

**CITY OF NEWPORT
PARK AND RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2011
REGULAR MEETING**

The September 22, 2011 regular meeting of the Newport Park and Recreation Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Newport City Hall.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Mary Ann Newman, Marge Meconis, Anita Perkins, Emily White, Tom Aguilar-Downing

The following members were absent: None

Also present: John Neska (Executive Director), Renee Helm (Executive Analyst)

APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of May 26, 2011

Motion by White, seconded by Downing to approve the May 26, 2011 Minutes. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

B. Park Board Minutes of July 7, 2011

Motion by Downing, seconded by Meconis to approve the July 7, 2011 Minutes. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

C. Park Board Minutes of September 13, 2011

Motion by Meconis, seconded by White to approve the September 13, 2011 Minutes. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, the motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF DALE HAMLIN FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Executive Director Neska advised that in late July he received a letter from Dale Hamlin resigning from his position on the Newport Park Board effective immediately. Mr. Hamlin has been a member since its creation in 2005. Executive Director Neska thanked Dale for his service on behalf of the Park Board and City and presented him with a plaque.

REVIEW OF 2011 GOALS

Chairperson Newman discussed the annual Buckthorn Removal Day and the tasks that have been assigned to each member. Marge Meconis has sent an email to the JROTC and Anita Perkins has contacted the local boy scouts who will be discussing it at their next meeting. Executive Director Neska reported that he is still looking into a bio disposal company.

Tom Aguilar-Downing discussed the poster for the event. There are currently three options that the Board has to choose from. The Park Board is waiting to hear from the School District to see if their logo can be placed on the poster. There have been questions in regards to the term "sponsorship" and whether or not that should be on there. It was decided to take off the School District's logo and to only list that it is sponsored by the Newport Park Board. Information on this event will be sent to the Washington County Bulletin, School District and City staff for inclusion in the newspaper, newsletters and websites.

Chairperson Newman stated that one resident signed up to volunteer at Pioneer Days. Tom Aguilar-Downing discussed the Park Board's activities at Pioneer Days. The Park Board had a booth at Pioneer Days and had displays for Buckthorn Removal Day, volunteer activities, and adopt-a-park.

Tom Aguilar-Downing discussed some opportunities for raising money for a pavilion at Bailey School Forest Park such as a 5-k marathon. In order to get started, the Park Board should contact running clubs and local cross country teams. There is a difference between fun and competitive runs. The Park Board would want to do a fun run. There are a couple companies that would coordinate the registration for the run. Entry fees are typically between \$25 and \$35. The route should consist of flat areas. The pavilion would cost \$35,000-\$45,000. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting for the Bailey School Forest Park.

Emily White reported on the Fun Walk. The Park Board decided to cancel the Fun Walk for 2011 due to the Civil War event. If the Park Board decides to do one in 2012 it will need to be in the Spring and Summer 2012 newsletter.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson Newman stated that there will be an October meeting and asked if the members would like to have meetings in November and December. It was decided that there would be no November meeting due to the Thanksgiving holiday. The Park Board will wait to decide about December.

BOARD REPORTS

Marge Meconis discussed the Civil War event that is taking place September 23-25 at Pioneer Park. Friday is dedicated to student tours and Saturday and Sunday is open to the public.

There will also be an open house for the Newport Mosaic on October 2 from 2:00 – 5:00 pm.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Neska discussed updates in City Parks. City staff placed two new signs in City Parks, one in Pioneer Park and one in Loveland Park. Also, 18 trees were recently planted in Pioneer Park. Of the 18 trees, 12 have been dedicated to loved ones. If individuals would like to donate a tree please contact City Hall, they are \$100. A new flag pole has also been installed on the west end of Pioneer Park.

EXECUTIVE ANALYST'S REPORT

Executive Analyst Helm presented on the Red Rock Gateway Implementation Study as outlined in the September 22, 2011 Packet. Tom Aguilar-Downing had a question regarding the marina that is outlined on the map and whether or not it will be public. The marina will be open to the public and will open up access to the Mississippi River.

There being no further business, motion by White, seconded by Meconis, to adjourn the meeting. With 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Signed: _____
Mary Ann Newman, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Helm
Executive Analyst