

Newport Parks and Recreation
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee
May 21, 2020 | 5:30 PM Remotely

Present at Meeting: Deb Smith, Jennifer Smith, Jaime Comtois, Mike Nolan, Amy Pickering, Shari-Lee Ryan, AJ Thurston, Chad Prue, Amanda Rondeau and Amy Pickering

Absent: Vaughn Cloney and Lori Wells

Guest: Laura Smith, Jessica Booth and Tanya Martin (Big Brother Big Sister Representative)

The regular meeting was called to order at 5:36 by Jennifer Smith.

Nuts and Bolts:

New Members: Chad Prue (full time) Amada Rondeau (Mandy) Alternate

Officer Elections: Will stay the same

Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Shari Lee Ryan to accept minutes, 2nd by Jaime Comtois.

Public Comment:

Tanya Martin introduced herself as representative from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vermont would like to have a Fundraising Field Day in collaboration with Parks and Rec. An outline of the suggested event will be mailed out to all committee members.

Fundraising Update:

Since our last meeting we have raised over \$2000, this includes the Ice Out, Winterfest. bottle drops etc.

Ice Out was a success even with the COVID-19 and the fact that it dropped early.

Program Debrief:

Winter Festival: A great success! Over 800 in attendance, no negative feedback with the change of venue. A few changes are necessary - larger space for concession area, heat, more volunteers, separate lines for hot chocolate and smores. Different location for selling chuck-a-puck. Pre-make smores packages, pre-make hot chocolate, larger hot dog machine and sell chili only (no soups) Chad offered a 30 gallon lobster pot if needed.

Program & Event Planning Discussion:

Golfing Event: Postponed due to COVID-19! Scheduled for Spring 2021

Foot Golf discussed for a family event, AJ will reach out to Newport Country Club to see if they will let us do the event on their course. Chad will do research on the particulars of having this event.

Community Mailer: We need to spread the word about our committee and what we are all about/doing for our community. Large signs at Gardner to show what events are scheduled. Deb will get the information to do an EDDM from USPS and call UPS for printing cost. Mike will work on the marketing aspect.

Playground Design: We need to start looking at large, small and freestanding playground structures.

Public Recreation:

Beyond the Fundraising Events & Programs:

Foot Golf (see above)

AJ suggested a drive-in theater. Jessica requested a quote for a 24' screen. For our next meeting she will get additional information for the sound, movie licensing cost etc. We could also get sponsorship for the movie cost

AJ also thought that we could do a photo shoot for the up and coming seniors, Amy thought that Donnie Whipple was already scheduled.

Updates from Parks and Rec:

Park update - 1st Environmental testing raised concerns about the level of arsenic and other contaminants in the ground, not a surprise since the park was built on a dump. Second round of testing is scheduled for June 2nd and depending on the results we are hoping that we are still on track for ground breaking this fall if not it will be Spring 2021. No cost for remediation; we received an EPA grant.

Engineering cost is \$12000 and is not in the budget, a possible grant from Columbia Forest at the corporate level could help with this cost.

Rec Dept coin drop canceled.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35, next meeting June 18th @ 5:30.