

Newport Recreation Advisory Commission

November 20, 2014

6:30 PM

Approved January 15, 2015

Present Members:

Robert Lewis, P.K. Johnson, CD Whitlow, Bernice Wooten and Robert Harrell

Excused Members:

Kim Nead, James Brooks

Guest:

Mayor Barber

Staff:

Angela Christian, Town Manager

Kelley Caldwell

Town Council:

Councilman James Mc Coy

The November 20, 2014 meeting of the Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Vice Chairman Robert Lewis at 6:30. He then called for the adoption of the agenda **Mr. P.K. Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented, Mr. Brian Harrell seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Vice Chairman Lewis then gave the members ample time to review the minutes of the October 17, 2014 meeting **Mr. P.K. Johnson moved to approve the minutes as written. Mrs. Bernice Wooten seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Introduction of new members: Vice Chairman Lewis took a moment to introduce Mrs. Bernice Wooten, 128 Parker Court, Newport. Mrs. Wooten expressed her gratitude and looks forward to working with the other members.

Elections: Elections are postponed until the decision is made by Town Council on additional appointments.

Old Business:

Comprehensive Recreation Plan: Vice Chairman Lewis requested this item remain on the agenda until after the addition of new members was addressed by the Town Council in December.

New Business:

Citizens Comments: none present.

Financial Report: Vice Chairman Lewis reported the balance in the recreation fund is \$4,658. and \$5,795. in the Community Garden fund.

Kelley reported Pickin'n Grinnin has found a winter home at Ft. Benjamin Recreation center. They are requesting financial assistance with the fee. Bob Chambers negotiated a \$15. per Friday night vs. \$40. per hour. Pickin' n Grinnin will meet for 12 Friday nights through April. The requested funding is \$180. to Carteret County Parks and Recreation. **Mr. Brian Harrell moved to support the funding for Pickin' n' Grinnin'. Mr. P.K. Johnson seconded the motion. Vote Unanimous.**

Kelley then read aloud the letter received from the Newport Pig Cookin' Committee. (see attached). The Pig Cookin' Committee is not able to consider the Recreation Commission's request for \$5,000. but they are willing to help in other areas for example purchase of the water fountains. Councilman Mc Coy stressed the Pig Cookin' committee wants to help, but cannot jeopardize their charter status. He stated the Town has been very good to the Pig Cookin' over the years, the governing board will meet again to discuss this matter.

Council Comments: Councilman Mc Coy welcomed the newest member. He stated he'd like to see the meetings publicized more.

Mr. P.K. Johnson stressed the need for more funding. We could do more with more money.

Town Manager, Angela Christian encouraged the Commission members to partner with other organizations in the form of sponsorships to get the name of the Commission out there as a willing partner. Purchase trophies, sponsor Easter egg hunts, sponsor yoga in the park or a night time run. She suggested getting the word out that we are willing to partner with other organizations. Mrs. Christian mentioned the possibility of hiring a part-time person to run fee based summer programs in the park. Mrs. Christian suggested partnering with Ft. Benjamin or St. James for one on one basketball tournaments.

Councilman Mc Coy suggested sponsoring walk-a-thons or more runs.

Mrs. Christian stated running and walking events would give us a chance to highlight Newport and show off our town for very little expense in sponsorship or partnership. She has had conversation with an organization interested in holding a run/walk event. Vice Chairman Lewis suggested they bring their ideas to the Commission for consideration.

Mayor Barber suggested inviting a group of youth to attend the meetings to get ideas from them. He suggested forming a youth committee.

Vice Chairman Robert Lewis noted he would talk with Ft. Benjamin Director, Drew Short, about forming a partnership.

Mr. Brian Harrell asked about the possibility of sponsoring a 3/3 basketball tournament; and offered to gather information to present at a later time. He also mentioned the nets at the basketball goals need replacing.

Mrs. Christian stated the Commission members need to look at Recreation in Newport differently than it has in the past, we have a unique opportunity here with sponsorships and partnerships.

Councilman Mc Coy challenged commission members to fill these seats with citizens.

Mrs. Christian invited everyone to attend the appreciation luncheon on Friday, December 5th at 11:30 am.

We will not have a meeting in December. Next meeting will be Thursday, January 15th at 6:30pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Caldwell