

Newport Parks and Recreation
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Recreation Committee
June 13, 2019 | 6:00 PM

Present at Meeting: Nicole Gratton, Jaime Comtois, Deb Smith, Jennifer Smith, Mike Nolan, and Vaughn Cloney

Absent: David Jankowski, Shari-Lee Ryan, Marin Gardyne and AJ Thurston

Guest: Jessica Booth, Laura Smith

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM by Jennifer Smith.

I. Review of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, motion by Jaime Comtois to accept minutes, 2nd by Nicole Gratton.

II. Consideration of Open Issues

1. Fundraising update:

Mother/Son event update/debrief: Event made \$822 for three nights, what do we need to do differently.

- Make sure it's all on the same weekend
- More volunteers so we don't have to pay staff
- Food amounts adjusted
- Create a sub-committee of parents willing to help decorate
- Book the event now

A motion was made by Nicole Gratton to book the weekend of May 15th, 16th and 17th 2020, it was 2nd by Jaime Comtois.

Youth Track & Field event - May need extra people depending on how many sign up. Jessica Booth will email Mike a list of individuals that may help out. Circulars were also past out the last week of school.

Mike also mentioned that the Border Running Club were interested in a Halloween Costume run (Halloween Hustle) with proceeds being split between the recreation committee and the club. Mike will complete a plan and bring it to the next meeting.

Aquafest: July 27th

Price of tickets were discussed, a motion to sell tickets at the gate for \$20, in advance for \$12 a motion was made by Jaime 2nd by Jennifer. We tabled the decision about the age 18/21 until we hear back from Frank who will be contacting liquor control. Hoping that there will be only one entrance with security being taken care of by correctional officers. However, there will be a need for at least 4 volunteers from 6:00 - 10:30. Jess told us her plan about lighting and the committee agreed that this would be a nice touch for this and future events. We will also have new tree boxes that we can use as barriers.

The committee will also be putting a float in the parade, Nicole brought up that we need to start putting ourselves out there so the community can see that this project is happening. Mike's family might be on the float if his schedule permits. We discussed promoting "Splash and Play" by squirting the crowd with squirt guns. Also thought it might be nice to pass out freeze pops.

Bottle drive bins at Gardner Park have not been made yet. All the materials are available, waiting for Danny (Shari's son) to complete them. They'll hopefully be in place for this weekend's Kingdom Cares Tournament.

Jenn shared Marin's update about Coin Drops in Derby. The accept letters of interest on January 1 and select four coin drops per year. It will be a missed opportunity for this year, but we will have a letter ready to submit for next year.

Bottle Drop signs shown by Mike, we will work more on the "call to action phrase". Hopefully change it to: "Donate Your Bottles! Gardner Park Restoration Projects"

Fourth of July Parade in Derby and Aquafest Parade - Jess contacted Debbie from Rubber Bubbles about balloon sales she is waiting to hear back from her. MOO 92 will let us set up a refill station at their location. Parks & Rec seasonal staff will supplement if committee members are unable to volunteer. We will not be selling glow-necklaces etc at July 4 as the Rec Dept already has a vendor doing that.

2. Community Events:

Gala - Sponsorship packets were presented by Jess, **please everyone take a look at the attachment Jess sent us last week. Jess would like feedback by Wednesday 6/19.** Some larger organizations are willing to donate substantial amounts above the highest sponsorship tier but would like to pay for a particular section and have a sign put up to acknowledge their contribution. After some discussion, the committee agreed that we will stick to the original plan of using landscaping boulders for donor recognition to acknowledge that this was a greater community effort, and as not overshadow the contributions of others.

We have selected Wednesday, November 6th (tentative) 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!**

Other Business:

Nicole brought up that we need to be out there letting the community know that our committee is active. With her suggestion and approved by the committee we will be setting up a tent at the farmers market on Saturdays. We will use our presentation boards, have stickers, buttons and handouts for individuals to take. We will also have a donation jar but will not be selling anything, just giving information. We are recreation! So there will be corn hole boards and a large connect four game set up and some other kids activities. Debbie will talk to her husband about the cost of building a set of corn hole boards for the committee. Until then Deb will let the recreation committee borrow a set.

Green Mountain Farm to School Block Party will launch the above events on 6/20 and Nicole has volunteered to man the tent. We are hoping that everyone on the committee will volunteer at least one Saturday. Jennifer will send out a calendar with the dates we will need coverage.

Jess also let us know about her meeting with Elizabeth Howell. Elizabeth has given us a quote of \$4500 (cap) to do renderings of the Gardner Park Project. Mike made a motion to accept this price but not to exceed the \$4500 it was 2nd by Nicole.

Rec. Bucks are back :) For every meeting you attend Jess will hand out \$5 rec bucks to be used for any event the recreation department puts on.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07, next meeting July 11th @ 6:00