

6/23/2022- Newport Recreation Committee Meeting

Present at Meeting: Jaime Comtois, Matt Kiley, Nick Whitehouse, Jennifer Smith, Debbie Smith, Kelli Rhodes, Sean Pilkner

Members of the Community: Mike Brown and Betsy Sylvester

Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Jaime Comtois

Review of Previous Minutes:

Jenn and Debbie approve (April) minutes and (May) minutes are approved by Jenn and Kelli.

Debbie would like to add a thank you for all our sponsors for the bike rodeo and (rec committee) would like to include Debbie herself in that. Jamie will make cards for them. She will also add in Bevin's son Arlo.

Bevin from Local Motion- some discrepancies with police station and bike road directions.

Bevin sent email about lunchbox offering free food for kids in Barton and Newport and Newport rec having a table and offering free helmets in conjunction with NCH. Debbie will forward email to Jamie.

Public Comment: Betsy Sylvester – wanting playground information.

Jenn- invited Betsy and gave history of the playground restoration. Explained how rec committee and city are overseeing playground restoration process.

Mike- Update coming soon on the playground. Clarifies the current situation with ongoing soil samples and testing. Next month the EPA will have the corrective action plan to move forward. The money raised and grants that have been written are still waiting to be used when given the go ahead. Grants are connected to the environmental study.

The soil cannot be dug into safely and the old equipment was too old to continue to be used. New swings were put into place today.

Fundraising Update: \$75.20- Bottles (Buzzy's)

\$ 41.00- Online

Program & Event Planning Discussion

Mother Son/Father Daughter Dances:

Everyone was happy, no negative feedback. Move back to winter. Talking about upping the number of people per night.

Dave- No lights

DJ Dee- lights for the floor and then music was good selection. She was upset that she didn't get payed that night. However, it was solved within the next week.

Gift Certificates for downtown dollars should be displayed. They wanted to see the gifts beforehand. Feedback coming from 2 different people. GC are all the same.

Photos- pose how you want, very flexible with poses. Included this year in price.

Float for 4th of July:

Jamie wanted to put a float in the parade this year.

Mikes states maybe start the process for next year.

Other Fundraising Ideas:

Matt- talked about access to red sox tickets.

- Matt has to buy tickets from an agent (reseller) in February or March. He will look further into the process of getting the tickets and report back to the group. He also talked about some other options for events that he has done in the past... rotten tomato throw.

Trunk or treat at Halloween was brought up.

Touch a truck- Debbie (derby library already does this)

Nick- Could get Carrie Underwood tickets, selling as soon as September. Show is February 17, 2023. He also talked about getting musical acts to come to Newport to play and utilizing the lake.

Upcoming Events/ Fundraising: Coin Drop- October 8,2022 9:00-3:00

Updates from Parks & Recreation Office:

- 4th of July- concert (ETA), food trucks and Fireworks.
- Day camp starts next week.
- August 6th Summer Stroll
- Looking for Rec Coordinator: full time position –support Mike's roll

Other Business:

Matt will volunteer for August 6th

Recreation Bucks were given out.

Kelli- will look into designing a logo for rec committee for possible use in the future.

Matt- questioned meeting with the grandstand committee about the possibility of turning it into a multi-purpose facility.

Rec Committee previously gave a statement about the grandstand not being part of the committee plans.

Mike- conversation may need to happen at some point with the grandstand committee but feels we should wait.

Jamie asks about taking the month of July off and reconvening in the month of August. Group agrees with this plan.

Next meeting: August 11th,2022

Adjourned at 7:15pm