

Newport Parks and Recreation
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee
November 18, 2021, City Council Room

Present at Meeting: Jaime Comtois, Mandy Chaput, Debbie Smith and Shari Ryan

Absent: Jennifer Smith, Kelli Rhodes and Chad Prue

Guest: Michael Brown, Michael Stanley

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:35pm by Jaime Comtois.

Review of Previous Minutes: Jamie made a motion to approve the minutes, Debbie made the second.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment: No members of the public present to provide comment(s).

Fundraising Update:

- Bottle money collected from \$22.56 Jimmy Kwik
- Michael Brown asked for clarification on the Bottle drop off and pick up. Bottle redemption areas are Jimmy Kwik, Buzzy's Beverage and Thompson's Redemption. Money is going into a maintenance fund for the upcoming playground

Program Debrief:

- Pumpkin Palooza. Ran out of goodie bags- made 141 bags in all. Event was a success given the amount of time we had to put this together.
- Another category – 0 to 5, 6 to 12. Age categories were broken up due to the amount of response.
- Add another event of seeing who can grow the biggest pumpkin.
- Vacationers took advantage of the event and interacting with locals
- Needed to buy more pumpkins
- On pumpkin pickup day consider adding roadside signage for visibility to the public

Program & Event Planning Discussion:

- NEK hoops – Mike Stanley – Guest Speakers
 - Basketball Youth Recreational Program for Grades 1 to 6. Kids join from 13 different schools and they pay a fee to play. Grades 5 & 6 usually play and practice. Grades 1 – 4 usually play and practice. Schools that generally don't charge for practice and games, costs are generally tied to uniforms, insurance, referees, basketballs (given to kids), medals, sweatshirts, and shirts (\$2500) Insurance generally costs around \$1250.
 - North Troy / Newport Town/ Coventry/ Derby Line Elementary/Lowell/Newport City/Derby Junior High School.
 - 254 Kids enrolled pre-covid. 42 Teams. Coaches and Refs are very hard to find. Committee decided to table this discussion until everyone could vote and have an opportunity to have an open discussion with all committee members.

Fundraising:

No updates

Public Recreation:

- Open Gym type clinics for basketball skills. Not difficult to set up and we would need volunteers. Debbie made a suggestion that we wait for another meeting. Shari suggested making a proposal of what these clinics could look like.

Updates from Parks & Recreation Office:

- New Director was present. Jaime met with Mike to go over re: activities, child dances, events. The Chamber of Commerce would like to partner with the Rec Department on the House Lighting Contest, because of the Tree Lighting and Festivities. Public Works will decorate the park.
- Holiday Celebration:
 - Recreation Director asked for assistance with the Hot Chocolate Station and stuffing goodie bags (200). Challenges presented in doing hot chocolate station asked to pre-mix hot chocolate beforehand, and anything that can be done before to have a smoother service.
 - Deb, Shari, Jamie plan to meet the Friday after Thanksgiving to stuff bags.
- Pomerleau Party: December 18, 2021.
 - Gathering names of families and starting to buy gifts. Volunteers are needed for Santa's workshop...wrapping and sorting. Needs people to help deliver, more families than last year.
 - Deb volunteered to wrap. All delivery, no party this year due to Covid. Michael would like to start getting things pulled together. Eastside is preparing a meal and Michael was explaining what all the families get. Shooting for the 9th for our meeting.
- Thankful for the gift bag.

Other Business:

- Ice shack has been ordered and it is dark blue. It will be here this year. Deb suggested having the tickets ready for Christmas. The cost for the shack is \$4998.00. Each committee member takes 10 to 15 tickets. February Fish Tournament. Would like to make an announcement.
- Debbie will not be present at the Bike Rodeo but will make sure that the event is set and ready to go. Shari is going to step in and help run the event.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:56pm

Please don't hesitate to contact Jenn if you have ideas, she will be happy to add it to the agenda.

Next meeting will be Thursday, December 9th at 5:30 P.M. Please let Jenn know at least one week in advance if you can't make it.