

Newport Parks and Recreation
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Department
July 16th, 2020 | 5:30 PM Remotely and In Person

Present at the meeting: Vaughn Cloney, Chad Prue, Jaime Comtois, Jennifer Smith, Deb Smith, Shari-Lee Ryan, Mandy Rondeau

Absent: Mike Nolan, AJ Thurston, Amy Pickering

Guest: Big Brother Big Sister – Tanya Martin and Kimberly Diamond, Jessica Booth

The regular meeting was called to order by Jennifer Smith at 5:39 PM

Review of the Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting were reviewed, and a motion was made by Vaughn Cloney to accept the minutes, 2nd by Deb Smith

Public Comment:

None

Monthly Fundraiser Updates:

\$188.42 Bottles from Buzzy's
Cotton Candy – Over \$200

Program and Event Debrief:

Cotton Candy:

Jess has not had the time to order the machine.

Instead of pre-bagging just make it there. Have water there to help with stickiness.

Can we do maple cotton candy? Does it use maple syrup or crystals?

We should have the machine lower, so we need a shorter table.

Chad has a table we could use and will have that for us.

Program and Event Planning:

Big Brother Big Sister Event:

5 events

Pricing Point – Preregistration \$10 and register day of \$15

Unclear of how many people will attend

Have cotton candy machine there and a bake sale?

Have some sponsorship?

\$160 estimated cost of expenses

Registration will cover the games and winners for age groups and a grand prize winner of the day. Winners will get wooden medals.

They want to do a 50/50 split of money, registration, volunteers, expenses

The Rec Dept does not need sponsorship so we want to leave that up to Big Brother/ Big Sister. Rec Dept can handle the registration.

Vaughn wants more information and really putting it out there as how we can help another program in our area. He doesn't want to overshadow this program.

Chad wants to see what exactly they want from us and volunteers needed.

Jess wants to know what we are signing up for.

How many people do they need for registration, events, cotton candy booth

Jennifer will get us more information and we will look at it with a decision to be made on July 21, 2020.

What materials can they use from the Rec Dept?

Per Covid, how many people can it accommodate?

What does it mean if the Rec Dept handles the registration online?

If the Rec Dept handles the online registration, then they could possibly use items for the events. Field day has not been held at Gardner Park but there could be upwards toward 5,000 people that come to the fall festival. If you make a donation to the playground, they can loan out items for events. Derby Elementary has a field day each year this could be a good resource for Big Brother/Big Sister. The National Guard Armory is another resource.

Committee Members will be busy that weekend for the hydration station at the fall festival. This is a new event so we don't know how well this will be attended.

Nuts and Bolts

Welcome to Mandy. She is now a voting member as Lori Wells has stepped down.

Fundraising Projects

Community Mailer

Mike has sent a new draft made up for us to look at.

Pricing – Jennifer shared a document with a list of businesses and prices

City already has an account with the post office

We need to make sure there is room for the local address and stamp, Deb will take a look at this more closely when she returns on July 21, 2020

The Committee likes the draft Mike has come up with so we would like to have him polish that up

Jennifer Smith put it to a vote of all in favor of moving forward with the mailer, all in favor.

Drive-in Movie Concessions

Barton FairGrounds is already doing this. Rec Dept is already very busy. We will not be following through with this.

Public Recreation

Smoking in Parks-

Deb thinks this really needs to be done in stages.

Jessica suggestions - Go to the City Council to ask if we can do a survey to see how the community feels about this. Write up a memo for the City Council to look over. Ally can help us with that.

Chad – How will this be enforced? Can it just be no smoking in our new playground area? These are all great questions to be considered after we gather information from the community.

The next council meeting is August 3.

Gardner Park Phase 2 –

Elizabeth Howell is a Free Lance Designer and Coe and Coe will be the architects for the skate shack. They will be able to help with bids for plumbers, electricity

Horizons will be doing the engineering

Because of Covid delays and the environmental studies we may not be breaking ground this fall.

We may have a grand opening later in 2021.

Updates from Parks and Rec Dept.

No new updates

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Cotton Candy stand – see google doc for committee schedule

Other Business

None

Set Date- August 20, 2020 at 5:30

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 P.M.