

**Newport Parks and Recreation**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee**  
**March 18, 2021 | 5:30 PM (Virtual)**

**Present at Meeting:** Deb Smith, Jennifer Smith, Jaime Comtois, Chad Prue, Shari-Lee Ryan, Mandy Chaput

**Guest:** Laura Smith and Jessica Booth

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:37 by Jennifer Smith.

**Review of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed. Minutes will be amended to add "We discussed the Gardner Park Grandstand restoration project and unanimously agreed that we will not be able to assist that special committee at this time because their objectives do not align with Recreation Committee goals or the Waterfront & Downtown Master Plan."

Jenn will make this change then send out minutes again for approval.

**Public Comment:** None

**Fundraising Update:**

- Bottle money for February \$137.05 (Bottle drive has raised over \$4000 since we started September 2019)
- MyRec \$56

**Program Debrief:**

- Once the Ice Shack arrived ticket sales took off. Suggestion was made to order earlier next year and start selling tickets as early as November (hunting season). Also draw earlier in the season so ice fisherman can actually use it before the lake melts.
- Selling Ice Out tickets at Town Meeting - 89 tickets sold \$137
- Selling Ice Out tickets at Tim & Doug's opening day - 49 tickets sold \$106

**Program & Event Planning Discussion:**

- Bike Rodeo/Safety - Deb will reach out to Royce Lancaster

**Fundraising:**

- Our goal (\$24000) has been surpassed :)
- Bottle money will continue to be used for maintenance of Gardner Park Playground
- A line will be set up for Rec Committee Projects under the Recreation Trust Fund. All money raised from now on will go into this fund for use by the committee at a later time for RC projects and programs.

**Public Recreation:**

- Mother/Son dance is now after the Father/Daughter dance
- Shari will work with her daughter Maggie to come up with a play list

- Virtual Talent Show will not be held. After discussion, the committee has decided to focus on other projects.

#### **Updates from Parks & Recreation Office**

- Gardner Park Playground and Splash Pad - stalled at this time waiting for ESA
- Grant extensions extended
- Sub committee selected (Jenn, Jaime, Shari-Lee and Mandy) for new design and being involved with development of project scope/criteria for bids.
- Money for project - 80% raised remaining balance \$116,702

#### **Other Business:**

- Laura Smith has announced that she is leaving the Newport Recreation Department and has accepted another position in the Burlington area. Her position will not be filled at this time. The committee expressed concerns around how this might impact the future of recreational programs and services with only almost half as much full time staff.
- Mike has stepped down, so we are looking for three full time members, we have received four letters of interest and will set up interviews
- Deb will get additional information on new jackets for Rec. Comm.
- Deb stepped down as secretary and Mandy has agreed to take over this position, a vote was held and unanimously approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M..

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, April 15th, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. at the Municipal Building in the gym. Please let Jenn know at least one week in advance if you can't make it.