

Newport Parks and Recreation
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee
April 15, 2021 | 5:30 PM (Virtual)

Present at Meeting: Jennifer Smith, Jaime Comtois, Mandy Chaput, Debbie Smith

Absent: Chad Prue, Shari-Lee Ryan

Guest: Jessica Booth

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:48pm by Jennifer Smith.

Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jaime Comtois and seconded by Debbie Smith. Minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Fundraising Update:

- Discussion was had regarding who would assume the role of reporting on the fundraising efforts, the committee decided the Secretary would take on this role.
- For April, funds were received from Thompson's (\$37.74) and Buzzy's (\$102.40) and Ice Out (\$2000.50)
- The Committee's Playground Fundraising Goal of \$24,000, a portion of the total Playground Project cost, has been reached and exceeded. In its entirety, \$28,362.16 has been raised. A huge thank-you to all committee and community members that helped make this possible!

Program Debrief:

Ice Out Event

- A lot of excitement for next year. Discussion regarding several similar events around Vermont and Out of State. Looking to attract more interest from out of staters and how to reach them.
- Hopeful that with more longevity of the event, more funds and participation will be generated.

Program & Event Planning Discussion:

Mother Son Dance

- Discussion surrounding the date of the Mother Son Dance. Through this discussion the committee discussed ideas on how to generate interest in volunteering as many of the committee members do work and having an event on a Friday would present challenges when it comes to set up / execution. However, given the higher ticket price, we would be in a position to hire staff members at the rate of \$12 per hour.
- Dates were discussed for a change to June 18 & June 19.

Bike Rodeo

- Deb spoke to the Police Department and they would be willing to help us. Deb has also reached out to Tracy Roberts who is the Marketing Director at Community National Bank. Deb plans to follow up. It was mentioned that AAA has a bike rodeo plan available which would serve as a guide for set up and execution. Also how to partner with Bike Shops to provide maintenance stations and safety businesses to provide helmets, etc. Press materials are also available through the AAA site which can be used to give to schools, newspapers and social media to advertise the event. Deb will follow up with AAA in Montpelier.
- No Date for the Bike Rodeo as of the date of these minutes

Butt Clean Up

- in Gardner Park on May 15 from 10am to 12pm. Hope to have new Recreation Committee Gear by that time. Jess, Jaime, Jenn and Deb planning on participating

Fundraising:

- **None to be discussed**

Public Recreation:

- Summer Camp will be running for 4 weeks at Prouty Beach from mid-June to mid-July.

Updates from Parks & Recreation Office:

- Environmental Study is in. 2 weeks ago. Online meeting took place with various officials and the officials have confirmed that there is in fact toxic soil within the Park and that remediation does need to take place. Looking at different options to have the remediation done. The idea was to have current Park & Recs employees do the work but due to the certification requirements of workers who will be working with the soil, it may be that the work has to be bid out to different contractors.
- Field 2 Softball field, the softball teams that play there have been requesting another layer of chain link fencing. There are currently 3 layers but are requesting a fourth so as to make it higher. The issue being that many home runs are hit and balls are being lost in the river. However, adding another layer in that particular location will create an eye sore. An alternative suggestion was to move the field back a bit. Jess provided us with images to portray her suggestions.
- Looking to get bids and specs out to contractors for playground and splash pad
- Install is not looking to happen until October. Suggested to prep area and look to install early next year, this way the equipment and such is not sitting all winter.
- Jen is working on a press release announcing that fundraising is on target and our goal has been met. Community Update is pending.

Other Business:

- Committee Member gear has been picked out and sizes are needed.
- Possibly looking at vests at lower cost for newer members.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32pm

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, May 20, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. Please let Jenn know at least one week in advance if you can't make it.