

**Newport Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee**  
**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | 5:30 PM Remotely and In Person**

**Present at the meeting:** Jaime Comtois, Deb Smith, Jennifer Smith, Mike Nolan, Shari-Lee Ryan, Chad Prue, Vaughn Cloney

**Absent:** Mandy Rondeau, AJ Thurston, Lori Wells, Amy Pickering

**Guest:** Laura Smith, Jessica Booth, Ally Howell from Smoke Free VT, Tenneson Marceau from St. Jay NVRH

The regular meeting was called to order by Jennifer Smith at 5:41.

**Review of the Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, and a motion was made by Deb Smith to accept the minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike Nolan

**Public Comments**

None

**Monthly Fundraiser Updates**

Donation of \$100 made anonymously  
Buzzy's Redemption was \$186.00

**Program and Event Debrief**

None

**Program and Event Planning Discussion**

Big Brother Big Sister Event – Tanya is willing to move it to September depending on the Covid situation. Can this event be included in the Fall Festival so it will attract more attendees?

Fall Festival – Bike Path Race will be in the morning hosted by the Running Club

Jennifer will reach out to Tanya about moving it the fall date – September 26th  
What are the expenses for this event? This is something we need to further investigate.

Foot Golf – AJ talked to NCC and they said NO to hosting it, but they are on board for a golf tournament post Covid. Chad stated that the football cups can be costly, and he found the rule

book for this event. We might be able to make cups out of culvert. How can we use our Frisbee Golf set for Foot Golf? We would like to just have a Frisbee Golf Tournament but cannot right now because of the Bluff Side construction. This will be tabled until the bike path is done.

## **Fundraising Projects**

Community Mailer

Post Office Fee - \$733

Newport Residents - .19 per piece to mail

3200 mailers – this includes all businesses and residents

Mailing can also be broken down by age, different demographics, people with PO Box and those without

Deb contacted UPS Store – an 8 ½ by 11 on cardstock would be about \$1100. She will get a hold of Mike at UPS Store to minimize the size to half of the 8 ½ by 11

We discussed checking prices from different companies:

Memphremagog Press

Vista Print

UPS Store

We want this mailer to get out in July. Mike gathered our feedback and will take another run to send us another postcard design.

Chad discussed putting up banners or billboards in the park for people to see our progress.

It was also discussed that we need a thermometer by the Marque to show our progress money wise.

Food Truck Rally

We are looking to purchase a cotton candy machine. The Rec department would pay for half. We would need 2 people per night. This would be a 5-hour commitment 3:30 to 8:30 PM. We could pre-bag some to sell that day. We would sell it for \$5 a bag or cone. Jennifer will send out a schedule for people to sign up. Chad knows of a website that sells commercial products – webstraurant.com. Chad will look into prices and get back to us.

Jaime Comtois made a motion to purchase a cotton candy machine and spend up to \$500.

Vaughn Cloney 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Drive-In Movie Concessions – Jessica Booth bought a FM transmitter for a Drive-In Movie Night. The Rec Department can sell tickets online and the Rec Committee can sell concessions – popcorn, cotton candy, soda, and water. Vaughn suggested we get a hold of Cars of Yesteryear to draw people in. This would be weekly in August and will have to start around 8:30/9:00 PM. Jessica will send out a schedule once we have everything we need.

## **Smoking In Parks**

Alley Howell – Tobacco Specialist for the NEK

Tennyson Marceau – Tobacco Program Specialist for the St. Jay area

Tennyson shared his experience about how he got the parks in St. Jay, Lyndonville, and Danville to be smoke free. Smoking is a privilege, not a right! We need to reach out to local people to discuss issues, then go to the council about doing a public survey. It would be better to get this to be an ordinance rather than policy. An ordinance has monetary fines and a policy does not. Ally has done a survey with local businesses and her data shows that businesses support this. Tennyson suggested that we could start out with smaller policies. We need to make sure we get input from baseball and softball boards who use the fields for tournaments. The Prouty Beach Campground would be exempt. What role does our committee want to take? Where do we stand? Would designated smoking areas be too hard to regulate? What kind of signage would we need?

Shari-Lee also addressed the issue of drinking in the park and how can we address both issues? Jessica said alcohol is allowed in the park, but glass bottles are not. Ally suggested we do a cigarette butt clean-up day like a green up day so people can see how dirty it is because people do not put their cigarette butts in the proper receptacles. Ally has purchased 11 sidewalk butlers that are ready to put out in Newport. This will be added to next month's agenda for more discussion. Jessica will also email us about how much revenue the baseball/softball tournaments bring in.

## **Beyond the Fundraising Events**

None

## **Playground Design**

Jessica suggested we take a look at Bob Pettinelli's website for playground ideas.

## **Update from Parks and Rec**

Fireworks are still on for July 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 PM. Food trucks may be there. Derby gave Newport \$1,000 to help with fireworks.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM, next meeting will be July 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30