

Newport Recreation Advisory Commission

October 17, 2014

6:30 PM

Adopted 11/20/2014

Present Members:

Sammy Hammond, Robert Lewis, P.K. Johnson, CD Whitlow, Laura Lee Davis and Robert Harrell

Excused Members:

Holly Campbell

Guest:

Frank Blunt

Staff:

Tim White, Assistant Town Manager

Kelley Caldwell

Town Council:

The October 17, 2014 meeting of the Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairman Sammy Hammond. He then called for the adoption of the agenda and noted Assistant Town Manager, Tim White would present the Sidewalk item on the agenda. **Robert Lewis moved to adopt the agenda as presented, C.D. whitlow seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Mr. Hammond then gave the members ample time to review the minutes of the September 18, 2014 meeting. C.D. Whitlow stressed the importance of communication. **Laura Lee Davis moved to approve the minutes as written. Robert Lewis seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Old Business:

Comprehensive Recreation Plan: Chairman Hammond requested this item remain on the agenda until after the new members of the Recreation Advisory Commission were selected by Town Council in November.

Bicycle Helmet Safety: Chairman Hammond noted Holly Campbell did an "outstanding job" on the Bicycle Helmet grant. Mr. Hammond stated there was some difficulty with the on-line version, therefore, he mailed the hard copy of the grant on time to the proper agency. We should hear something back in the spring.

Litter Sweep: County wide Litter Sweep will happen on October 18, 2014, however, there is no Town involvement at this time.

Newport Pig Cookin' Application: Chairman Hammond reminded everyone the Town will be requesting \$5,000. from the Newport Pig Cookin' for the purpose of purchasing playground equipment. He noted Town Manager, Angela Christian will be writing the grant. It is due November 1, 2014. Mr. White explained this project could be included in next year's budget and any monies received from the Pig Cookin' would go into the Recreation fund for that project.

Water Fountain: Mr. White shared equipment and installation quotes obtained earlier this year. Two stone water fountains are around \$850. and installation is \$900. One water fountain would be installed on the Community building and the other one at the small pavilion on the restroom building. Mr. White suggested this project could wait until the spring. Robert Lewis requested water fountain discussion/ approval be an item on the February 2015 agenda.

New Business:

Citizens Comments: Mr. Hammond asked Mr. Frank Blunt if he had any comments. Mr. Blunt declined.

Financial Report: Mr. Hammond reported at the last Town Council meeting the Council voted to extend the Community Garden for another year. The Town Council also approved the budget amendment with regard to the Community Garden funding. He commended Holly on being a good steward of the Garden money. Kelley explained the picnic table purchased with \$1,000. Wal-Mart Grant funds was vandalized. A new table top was ordered for \$179. and shipping is \$169. The table top should arrive by November 7. The Community Garden balance is \$5795. The Recreation balance is \$5,437.

Sidewalk Discussion: Mr. White explained the Town Manager is looking for this Commissions' endorsement to apply for a grant. The Grant is for a feasibility study on area sidewalks and bicycle routes. It requires a match in funding of \$4,000. The Grant is for \$40,000. The Grant is offered through the NC Department of Transportation, Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation. **Robert Lewis moved to endorse the feasibility study through the NCDOT. Laura Lee Davis seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Council Comments: None present.

Chairman Hammond took a few minutes to address the membership and announced his resignation from the Commission (see attached). He thanked everyone for their participation. He stated he has enjoyed his time here, but says he can do more good for kids in town in another capacity. He expressed his frustration because the recreation budget has been cut for the last 5 years from \$25,000. Mr. Hammond shared that he is forming a 501 3(c) group and he hopes in the future to be able to provide funding to the Town for recreation. The members expressed their appreciation for Mr. Hammond's service and wished him well.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Caldwell