

Newport Recreation Advisory Commission

March 19, 2015

6:30 PM

Approved May 21, 2015

Present Members:

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

Absent Members:

James Brooks (ex)

Bernice Wooten (ex)

Kim Nead

Guest:

Vickie & Steve Edmondson

Missy & George Clements

Holly Campbell

Staff:

Kelley Caldwell

Town Council & Manager

(In a budget meeting)

The March 19, 2015 meeting of the Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chairman Robert Lewis at 6:30. He then called for the adoption of the agenda **Mr. C.D. Whitlow moved to adopt the agenda as presented, Mr. Brian Harrell seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Chairman Lewis then gave the members' time to review the minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting. **Mr. Brian Harrell moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. P.K. Johnson seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Old Business:

Little League: Chairman Lewis explained the Recreation Commission needs to let Council know we support the Little League request for new lights on the baseball field and for the Town Council to consider financial assistance in their upcoming budget. **Mr. P.K. Johnson moved to send a recommendation of support for the Little League Lighting project to Town Council for approval. Mr. Brian Harrell seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

3/3 Basketball discussion: Mr. Brian Harrell reported he will organize a meeting of interested parties in the next few weeks. He noted Janie Black is interested in assisting with vendors. Mr. Harrell said he would be using the Community Park for the event sometime in July or August. There was additional discussion. Mr. Harrell agreed to report back once he had more to share.

CIP/Budget: Kelley explained that CIP are usually large capital expenses. Mr. C.D. Whitlow suggest we help with the lights. **C.D. Whitlow moved to request \$50,000. to help Little League with the lights for the baseball field. The motion was seconded by Brian Harrell. Vote: Unanimous.** There was additional discussion regarding the installation of wall mounted water fountains. The consensus was to move forward with that project.

New Business:

Citizens Comments: Chairman Lewis asked Mr. George Clements if he had an estimate of cost for the backstop for Smith Park. Mr. Clements noted he was not prepared to ask for funding at this time. Mr. C.D. Whitlow suggested using one of the large soccer goals for a baseball backstop, by just replacing the netting with more suitable product. After some discussion, **Mr. Whitlow moved to allow Little League the use of one large soccer goal as a back stop with the understanding that Little League will change the netting. Mr. Brian Harrell seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Mrs. Vickie Edmondson thanked the Commission for their support and she extended “thanks” to Bob Chambers for working with the Little League on sign placement. She reminded everyone of opening day ceremony on Saturday, March 21 and extended an invitation. Mrs. Edmondson also reminded everyone of the upcoming “Glow run” for the lights happening on April 17.

Mr. Holly Campbell made a few suggestions to the commission regarding picking a recreation project and seeing it through. She suggested an art/ beautification project that may include paintable pig statues, not unlike what was done in New Bern with the painted bears.

She reported eleven plots are rented at the Community Garden. She is in the process of organizing workshops. The first one scheduled is in May and the subject will be bees. Ms. Holly has spoken with the owners of the Plant Stand and the Bud-n-Shrub Club in hopes they will both be willing to do a work shop. The Garden has a new Facebook page, it has been well received and offers good information.

Financial Report: Kelley reported the Community Garden shows an increase in funds received. Ms. Holly Campbell turned in fees for 8 plot rentals this month. Balance in the Recreation fund is \$ 3,663.17 and \$5,736.04. in the Garden Fund. Kelley reported there was a break in the check valve at the garden over the winter. This repair will be made and the Garden funds will cover the expense. Mr. Whitlow suggested if we get fossil dirt this year for the park, if it has to be removed it should be taken to Johnson Street practice field and put in the drive way. He noted the port-a-john company is making a mess of the drive way due to the weight of the truck. There was additional discussion about installing fencing along Railroad Blvd by the practice field. The field is being damaged by ATV and vehicle traffic. The consensus is a barrier of some kind may be necessary.

Manager’s Report: Kelley read aloud the Manager’s memorandum (See Attached).

In addition to the Manager’s report Kelley noted the staff at Ft. Benjamin was recently contacted about a partnership for Family Fun Day in April. It was suggested a financial commitment of between \$300.00 and \$400.00 for a photo booth or obstacle course would be good exposure for Newport. Kelley also noted a banner was being explored through Vital Signs in Jacksonville. It would be a color banner with “Town of Newport Recreation” and generic pictures of recreation offered in Newport. The banner will also be used at the upcoming Glow run in April as we are a financial sponsor of the Little League Lighting project. The new banner is heavy duty and portable and can be used at any function Newport Recreation sponsors or supports. **Mr. Harrell moved to support Family Fun Day for \$400.00 plus the cost of a banner for \$200.00. Mr. Whitlow seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

The members discussed the Heritage Days, the group consensus is to support this event in September.

Council Comments: Council was in a budget meeting during this meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. Next meeting is April 16, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Caldwell