

Newport Parks and Recreation
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee
August 15, 2019 | 6:00 PM

Present at Meeting: Nicole Gratton, Deb Smith, Jennifer Smith, Shari-Lee Ryan and Marin Gardyne

Absent: David Jankowski, AJ Thurston, Mike Nolan, Jamie Comtois and Vaugh Cloney

Guest: Jessica Booth, Laura Smith, Paul Monette, Laura Dolgin and Rick Dolgin

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Jennifer Smith.

I. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, edited by adding Vaugh Cloney to the absent list. A motion by Nicole Gratton to accept minutes, 2nd by Shari-Lee Ryan.

II. Public Comment

Paul Monette made one of four donations in the amount of 250.00 to the recreation committee. Laura Dolgin commented on her support for the committee and wanted to hear our opinions of the street dance.

III. Consideration of Open Issues

1. Fundraising update:

Aquafest street dance: Bottom line it was profitable and those that attended had a good time. Laura Dogin's observations was that it was well done by all involved. Several suggestions were discussed from removing it from Aquafest altogether, location change, make sure there aren't competing events in the area and entertainment ex. bands verses DJ.

November Component Sales: Cost of bricks are 20.00 a piece we will sell for 100.00 a piece with a goal of selling 300 bricks. There will be a limit to how many characters and we will launch this in November.

Discussion on whether or not we sell bricks to corporations and families or just families.

A motion was made by Nicole Gratton to sell just to families only, Debbie Smith 2nd it, a vote was made resulting in 3 yes and 1 no. Majority rules so we will sell bricks just to families. There

was also comments/suggestions from our guest Rick Dolgin about the longevity of the bricks if they are outside, Laura Smith will do additional research on different materials.

Additional Fundraiser ideas: Pumpkin feast, pumpkin junkin (not sure I heard that right) Nicole's home town does this and it brings in a lot of people.

Community Events:

Youth Track & Field event - This was a great event for Newport and surrounding areas, 22 kids signed up, competed at the state met coming in 2nd. Thirteen kids participated at the state level and came back with 19 medals.

Halloween Hustle will be discussed more at the next meeting

Golf Tournament has been changed to a spring tournament due to a conflict with another tournament already scheduled.

Bottle Drop signs have been updated and will be passed out to the local bottle redemption sites in Newport and Derby. Bins also need to be finished.

Coin Drop in Newport October 12th 8:30 - 3:00

Volunteers: Debbie and Shari-Lee 8:30-11:00, Marin and Jenn 11:00 - 1:00, Nicole and ? 1:00 - 3:00. We will need one more volunteer to work with Nicole. Rec. department will supply signs, handouts and buckets.

We have selected Wednesday, November 6th for a formal sponsorship Gala for funders, **all hands on deck for this event - all committee members should plan to dress up and be present!** Location of dance will be at the Gateway, catering will be discussed at the next meeting so bring your ideas. We will need volunteers to help with set up, clean up and cleaning more to follow. Invitations were voted on so Laura Smith will get them ordered.

Fall Festival is September 28th, suggestion was made to sell water from 10:00 - 3:00. Shari-Lee will contact Lake Region High School to see if any seniors need community service hours. If not we will need volunteers for two hour intervals. Jenn will work on a poster.

Farmers Market Tent Schedule: Put on hold until we are better prepared, repair visual boards, banners, print up Q/A, donation bucket/jar and outdoor activities such as connect 4 and corn hole boards.

Other Business:

Shari-Lee Ryan suggested we educate our community on fundraising events, the decision to do this quarterly was agreed upon. Marin said we could do a write up in the local paper, she and Jenn will work on it.

A new committee was formed that includes Jessica, Jenn and Jaime plus a few others to revamp the process of applying to host an event in our city. The biggest change is that the city will no longer be waiving fees for events. A new in the works guidebook was handed out for us to take a look at. The hopes are that it will make applying for an event user friendly.

Unfortunately we were also losing two of our committee members Nicole Gratton and AJ Thurston. Dave Jankowski and Maggie Brown are our alternates and will be contacted to see if they want to be regular members. Members were also encouraged to ask friends and family members to join our team. We wish Nicole and AJ the best and thank you for your contributions to our committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05, next meeting September 19th @ 6:00