

Newport Recreation Advisory Commission
August 26, 2014
5:30 PM
Approved September 18, 2014

Present Members:

Sammy Hammond, Robert Lewis, P.K. Johnson, Holly Campbell, CD Whitlow and Robert Harrell

Excused Members:

Laura Lee Davis

Guest:

Staff:

Angela Christian, Manager
Kelley Caldwell

Town Council:

James McCoy

The August 26, 2014 meeting of the Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairman Sammy Hammond. **Mr. Hammond requested three items be added to the agenda: (1) Clean Sweep, (2) RAC meeting times and (3) Pig Cookin' Application. Holly Campbell moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by CD Whitlow. Vote: unanimous.**

Mr. Hammond then gave the members ample time to review the minutes of the July 17, 2014 meeting. **Holly Campbell moved to approve the minutes as recorded. P.K. Johnson seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Mr. Hammond briefly mentioned the Town Council has set a Public Hearing for September 11, 2014 on additional membership appointments for the Recreation Advisory Commission.

Old Business:

Comprehensive Recreation Plan: Mr. Hammond noted there was no quorum present at the scheduled workshop on August 7th. Due to conflicting work schedules he suggested another workshop be scheduled once the additional seats on the Commission are filled.

Mr. Hammond reported the basketball goals have been repaired with the assistance of Public Works and Kenny Brock Welding. Chairman Hammond presented a bill (\$1,078.00) for the completed work. **Robert Lewis moved to approve the bill in this year's budget. Brian Harrell seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Heritage Days: Mr. Hammond stated that he will be available to set up two corn hole board games and two sets of horse shoes on Saturday, September 20th at 9:00 am. C.D. Whitlow, Holly Campbell, Robert Lewis and Kelley Caldwell are also available to assist with Heritage Days games. Angela Christian, Town Manager, offered to bring Hula hoops. C.D. Whitlow suggested a "Hide the Tater

or Apple” game; both game ideas were met with enthusiasm by members. Brian Harrell will arrange for 18 tons of fossil to be delivered to the Town Park prior to September 18th. **Holly Campbell moved to recommend there be toy prize giveaways for the Heritage Days event not to exceed \$100.00, Robert Lewis seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

New Business:

Citizens Comments: none present.

Financial Report: Mr. Hammond thanked the Town Manager for the additional \$2,500.00 in Recreation funds in this year’s budget. (Attached).

Membership Application Review: Chairman Hammond introduced discussion regarding the RAC membership application form. He expressed a need to update the form. He asked the members to look it over and make suggestions at the September meeting. This would give the Council a more comprehensive look at a potential candidate. Town Manager, Angela Christian noted the town staff designed the form and it can be easily changed or updated.

Community Garden Report: Chairman Hammond stated Holly was asked to compile a report (see attached) of the Community Garden for presentation to Council at the September meeting. Mr. Hammond asked the members to take a look at the report for any questions they may have. Mrs. Christian noted the importance of the Garden having “given back to the Community” through donations to a local church. Mr. Hammond asked Holly where she sees the \$5,800.00 going and would she apply for more grants? Holly stated she was conservative with the spending, due to the uncertainty of the gardens future. Holly stated she has no specific needs in mind for a grant at this time, but would consider more grants if needed. Holly stated it would be nice to have a shed for tool storage and convenience; and she would like to invest in a tiller. Councilman Mc Coy asked about the number of rented spaces. Holly noted 15 10’ by 20’ were rented and 3 10’ by 10’ plots were rented and the rest of the garden was turned into community planting as a part of the Nourishing NC grant. Mr. Hammond expressed some concerns over liability of owning a tiller. Councilman Mc Coy expressed the importance of ventilation in a shed. Mr. Hammond noted without any objections we will present Holly’s report to Council at the next meeting.

Bicycle Safety: Mr. Hammond shared a grant Holly has researched. The NC Department of Transportation Bicycle Helmet Initiative (see Attached) would be a great opportunity for the Recreation Advisory Commission to partner with the Newport Police Department to provide helmets for kids aged 5 to 14. Mr. Hammond pointed out there were two serious incidents in the County involving children not wearing helmets. Holly volunteered to meet with Chief Clark to discuss the grant and the possibility of a partnership. Chairman Hammond asked Holly pursue a meeting with Chief Clark and report back to the Commission with the results.

Meeting Time: Mr. Hammond suggested the 5:30pm meeting time is a little difficult for members to make. What are your thoughts on the meeting times? There was some discussion. **P.K.**

Johnson moved to change the meeting time to 6:30 pm beginning with the September meeting. Brian Harrell seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.

Litter Sweep: Mr. Hammond noted the County wide Litter sweep is Saturday, October 18 and wanted to know if the RAC was interested in participating. Angela Christian, Town Manager, will have additional information available at the September meeting.

Newport Pig Cookin' Application: Chairman Hammond noted the 2015 contest will be March 27th and 28th. Applications for funds are Due November 1st. He would like the group to brainstorm ideas for funding. Mr. Hammond suggested parking lot repairs by the basketball court. Mrs. Christian spoke about playground equipment replacement and is familiar with grant writing. She mentioned partnering with other funding sources to make this happen. P.K. Johnson expressed his disappointment over the condition of the parking lot by the Little League Field. Mr. Hammond asked the members if they were in favor of pursuing a grant from the Pig Cookin'. There was some discussion. Mr. Hammond noted we will move forward with a Pig Cookin' Application and together we will talk about it again in September. C.D. Whitlow asked if the Town's Playground Inspector (Drew Piner) could give a report on the condition of playground equipment.

Council Comments: Councilman Mc Coy commented the group was on the right track.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelley Caldwell