



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
September 24, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members present – Emily White; Marge Meconis; Heidi Tweeten;

Board Members absent – Anita Perkins; Tom Aguilar-Downing;

Also present –Matt Yokiell, Executive Director;

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

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

Motion by Meconis, seconded by Tweeten, to approve the Park Board Minutes of July 23, 2015 as presented. With 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Absent, the motion carried.

4. 2015 GOALS

Chairperson White - I apologize for the email on the Winter Family Fun Night, for some reason, I didn't have it on here or my calendar so someone replied to my email saying that we already decided on January 30, 2016. This should be our most complete list at this time. The next thing is the fun walk on October 10th at 9:00 a.m. and we'll be starting at the ped bridge closest to Tinucci's, walking to the other side of the highway, down Hastings Avenue to the other bridge and back again. We're hoping to make that a dog walk as well. I will have a craft for the kids to do at the end of the walk and will bring a jug of water for our dogs. I'll also bring bags for clean-up.

Vice-Chair Meconis - So we're doing the same thing we did last year?

Chairperson White - Yes.

Vice-Chair Meconis - I would comment that on the goals maybe we shouldn't put completed on there since it hasn't been done yet.

Chairperson White - Ok. The Annual Buckthorn Day will be on October 24th at Bailey School Forest and we'll be looking for volunteers. Wear long pants and shorts. It's a fun day and we've had a lot of schools coming to help. Our numbers keep getting bigger and bigger. John would usually tell us where he wants the stuff to go. Tom and John would usually pick an area.

Vice-Chair Meconis - Usually, we do a workshop day to pick out the area and figure out roles.

Chairperson White - We could do that during the day and we can figure out what we need. John has also brought water and donuts.

Heidi Tweeten - If citizens have ideas for locations too, feel free to call.

Chairperson White - We've been working on Bailey School Forest forever and we talked about going somewhere else this year and we decided not to because of the schools that participate. It's a fun morning and only takes a few hours. Is there anything else on our goals?

Vice-Chair Meconis - You had sent out an email and I had been contacted prior about the governance committee and the DNR wants to write a new management plan. I've been in contact with Karen Harrington. We don't have a meeting set up yet but we will. The hardest part is figuring out the school representative. Karen was going to be working on that. I have already been contacted by the East Ridge High School Science Club for Buckthorn Day. We need to get our slips to them. I'll take care of that. I don't think I have an electronic version.

Chairperson White - I'll look to see if I have one, otherwise Renee would.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT -

Chairperson White - I'm going to wait and let you talk about your report Matt.

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Marge Meconis - We attended Pioneer Day and it was nice until the rain came and it kind of fizzled out. We had quite a few coming through the tent, we liked our spot much better this year. Right before Pioneer Day, Susan and I replaced the overgrown plants at the Veterans Memorial with plants that Susan purchased through Gerten's.

Heidi Tweeten - How were the plants chosen for that memorial?

Vice-Chair Meconis - Bruce had asked members of the Park Board and the Newport on the Move group. Susan Lindoo came forth and came up with the design. Susan, Anita and I planted along with Stephanie from Public Works. The plants are native and can handle the drought. They did well.

B. Anita Perkins - Not present to report.

C. Tom Aguilar-Downing - Not present to report.

D. Heidi Tweeten - I did some checking into the lilacs at Loveland Park. I took photos into Gerten's. They said it was an infestation of Japanese Beetles. They can be very devastating. There's not much that can be done to rescue them.

Chairperson White - Lilacs are like that and once they start to die you have to remove them. You shouldn't let them get that big.

Heidi Tweeten - They did say that Japanese Beetles are interested in certain plants if we ever decided to replace them.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Update on the Park Bulletin Boards

Executive Director Yokiel - We put all of the bulletin boards up and have had one busted up already at Lions. It's been repaired.

Chairperson White - I'll put up another flyer. Tom wanted me to mention that the deadline for the summer photo contest is next Wednesday, September 30th. I saw a cute one on someone's Facebook page and told her to submit it. The bulletin boards are very nice and have locks on them. Thanks for doing that.

Executive Director Yokiel - Nate did a great job on them. The only other thing I have is if anyone is interested on doing research on native plantings for the ped bridges for lower maintenance.

Heidi Tweeten - What's currently there?

Executive Director Yokiel - There's quite a variety. If we could put together a few ideas over the winter, that would be nice for next season.

Chairperson White - The native grasses look really nice. You see them a lot on freeways and are pretty much maintenance free. We can bring that up at our next NOTM meeting.

Heidi Tweeten - I have extra large hostas.

Executive Director Yokiel - Another area is underneath the ped bridges where it doesn't get a lot of water. We'd love to do something there as well. Susan said she was interested in being involved in that as well.

Vice-Chair Meconis - I remember when we first talked about the strips along the highway where the sign is and we talked about native grasses. One drawback was that they might be more prone to catching the trash.

Executive Director Yokiel - True. I think it's worth a try.

Chairperson White - For the fun walk, could we get another picnic table at the ped bridge by Tinucci's. We'll bring up your request at the next meeting. I know Susan was going over the trees again. She said there are quite a few of trees that were lost.

Vice-Chair Meconis - Is she coming before the Park Board at some point or the Council?

Executive Director Yokiel - I haven't heard, Bruce and I have been meeting with her quite a bit.

Vice-Chair Meconis - We'll have to invite her.

Heidi Tweeten - I saw tags on some trees in Loveland, is that her?

Vice-Chair Meconis - No, I think those are old.

Heidi Tweeten - I thought the Lion looked terrific at Lions Park.

Executive Director Yokiel - We just reinstalled that at Lions Park. It used to be at Pioneer Park but was getting beat up. We tied it in with putting the boards up at Busy Beaver and Bailey.

Chairperson White - Do we want to mention the pillars at the end of 10th Street?

Vice-Chair Meconis - We are putting up flood markers at the end of 10th Street in the pocket park. They'll hopefully be decorated this fall and mark the top ten floods. It's a work in progress, the pillars are up and we have an artist coming to work on them.

Chairperson White - It's pretty interesting. The kids did the numbers and years. Bruce marked them so it'll be at the exact level that the floods were at those years. It's just another addition to Grove Street Overlook.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Meconis, seconded by Tweeten, 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