

**Newport Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee**  
**August 27th, 2020 | 5:41 PM Prouty Beach**

**Present at Meeting:** Deb Smith, Jennifer Smith, Jaime Comtois, Amy Pickering, Shari-Lee Ryan, Chad Prue, Amy Pickering and Vaughn Cloney

**Absent:** Mike Nolan, AJ Thurston and Mandy Rondeau

**Guest:** Laura Smith, Jessica Booth. Mayor Paul Monette and City Manager Laura Dolgin

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

**Review of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Shari Lee Ryan to accept minutes, 2nd by Chad Prue.

**Public Comment:** None

**Fundraising Update:**

Bottle money for July and August \$528, MyRec \$105, Cotton Candy \$764. We have raised over \$2300 from the bottle drive and we are now under \$5000 left to raise to make our \$24,000 goal.

**Program Debrief:**

Track & Field: This was a very successful program thanks to Mike Nolan, Chris Shaffer, Paul Chamber and Laura Smith. There were 30 kids in attendance, only downfall the kids didn't have the opportunity to attend the track meet held in St. Johnsbury.

**Program & Event Planning Discussion:**

Pumpkin Carving Contest - pumpkins provided by the city, pumpkin carving stations down at prouty beach.

Pumpkin Walk - Place carved pumpkins along the new bike path at prouty beach, in the woods and along the beach. Have story boards along the way (The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown) was suggested. Sell hot apple cider, apple cider donuts etc.... Laura and Jess will reach out to Winooski for suggestions. Tentative date **October 24th with a rain date of October 25th.**

Fall foliage photo contest will be held online.

Coin Drop: As of right now this event is still a go **October 10th**, Jenn will send out a spread sheet for volunteers.

### **Fundraising Projects:**

Community Mailer - USPS postcard 5/5  
Sign boards in Gardner Park (approx. cost \$200)  
Pre recorded commercial (Jess will check pricing)  
WCAX (Laura will reach out to her contact)  
VT Digger - suggested by Laura Dolgin

Brick update - We only need 33 more bricks to reach our goal

### **Public Recreation:**

Healthy Parks Opinion Survey: Mayor Monette and City Manager Laura Dolgin were in attendance to address this survey. Laura Dolgin discussed it with some members of the Council and felt it their "duty to warn" that we need to be prepared to take the heat that will be associated with this survey from some users of the park. The administration does not want to take on this very controversial issue at this time.

- Ordinance in place that allows drinking in parks does not address smoking
- City of Newport has a city wide no smoking policy for employees only
- What will the cost be for enforcement and who will enforce the "no smoking" signs

Laura Dogin suggested that we propose a new "**no smoking ordinance**" 90 days before our new playground/restroom is completed. This would allow enough time for the ordinance to get through the necessary steps for approval.

### **Updates from Parks and Rec:**

- Jess is still waiting for the EPA to come and do the work/testing.
- Elizabeth Howell has completed 1st draft of the skate shack
- Grants are being tracked by Mike Welch
- We should send updates to our corporate sponsors to let them know where we stand.
- Grandstand may be torn down, this building has become a safety issue.

Ernie Pomerleau's daughter Jessica Anne Pomerleau-Halnon passed away August 21st. We will send a card and a donation to Burlington Humane Society.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:03, next meeting September 24th 5:30 at Prouty beach.