



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
August 28, 2014**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

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

Board Members absent – Laura Duffey;

Also present – Bruce Hanson, Supt. of Public Works; Tim Geraghty, Council Liaison

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of May 22, 2014

Anita Perkins - On page 3, under Marge, it says "I think that's what he is saying, to do this pre-planning so has the land," it should be "a-s" instead of "h-a-s."

Motion by White, seconded by Perkins, to approve the Park Board Minutes of May 22, 2014 as amended. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

B. Park Board Minutes of June 26, 2014 Workshop

Anita Perkins - Down on the bottom where it starts with Susan where it says "wide open the idea," "with" should go in there between "wide" and "open." The last sentence on the page it should be "An actual" instead of "A actual."

Motion by White, seconded by Meconis, to approve the Park Board Minutes of June 26, 2014 as amended. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

C. Park Board Minutes of July 24, 2014 Workshop

Marge Meconis - It's not a typo but under the "Fun Walk" section it should be "Smokey Bear" not "Smokey the Bear."

Anita Perkins - Under "Veterans' Memorial Plantings," did Laura help with the design or was that just the planting?

Marge Meconis - She was an advisor on the design.

Motion by White, seconded by Perkins, to approve the Park Board Minutes of July 24, 2014 as presented. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

4. REVIEW 2014 GOALS

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - We'll talk about a lot of these during our reports.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT -

A. Report on Pioneer Day 2014

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Pioneer Day was held a couple weeks ago and it went well. We were back by the Veterans' Memorial so I don't think we had the same traffic we've had in the past. It was nice to have the electric there so we could run a computer with all of the videos. However, I wasn't happy with how that panned out. I kept the volume down so people didn't get drawn into it like I had hoped. All of those videos are on the website.

Emily White - In the future, I think it's nice to have something like that but maybe something without sound, like a slideshow. I also was really unhappy with where that tent was because people didn't walk back there. I know we want to gain revenue from people that are paying for spots but I think this is Newport's time to shine and I would like to see that tent put someplace else, even if it's closer to the car show. No one walked back there for any reason unless they wanted to see the non-profit type of things. If there were more vendors down that way. I wasn't happy with that placement, I don't think it was a good place.

Marge Meconis - Anita and I were at a library meeting last night and I think Jamie had a similar feeling.

Emily White - That's probably something we want to talk to Renee about for next year. I'd rather see vendors down there.

Anita Perkins - Or a mix.

Marge Meconis - Then at least they would walk past us so we could get some traffic through.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - We did have two couples that were interested in adopting a trail, I told them to contact Renee. It went well but there's room for improvements.

B. Report on Photo Contest

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - We have the deadline for our summer contest coming up on August 31st, just three days away. If you're not able to get here before the holiday, you can bring them in on Tuesday. The winners from the spring contest are:

- Best Nature Shot, Adult - Jen Knutson, "Goldenrod Sunset"
- Best Nature Shot, Youth - Brooke Kolodziej, "Lilacs in Bloom"
- Best People/Animal Shot, Adult - Michelle Picasso, "Spring Blossom"
- Best People/Animal Shot, Youth - Bethany Habbena, "Another Bridge to Cross"
- Best Black and White Shot, Adult - Jen Knutson, "Wall of Time"
- Best Black and White Shot, Youth - Brooke Kolodziej, "Field of Dreams"

We look forward to having some more entries for the summer contest.

Marge Meconis - There were 20 odd entries, were there a lot of multiple entries by one person or multiple people entering?

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - There were probably more people, it's a blind judging so I don't know. I think there were more entries than just the winners here.

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Marge Meconis - Native Plantings at Veterans' Memorial

Marge Meconis - You have in front of you a diagram of plantings done at the Veterans' Memorial in Pioneer Park. It was designed entirely by Susan Lindoo with some input from Laura Duffey, especially on the native plants. It's all native plants. It has prairie smoke, butterfly weed, little bluestem, and several others that you can see from the key. Eventually, we hope to have tags that will list what the plants are. Stephanie, who was a summer worker for the City, was awesome helping. Anita, Susan and I did the plantings and it went really quick. They seem to be holding up well. There were some flowering. Susan Lindoo came forth and volunteered when she heard about it.

Emily White - It looks really nice. The whole project looks beautiful, it's really a pretty place.

Supt. Hanson - The guys did a good job on it.

Anita Perkins - It'll be nice once those plants mature.

Emily White - We have that unusual cover too. I went over and Marge was there and asked why there was a different color mulch there and she picked it up and they were dead bugs.

Marge Meconis - We saw Stephanie at Pioneer Days and said that she was coming over still to make sure they got watered. The other thing I have to bring up is a clarification of our notes from our last formal meeting. John had mentioned the land that the community garden is on. When you read the notes it gives a different impression of what I think should be there. He said "the City spent quarter of a million dollars on the current community garden and we might want to put it back on the tax rolls in the future." The clarification I want to make is that that property was not bought to be used as a community garden but as future development site, a City Hall or something like that. That property was available and vacant and that's when Newport on the Move came in and asked if we could use it as a community garden until the City had other plans for it. I just wanted that clarification because if people read the minutes they might think that the City spent a quarter of a million dollars for a community garden. John understood that that wasn't his intent to say.

Supt. Hanson - I think part of it was that we were looking for a temporary area because we weren't sure how well it was going to work. Now we're continuing to look for a permanent place for it because that probably won't remain a permanent spot for it.

Marge Meconis - And we're really happy that the City is going to support a community garden no matter where it is.

Supt. Hanson - And it looks pretty successful.

Marge Meconis - It is very successful, we're at over 1,000 lbs of food that we donated to the Food Shelf so far this year.

Supt. Hanson - Do you think the location has significance?

Marge Meconis - I think it's really good because it's central and very visible. Newport on the Move's original intent was to provide gardening spaces to people who did not have land so with the concentration of apartment buildings and townhomes around we thought that would be a good use for them. I would not say that the majority of the people who garden in there are apartment dwellers.

Supt. Hanson - My thought was that if they go there, they'll go there no matter where we put it.

Marge Meconis - I think people want it to continue in whatever form that we can have it continue. We've had discussions with the gardeners that we may have to move it in a year or two and they all say they'll go with it.

Emily White - It is a nice place as far as security. I don't think we've had any pilfering this year.

Marge Meconis - I just got an email from a citizen who said that the Police let her know that the garden shed was open and this was in the evening so the Police made sure that it was locked up and nothing seemed stolen. You're also right about the security because often times the Police will use that area to watch the traffic.

Emily White - If things go well and we have it back next year, we'd like to request a picnic table.

Marge Meconis - If anyone wants to help harvest vegetables, contact City Hall and they can direct you to me. The first six plots are farmed by Newport on the Move for the food shelf and there's a large area in the back as well that we farm for the food shelf. There are about 24 private lots that are farmed by individuals around town.

B. Anita Perkins - Nothing to report.

C. Emily White - Update on Fun Walk

Emily White - The Fun Walk will be on September 27. We'll be walking the bridges again and will meet at 9:00 a.m. from the bridge closest to Tinucci's on the west side of the highway and walk down 7th Avenue and cross at 12th Street and walk up Hastings and over again. We'll have door prizes and will be doing a scavenger hunt. I haven't figured out how we'll do that yet. I don't want them to bring stuff back, maybe I'll have them just point items out. It was in the newsletter.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Any press needs to go through Renee.

Emily White - Great. I've already talked with Brian at the cable station. I'll probably also have a children's craft, that usually goes over really well. Is there still a picnic table at the ped bridge?

Supt. Hanson - Yes.

D. Laura Duffey - Update on Buckthorn Removal Day

Marge Meconis - Laura emailed me some things she wanted to me say about Buckthorn. It's on October 25 at Bailey School Forest. She has already contacted Angie Hong and she'll be bring the weed wrenches. It's in the newsletter as well. I don't know about the Bulletin. She mentioned that Mr. Carstensen, a teacher at Lake Middle School, that brought a really nice group last year is happy to do it again. She'll meet with them beforehand and do a pre-teaching for buckthorn. We still need to determine a site to focus on.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Let's hold off on that for a second whether we want to do next month as a workshop and meet at the park. There are some other workshop issues we might want to talk about at the same time.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT -

A. Bruce Hanson - Parks CIP

Supt. Hanson - I handed out the 2014 Park System Future Capital Improvements. These aren't necessarily capital budget items, it's all items that are added to the parks. Some of them are in the midst. We do have the material for the Loveland warming house, we just haven't had time to do any work on it. I believe we have some new doors that will be installed as well. It's something that you can all take a look at, we can add or delete. We can discuss it a little more at the workshop. In regards to the informational signs, maybe we can get some more information on what we want with them. This wouldn't necessarily all go on capital budgets, it's mainly improvements that haven't been done yet. Public Works time and money are a couple of the issues with doing the projects.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - On several of them, we're talking about building screening for portable toilets.

Supt. Hanson - That's cedar screening, fences around them.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Ok. You'll see on there the informational signage and bulletin boards at several parks. I talked with John about that. That came from our discussions with the environmental resource plan where we talked about educating the public and how do we reach out to them. It might be a good idea to get some signs at the parks. Another question, some of the things on this list are not park facilities such as the Library, Railroad Tower, Newport School, and Cemetery.

Supt. Hanson - They were addressed as parks originally. The Railroad Tower was going to be considered a park at one time. They wanted a table and shelter at the 11th Avenue area so once you do that it becomes part of the park and trail system which is why I put it on there.

Marge Meconis - Where do they want a bench there?

Emily White - At 11th Avenue and Glen Road.

Supt. Hanson - There's an area there right by the trail where you could put a table and shelter. Again, these are ideas that came up through the Park Board over the years, so if you look at them and don't think they're viable we can take them off.

Marge Meconis - I do like the idea of concrete picnic tables in certain areas.

Supt. Hanson - In certain places like the ped bridges or over on Glen Road. The main discussion there is what they would look like, how big of a priority they are, and where the money would come from.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Something that may be helpful would be some ballpark figures because maybe some things aren't high priority but low cost.

Supt. Hanson - Ok.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - I think we'll look at this next month at a workshop when we plan Buckthorn Day. A few wrap up things. The last few workshops we've gone over the environmental resource plan. Susan Lindoo has talked with me and John and I think she'll talk with each of you and other organizations to try to put together a better idea of what we want from the plan. That is in progress, she might be ready next month. Bruce, do you want to mention the signage on the bat houses.

Supt. Hanson - We did get the signage up for each bat house. I think it looks good. I've been trying to get interpretive signage for the solar lighting at Bailey. For some reason, I've had a hard time trying to get a solar company to print me up something. If anyone runs across something like that I would welcome the help. I think that would be useful for the students up there.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Is a picture so important because it's on the roof.

Supt. Hanson - It's a diagram that shows how it works.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - Should we do our next meeting as a workshop session with three topics, buckthorn planning, capital improvement plans, and environmental resource plan if it is ready.

Marge Meconis - Let's do it on the same night.

Supt. Hanson - On the buckthorn planning, I'd like you to think about our river property and going through that to remove buckthorn.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - We've talked about going beyond Bailey before.

Emily White - I'd be in favor of doing that this year.

Marge Meconis - Will that affect the advertisement?

Emily White - The newsletter must have said Bailey School Forest. Let's consider that for next year.

Marge Meconis - I think it would be good to go over there and survey it before jumping into it.

Chairperson Aguilar-Downing - And if we're looking that far ahead, we could let the volunteers from this year know. Should we meet here or at the park?

Marge Meconis - I think here

Emily White - I think here.

Marge Meconis - We can independently go out to the park

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by White, seconded by Perkins, to adjourn the Park Board Meeting at 7:42 P.M. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Tom Aguilar-Downing, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Executive Analyst