they really enjoy the cards. I had one person say that other organizations have a similar problem with picnics and recommended doing a drawing with the volunteers.

Emily White – People that volunteer all the time aren't doing it for anything besides the good of the community. I think they really enjoy getting hand-written notes from us.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – Do you have a recommendation for it?

Anita Perkins – I think we should stick with the notes for now and try a picnic in a couple years again.

Mary Ann Newman – I agree.

Vice-Chair Meconis – I agree as well.

A. Emily White – Report on the Family Campout

Emily White – Only one family came this year and it happened to be my family. I had a lot of activities planned. I won't be doing it again unless we have some interest in it. I think if we did it in the future we would need to have people RSVP for it.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – I'd like to thank the Cable Commission for coming out for the campout.

B. Mary Ann Newman – Report on the Adopt-a-Park Volunteer Appreciation Potluck and Updated List

Mary Ann Newman provided the Park Board with a handout on Buckthorn Day and went through the list of assignments and activities. The handout is attached as part of the minutes. Volunteers for each assignment are in bold.

Mary Ann Newman – We also need to review the Adopt-a-Park Volunteer list and make assignments to contact volunteers.

C. Laura Duffey – Discussion Regarding Buckthorn Day

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Superintendent Hanson – A couple updates on Loveland Park. The east parking lot has been patched and sealed. Also, the panels for the tennis court are in and the fence will be installed next week.

Emily White – It looks really nice.

Mayor Geraghty – We're acquiring more property along Cedar Lane and I think it would be a good opportunity for the Parks Board to think of a long-term design for that area. I think it would be a fun project.

Vice-Chair Meconis – Have there been more acquisitions?

Superintendent Hanson – We've acquired three more within the last year and three of the four are adjacent.

Vice-Chair Meconis – So similar to the levee park in St. Paul Park?

Superintendent Hanson – Yes.

Mary Ann Newman – Should we put that in our goals for next year?

Mayor Geraghty – I just wanted to put it on your radar for the future.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – Should we have a workshop in August to walk Loveland Park for the fun walk and then go over to Cedar Lane to look at those properties?

Superintendent Hanson – I would guess it'll take an hour to walk Loveland.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing – So the August meeting, August 22, will be an on-site workshop starting at Loveland Park and then go over to Cedar Lane. The workshop will begin at 6:00 p.m. We'll meet as regular in July to discuss the Adopt-a-Park and Buckthorn.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by White, seconded by Newman, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:57 P.M. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tom Aguilar-Downing, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Helm
Executive Analyst