

City of Newport  
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting  
May 19, 2010  
MINUTES

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Sarah Follett at 8:35 a.m.
2. Roll Call. Members present were: Ed Simon, Roger Holstein, Sarah Follett, Sandra Surber, Susan Boehlert. Absent: Karen Smith, Paul Reed.
3. Staff Present. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Protiva.
4. Approval of Minutes. Roger moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2010 minutes. Seconded by Susan. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.
5. Concerns or Comments from Citizens. Diane Kurdy noted that the City of Waldport had just adopted an Herbicide Last Resort Policy which provides a local example of policies that are being developed. The Committee discussed the process that Waldport used in developing and adopting the policy. Ms. Kurdy asked how far along the Committee was on developing a policy for the City of Newport. Sarah noted that they had been working on it regularly and had completed a mission statement for the sub-committee. There are specific areas of concern that the committee will focus on and they are still working on information gathering. They will also be researching the new State law and how it might affect local policy. Kurdy noted that the School District was not going to spray at all this year to see how it goes. Sarah stated that she had not gotten a good answer about how they were going to implement State law, but it was thought that they would wait until the State School Board came out with new policy. Protiva said he had spoken with a local landscaper who thought the City should take into consideration the cost effectiveness of having staff on their hands and knees removing weeds and brush if the policy tends to go that way. The Committee discussed the cost effectiveness versus the cost to the environment and health.

6. Report of the Director. Protiva announced that the City Budget for FY11 had been approved with no additional funding above the previous budget; therefore there would be no replacement of the positions that had been previously cut. Protiva noted that although it would be a lean year, he did not think there would be additional hours or services cut in the upcoming year.

The City is looking into the construction of a swimming pool to be built adjacent to the Rec. Center. A consultant has been hired to review the footprint of the Rec. Center and how a pool would fit into the available land. Major sewer lines have been identified and the mechanics of the Rec. Center are being reviewed. The conceptual design and feasibility study are underway and on track to be able to find out what we could fit there, what it might look like and how much it would cost to construct and operate. We are looking at replacing the size of pool that we have without expanding too much on the trimmings. This all depends on the voters approving the general obligation bonds.

The Senior Center remodel has just received notice to proceed. A contractor has been hired and we are currently well under budget.

The Deco Park conceptual designs and engineering drawings are completed and discussions have begun with potential contractors. Public Works is putting together bid documents so that we can get out requests for competitive bids.

Coast Park is on track. We have final designs on drainage and irrigation plans and all of that paperwork is over in Public Works as well; they are ensuring that everything is in order before going out to bid for the construction stage of the park. Protiva said he thought construction would start in June and some of the equipment had already been chosen.

The South Beach trail grant has unofficially been awarded to the City of Newport.

The restrooms on the Bay front are now open, but the Deco Park restroom has not been completed.

The Wilder Twin Park will have its grand opening on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are two different very colorful play areas, a shelter, picnic tables, and hopscotch imbedded in the concrete. It is a beautiful park which will be donated to the City of Newport and then maintained by the City as a part of the Parks system.

7. Rec. Center Business. Protiva noted the problems staff was having cleaning the heating ducts and rafters above the gym. Staff has been using backpack vacuums, leaf blowers and all kinds of stuff in trying to get a handle on the dust that settles way up there. The problem is when you knock all that dust off, and then you've got dust in the air and dust all over the gym. Staff has been coming in at night to clean, so the dust can be cleaned up before we open back up again. There is also the issue of paint peeling from the heat ducts, which is not unexpected due to the heating and cooling of the pipe, but now it is being knocked off and the pipes remain just partially covered with paint.

Protiva informed the Committee that a local businessman was so impressed with the number of new patrons to the Rec. Center that he catered a lunch at the Rec. Center for all of the new Curves patrons.

We also hosted Leadership Lincoln at the Rec. Center which is a Chamber and Community College program, and we will be hosting a Chamber luncheon here next month.

The Committee discussed some of the pay structures for basketball teams versus the swim team. Protiva noted that basketball is a program put on by the Department and the swim team is not. The swim team is not charged for pool time. There was also discussion on the potential of a climbing wall. Protiva stated that funds were not available at this time.

8. New Business. None.
9. Old Business. A committee member asked about a grant that had already been received for a bike trail that runs along the bay near the Coast Guard station, under the bridge and down to the beach. Her understanding was

that nothing was being done on it and there was a potential of losing the grant money. Protiva noted that the bike trail was a Public Works project, not Parks and Recreation.

Roger Smith encouraged the Committee to attend the Chamber luncheon that will be held at the Rec. Center and to let people know that they are part of the Committee, realizing that networking can start simply with an introduction.

The Herbicides sub-Committee reported that they had met once and have done some research; they now have a mission statement and copies of other Parks and Rec. policies, and they would be meeting again on Friday. Protiva stated that at this point the sub-Committee did not need to open up their meetings to the public. The City attorney has told the sub-Committee that if they are still in the information gathering and research stage, they do not need to hold public meetings, but once they begin to write things down and need approval, they would need to. Protiva added that if someone wanted to attend the meeting they should not be excluded. The sub-Committee agreed.

10. Other. None.

11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2010 at 8:30 a.m.