

Newport Parks and Recreation
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee
July 11, 2019 | 6:00 PM

Present at Meeting: Nicole Gratton, Jaime Comtois, Jennifer Smith, Mike Nolan, Shari-Lee Ryan and Marin Gardyne

Absent: David Jankowski, Deb Smith and AJ Thurston

Guests: Jessica Booth, Paul Monette, Deanna Nolan, Joel and Melissa Petterson

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Jennifer Smith.

I. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, motion by Shari-Lee Ryan to accept minutes, 2nd by Jaime Comtois with minor edits: remove “only” under Mother Son event debrief.

II. Public Comment

Melissa Petterson commented her support of the Newport Recreation Committee’s diverse fundraising efforts. Her support was shown at City Council meeting with a \$100 donation toward Street Dance tickets.

III. Consideration of Open Issues

1. Fundraising Update:

Funds Raised To Date: The total raised since Jan is \$5,746.13 of our \$24,000 goal. The My Recreation Fund profited \$15 this month, Robin Coulter donated \$500 toward stage 2 of the Gardner Park Project- the hockey rink and the poster guy bought old posters from Mac for \$60.

July 4th Balloon Sales update/debrief: \$440 profit with the balloon sale during the 4th of July Derby Parade.

- Could increase profit margin if we ordered balloons from Debbie Hemmings instead of on Amazon.
- Also, could save expenses if we spent less on staff by getting more volunteers to sell the balloons.

Goal Meter: discussion started so we can communicate publicly the progress of our fundraising efforts. Talking point of things to consider including:

- What will the goal look like (a slide with ladder colored in perhaps),

- Will it be viewable online? What platform could accommodate this?
- Will it represent the total project fundraising amount of \$594,000 or just the \$24,000 the Rec Committee is trying to raise. How can we represent all sources of funding in one friendly format (grants, corporate sponsors, community fundraising, etc)?

Potential Halloween Hustle Race: Mike Nolan is working with NBRC and the goal is to promote healthy activity for children and adults in Orleans County. Looking at a 1 mile race on Oct 19th., but Jess suggested we have it coincide with the weekend of Halloween festivities in Newport. Mike said we would need sponsors and perhaps flyers, Facebook ad. , etc. The cost would be \$10 per person or \$25 per family. Hoping for 50-150 people. Would need 2 banners, candy and prizes. Route options were discussed. Discussion was tabled for next meeting so Mike can bring back feedback to NBRC.

Upcoming Aquafest Street Dance/Balloon Sales: Jess reviewed the business plan, showing updated projected expenses and revised street layout. Fencing options were explained and the best option is from Round Hill Fence for a discounted cost of \$250. Port-o-lets to be donated by Taplins. 4 Volunteers needed for Dance- Jenn and Jaime volunteered, need 2 more otherwise will have to hire staff. Balloons will be sold at Aquafest parade, volunteers needed to alleviate staff expense. Mayor Paul Monette volunteered to help sell balloons.

Golf Tournament: Set for September 21 but need to finalize some numbers so we can start promoting event. Discussion was tabled until next meeting when Dave and AJ will be present.

Bottle Drive Bins: Are present in the park. Need to finish making them so there are 3 total. Jess had some design ideas for Shari's son to make them more user friendly.

2. Community Events

Gala: Jess asked again for committee members to comment feedback on sponsorship packet shared in google ASAP!! Venues are being investigated for Gala in November.

Farmers Market: Saturday schedule is out there, remember to sign up for a Saturday to promote the Recreation Committee efforts. Nicole gave feedback that the table is heavy and not necessary. Need an activity- consider borrowing parks & rec 4-in-a-row outdoor game until we get corn hole boards. Nicole to work on a frequently asked questions sheet.

Derby Line Day: August 10, Jennifer to contact Louise about vendor registration. Marin volunteered for setup and first shift.

3. Upcoming Volunteer Events

Aquafest Street Dance- July 27th from 5-11

Aquafest Balloon Sales at Parade- July 27th, 12-3

Derby Line Day/Farmers Market Sign Up- Saturdays through October 12th see google sheets to signup

Meeting adjourned at 7:51, next meeting August 15th @ 6:00