



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

**Motion by Meconis, seconded by Aguilar-Downing, to approve the Park Board Minutes of June 25, 2015 as presented. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.**

**4. PIONEER DAY 2015**

**Chairperson White** - The bulk of what we want to talk about is Pioneer Day. I just bought my button, they're \$3 each and we would encourage people to buy a button and come. Pioneer Day is August 9th at Pioneer Park from 12 to 5 p.m. We'll have the boards we had in the past that have our adopt-a-park volunteers. We'll have a tent and table. Tom and Marge are working from 12:00 to 2:30 and Emily and Heidi are working 2:30 to 5:00.

**Anita Perkins** - I'm at the school's booth but can pop over if needed.

**Chairperson White** - And Tom will be bringing his crystal sticks to play with outside of the tent. Susan Lindoo also sent me some garlic mustard and information to have on display. That's new information to me, I never heard of garlic mustard before this year. Also, we'll have flyers on buckthorn and the annual removal day in October.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Set-up time is 11:00 a.m.

**Anita Perkins** - That's the same time as the parade.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - I have a banner for the Park Board.

**Chairperson White** - How do we hang that?

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - It's taped on front of the table. I can bring some rope.

**Chairperson White** - Marge, can you bring some buckthorn?

**Vice-Chair Meconis** - Yes.

**Chairperson White** - If you could get as much root as possible that would be great. I think their size is surprising to people. I'll check with Susan to see if she's bringing a live plant of garlic mustard.

**Anita Perkins** - I just remember when I was helping dig it out, I was digging out other weeds that were fine.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Does it smell like garlic?

**Vice-Chair Meconis** - Yes, if you crush the leaves. I did email Laura Duffey about getting the evasive bouquet and she'll get back to me on that.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Matt do you want to keep the banner afterwards?

**Executive Director Yokiell** - Whatever works best, we have a bunch of Pioneer Day items.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Ok, I'll bring it at the next meeting.

**Chairperson White** - Anything else? I think it's a good opportunity for the different groups to have a presence and show what's happening.

## **5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT -**

**Chairperson White** - Nothing to report.

## **6. BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Marge Meconis** - Nothing to report.

**B. Anita Perkins** - Nothing to report.

**C. Tom Aguilar-Downing** - We had seven entries for the spring photo contest. The winners are:

- Youth, Color - Brooke Kolodziej
- Youth, Black and White - Bethany Habbena
- Adult, Color - Lee Bilderback

We'll have the pictures throughout town and at Pioneer Day. The deadline for the summer contest is September 30th.

**Chairperson White** - I'm glad we're getting kids to enter. Do we know what the pictures are taken with?

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Brooke has done some with her phone. I'm torn with her picture because there's a lot of green in it so I'm wondering if we should crop it for display or not.

**Vice-Chair Meconis** - I would leave it as is.

**Chairperson White** - Do we have information at Pioneer Day?

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - Yes, we will.

**Heidi Tweeten** - Pioneer Day will be great, I wonder if we could have slips of paper telling people to enter their photos from that day. I would be happy to make those up.

**Chairperson White** - That would be great.

**D. Heidi Tweeten** - I went to the garlic mustard pull. It was fun to see the kids that were happy to be there. I thought that was wonderful. As I was leaving, there were busloads of kids coming into the park and I was so happy to see how well-utilized it is. It actually made me more interested in your idea Emily about labeling trees. I visited the Wright Park Arboretum in Tacoma and looked at how their trees were labeled. It was really interesting. They hang them up high so they're readable but not reachable. I believe they were nailed into the trees. I contacted Tom at the Landscape Arboretum asking about their signage. I haven't heard back yet but I know they use a molded plastic. I want to find out about price. I don't know if it's something we have a sponsorship program for or what. I also contacted the County Master Gardener, there's a program where they need to do some volunteer hours and I think a project like this would fall in line with their mission. If we wanted to use that resource to properly label the trees we could.

**Chairperson White** - How big are the labels?

**Heidi Tweeten** - They weren't large. I liked your idea where we had a lot of information because you have that teachable moment. The ones in Tacoma had a smaller amount of information.

**Chairperson White** - Most people would want to know that it's an oak tree but those that want to know more would look further. That's what I think is interesting, the more specific information.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - You can do QRC codes that people could scan and go to a website for more information.

**Heidi Tweeten** - Also, kudos to the people who planned and planted the veterans' memorial. The plants filter the spotlight so nicely and now the flag is the focus.

**Vice-Chair Meconis** - The planting is a bit out of control and we've been there a couple times and will be going there this weekend to remove some of the menarda. It's not the right plant for there. It's taken over and messed up some of the other plants. We're going to remove some of it and will tidy it up before Pioneer Day. It was a good experiment but we need to make some changes.

**Heidi Tweeten** - When thinking about those changes, I'm wondering if we can think about the winter because if that filtering could stay, that would be good.

**Vice-Chair Meconis** - The bluestem stays all winter. We do have labels for those plants so they will be up before Pioneer Day.

**Heidi Tweeten** - The last thing I have is just a concern for the lilacs at Loveland. They're very sick, it looks like there's been an investment made and I'm wondering if there's something we can do to protect those.

**Anita Perkins** - They've been there for years, I think they were a donation from Bailey's.

**Chairperson White** - Maybe they just need to be cut back.

**Anita Perkins** - Maybe we need to clean out the dead ones.

**Heidi Tweeten** - It looks like there's some type of fungus on the lilacs and trees behind it.

**Chairperson White** - Mine gets that as well, it's not unusual. I think part of it is that we've had so much rain. Does anyone in Public Works know about that?

**Executive Director Yokiell** - Not off the top of my head.

**Vice-Chair Meconis** - Maybe we can ask Susan to look at them when she gets to them because she's doing a survey of the trees at Loveland and the trees that MnDot planted. I've spoken to her about the pines back there that are bad. Hopefully, she can get some information on it.

**Heidi Tweeten** - I can take a sample into Gerten's too.

## **7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Executive Director Yokiel** - We're just starting to work on the bulletin boards now. We're hoping to get them up soon.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - We'll put one up at Bailey too?

**Executive Director Yokiel** - Yes, I'm not sure where it will go.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - I'm talking about the surround around the satellite.

**Executive Director Yokiel** - I believe that's the school's, not ours.

**Tom Aguilar-Downing** - The ones that the City owns will have a surround? There still needs to be access to it?

**Executive Director Yokiel** - Yes and they may be pulled out in the winter.

**Chairperson White** - I would like to say that your mowers have done a great job this year. I think it's the best mowing I've seen, especially the lot across from the community garden. All of our parks look so good this year. Pass that on please.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Perkins, seconded by Meconis, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 6:56 P.M. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz  
Executive Analyst