

Newport Recreation Advisory Commission

May 21, 2015

6:30 PM

Approved June 18, 2015

Present Members:

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

Absent Members:

James Brooks

Guest:

Vickie & Steve Edmondson

Holly Campbell

Staff:

Manager, Angela Christian

Kelley Caldwell

Town Council

James McCoy

The May 21, 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 with a slight change to move the Managers report to the beginning of the agenda. **Mrs. Bernice Wooten moved to adopt the agenda as amended, Mr. C.D. Whitlow seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Chairman Lewis then gave the members' time to review the minutes of the March 19, 2015 meeting. The April meeting was cancelled due to the death of Councilman Mayor Pro-tem Ken Davis. **Mr. C.D. Whitlow moved to approve the minutes as written. Mrs. Bernice Wooten seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Manager's Report: Mrs. Christian has spoken with the Professor at ECU in the Parks and Recreation & Leisure Division; they have provided a quote of \$10,000. to complete a detailed Parks and Recreation Plan for Newport. This is an involved process to include Public Hearings and hours of planning. ECU will inventory Newport's Parks and facilities, gather public input and make recommendations as to how to move forward. This completed plan will make Newport eligible for PARTF Grant funding from the State. The Manager has included this item in the upcoming budget and has made recommendations to Council to fund this plan. She is looking for support from this Commission. Mrs. Kim Nead is concerned there will not be the citizen involvement needed to make this process successful. Mrs. Christian assured the Commission that ECU staff will use technology and many other ways to get information to the public for their much needed participation. **Mr. Brian Harrell moved to support the ECU Recreation proposal for Newport. Mr. C.D. Whitlow seconded the motion. Vote 4 yes; one no, motion carries.**

Mrs. Christian explained the Budget next FY includes \$30,000. for new playground equipment and funds for part-time employee. Mrs. Christian also requested use of monies from Recreation Fund Balance to help off-set the cost of the playground equipment. She is requesting \$5,000. be allocated. **Mr. C.D. Whitlow moved to use Recreation Fund Balance of \$5,000. for the purchase of playground equipment. Mrs. Bernice Wooten seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.** Chairman Lewis noted the monies set aside in our Fund Balance were there for large projects. This is a worth-while project and good use of the money.

Chairman Robert Lewis is resigning from the Recreation Commission effective May 22, 2015, he will be moving to Florida in June. Councilman McCoy presented Mr. Lewis with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Town pin. The Town Manager and Council thanked Mr. Lewis for his service. Mr. Whitlow stated Mr. Lewis' involvement in Newport sports does not go without recognition.

Mrs. Christian also mentioned she applied for a NC DOT Bicycle and Pedestrian grant. Newport was selected for that grant. The Town's contribution is \$4,000.00. There will likely be a "kick-off" meeting in July or August and Recreation members are asked to participate.

Old Business:

3/3 Basketball discussion: Mr. Brian Harrell mentioned he turned the 3/3 basketball over to Councilman Eadie. Mr. Lewis suggested tabling this issue until next month and asked that Councilman Eadie be present to brief the Commission on the progress.

New Business:

Citizens Comments: Mr. Holly Campbell reported the Newport Community Garden has 17 10' x 20' plots leased, 1 10' x 10' is leased. She reported in accordance with the Nourishing NC Grant, she and others are planting 6 10' x 20' plots to grow vegetables and water melon to give back to the community through St. James Matthew 25. She also reported some expenses to replace a broken hose reel and lumber to increase the compost bin. Holly enlisted some help with developing and upkeep of a Facebook page. She will be using garden funds to cover that expense of \$250.00. They have held two free workshops one on plot preparation and one on beekeeping, both were well attended. Mrs. Kim Nead noted the new County Extension agent may be of assistance to the garden folks.

Vickie Edmondson, Newport Little League, reported they have raised \$24,400.00 for the Lighting fund. And with Newport's help the Carteret County Commissioners have received a request for \$50,000.00 to help fund the lights. We hope to hear from them soon. The Little League's fund raising efforts continue.

Financial Report: Kelley reported the Community Garden shows an increase in funds received due to additional plot rental. Recreation balance is \$2,778.21 and Garden balance is \$5,633.74. Kelley reminded everyone, they agreed to match purchase 24 bicycle helmets for the upcoming Bicycle Helmet Safety Give-away. She estimated \$500.00 would be spent.

Bicycle Helmet event: Mrs. Wooten noted she and Holly have solicited the business community for financial assistance with the Helmet give-away set for May 30th at the Newport Park. They have collected \$275.00 in donations along with gift cards (\$75.00) from Wal-Mart and Food Lion to purchase refreshments for the event. Mrs. Wooten has also distributed flyers to local daycare centers and businesses to promote the event. She also asked for volunteers to assist with the event from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturday.

Water fountains: Kelley reported to purchase two concrete wall-mount drinking fountains would cost \$810.00 and the labor to install is estimated at \$750.00. C.D. Whitlow asked about the water fountain that was obtained from DOT. P.K. Johnson confirmed that Public Works has the fountain, it just needs to be installed. Chairman Lewis asked Councilman McCoy about Pig Cooking Funds. Mr. McCoy stated he would meet with President, Jimmy Bristle and let us know, but he thought there were funds for the RAC available. **Kim Nead moved to purchase and install one wall mount unit and to install the water fountain from DOT for park use. Motion was seconded by Brian Harrell. Vote unanimous.**

Council Comments: Councilman McCoy noted his appreciation for the member's participation and thanked them for giving back to the community with projects rather than rolling the money back into the recreation fund balance. He also thanked Holly for reinvesting in the garden.

Commission Member Comments: Mr. C.D. Whitlow thanked the Little League for attending the meeting and reporting their progress on the lights. Mr. Whitlow also suggested the garden folks be involved in planting in the park for example fruit trees etc. Holly explained there were more appropriate grant opportunities for park greenery in possible greenway grants.

Mr. P.K. Johnson noted there are problems with dogs in the park. Folks are not keeping them leashed and not cleaning up after their animals. Folks are also turning their dogs loose in the fenced area of the Little League field and around the playground equipment. We need more signs. Mrs. Kim Nead suggested that we add a Dog Park to our park

plan. She also suggested the Police take an active role in the matter. Kelley explained the Town has an Animal Ordinance which addresses these issues.

Mr. P.K. Johnson expressed his desire to find property for a lacrosse field.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm. Next meeting is June 18, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Caldwell