



**City of Newport  
Park Board Meeting  
July 25, 2013**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ROLL CALL**

Board Members present – Tom Aguilar-Downing; Emily White; Mary Ann Newman;

Board Members absent – Marge Meconis; Anita Perkins; Laura Duffey;

Also present –John Neska, Executive Director;

**3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES**

**A. Park Board Minutes of June 27, 2013 Regular Meeting**

**Motion by White, seconded by Newman, to approve the Park Board Minutes of June 25, 2013 as presented. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent, the motion carried.**

**4. REVIEW 2013 GOALS**

**5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

**A. Discussion Regarding Pioneer Day**

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – Pioneer Day is August 11 and the Park Board will be present there with a booth. The booth will have the annual program schedule. We'll also have something new this year. South Washington County Telecommunications Commission will be providing us with videos from interviews they've done for the Park Board. We'll put those videos on a computer and have them looped continuously. Also, we'll have an announcement of the deer hunt in the parks this fall. There was a PowerPoint presentation that was put together by the community group that explains and helps educate the public on that, we'll have that in the loop as well. Another item that I talked about was a photo contest that I would like to announce at Pioneer Day. I put together some ideas. I would say that we have it across all four seasons with different categories. The best nature shot, people shot, most humorous category, and best black and white photo. I think we would have both an adult and kid section for each category. I would see making a presentation of the winner in each category on a quarterly basis and then the winners would be judged at the end of the year with a best of show. The purpose of this is to get people out in the parks. I do have a question regarding the best people category on whether we would need a photo release. I'll check with the City Administrator and Attorney on that.

**Mary Ann Newman** – Who will make the decision?

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** –That takes us down to the judges section, skipping over the prize section. We talked about prizes last week and thought that some photographers would just be thrilled to have exposure to their photo. We might want to talk about a cash prize for the best of show award. That keeps it limited. In regards to judging, I was thinking that we would want a photography or graphic arts teacher from East Ridge High School, someone from Newport Elementary, someone from the City or Park Board, and then a community representative and someone from the business community.

**Mary Ann Newman** – I think there should be a Park Board representative since we're sponsoring it. The City representative could be the City Administrator or someone from the Council. I don't know how you would find a community representative. Maybe the Athletic Association would know someone.

**Emily White** – That could also be in place of the community representative.

**Mary Ann Newman** – You might want an odd number.

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – I think the process would be fairly simple and a lot of it can be done through email.

**Emily White** – Do you think there would be enough interest to do it quarterly?

**Executive Director Neska** – When we did it five or six years ago with the HPC, we really didn't get very many pictures so we'll really have to push it. I think if anyone did it the first season they would be interested in doing it the other three.

**Mary Ann Newman** – How do you define kids?

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – Let's say under 18. It's good to know that the HPC has done this already. We also talked about contacting the 4H because they do this at the fair. You raise an excellent point on the advertising and marketing and of course Pioneer Day is the first step towards that. I was thinking about kicking it off in the fall but maybe we use the fall as advertising and the first season is winter 2014.

**Emily White** – We can also run the dates by the activities that we run like the Winter Family Fun Night or Buckthorn Day.

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – Lastly, the display venues are the City's website and newsletter, City Hall, South Washington County Bulletin, cable television, churches, Newport Elementary, School District, some restaurants around town, Newport Drug bulletin board, Faye's, Dogs at Play, and then the School Forest or any of the parks.

**Mary Ann Newman** – Some places don't have bulletin boards for displays.

## **B. Discussion Regarding Adopt-a-Park Volunteer**

**Mary Ann Newman** – I think we should divide these up when everyone is here to get them renewed. We should probably try to get the commitment through the end of the year. Did the New-Park Lions contact you about their sign?

**Executive Director Neska** – They did about five weeks ago.

**Mary Ann Newman** – I'll contact them about it.

**Chairperson Aguilar-Downing** – If we get it on a regular basis, I'd like to send out a formal letter for renewing at the end of each year.

**Mary Ann Newman** – There is a formal letter.

## **6. BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Marge Meconis** – Nothing to Report

**B. Anita Perkins** – Nothing to Report

**C. Emily White – Discussion Regarding the Annual Fun Walk**

**Emily White** – I haven't done any more with it other than we do have a date and it's in the fall newsletter. The Fun Walk will be September 28 at 10:00 a.m. at Loveland Park. I had Renee add that it's not stroller friendly. I plan on having a craft for the kids. It should be a fun day. We'll meet at the Pavilion at 10:00 and head out from there.

**D. Mary Ann Newman**

**Mary Ann Newman** – Buckthorn is October 26. I contacted Angie Hong, she was on vacation and didn't get a chance to read all of her emails yet so she'll get back to me. Super Mom's will provide a mix of food. I think Laura talked to one of the schools and they asked to be contacted again after school starts. Just a reminder that we'll meet at Loveland Park on August 22 for a workshop and then head over to Cedar Lane.

**E. Laura Duffey** – Nothing to Report

**7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Executive Director Neska** – I haven't heard anything new from Bailey's Nursery in regards to the garden walls, I'll let you know once I do. Secondly, we have started on the solar power project at the Bailey School Forest.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by White, seconded by Newman, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:24 P.M. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 3 Absent, the motion carried.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Aguilar-Downing, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Helm  
Executive Analyst