

Newport Recreation Advisory Commission

Sept 17, 2015, 2015

6:30 PM

Draft

Present Members:

Bernice Wooten, Kim Nead, P. K. Johnson, Jonathan Mason, and C.D. Whitlow

Absent Members:

Terra Boyd (ex)

Brian Harrell (ex)

Guest:

Dale Wooten

Staff:

Kelley Caldwell

Council:

Chuck Shinn

The September 17, 2015 meeting of the Recreation Advisory Commission was called to order by Chairman Johnathan Mason at 6:30p.m. He then called for the adoption of the agenda. **Mrs. Bernice Wooten moved to adopt the agenda, Mr. C.D. Whitlow seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Chairman Mason then gave the members' time to review the minutes of the August 20, 2015 meeting. **Mrs. Bernice Wooten moved to approve the minutes as written. Mr. C.D. Whitlow seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous.**

Open issues:

Heritage Days: Kelley reported the events will take place with music in the park Friday evening until about 9 p.m. On Saturday September 19th the parade will begin at 10:00 am and end in the Park. The fossil material was delivered today and will be placed at the park Friday and cleaned up on Monday. Kelley then asked for volunteers, stating she will be at the park at 9:00 am. The Fire Department has loaned a tent and Kelley will be bringing a table and cornhole boards from home. We will be setting up to fit and give away the rest of the bicycle helmets. We will also set up the "hide the apple in the straw" game. It went over very well last year. Mrs. Wooten, Mr. Whitlow and Chairman Mason all stated they could help for a short time.

Community Garden: This item was tabled at the August 20th meeting. Holly Campbell, Project Manager of Newport Community Garden sent an email report and a request to the Recreation Advisory Commission for continuance of the Community Garden. In her email dated August 19, she stated the garden has provided 85 pounds of vegetables to Matthew 25 to include cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, eggplant and squash. The gardeners will be tilling and prepping the plots for fall planting. Chairman Mason opened the floor for discussion. Councilman Shinn noted a good track record for the garden the last two years, but wanted to ensure there was a continued interest in the project before he committed to more than one year at a time. Chairman Mason noted his team practiced on the adjoining ball field on a regular basis and noticed gardeners there every time he was there. **A motion was then made by Kim Nead to send a recommendation to the Town Council that a three year term be established for the Community Garden on the contingency that the Garden continue to be worked, that it thrive and provide for the citizens a place to recreate and provide food for the Matthew 25 Food Pantry. Should this activity cease before the three year expiration the Recreation Advisory Commission will revisit its continuance; and send further recommendations to the Town Council. Seconded by Bernice Wooten, Vote: Unanimous**

New Business:

Citizens Comments: no comments.

Managers' Report: Mrs. Angela Christian, Town Manager, sent a report for Kelley to read aloud. Item 1. The playground equipment has been ordered, installation is expected in about 5 weeks, just prior to Hootenanny. 2. Volunteers are needed for Heritage Day games. Newport staff will set up fossil pit. 3. Recreation Master Plan surveys will be given out during Heritage Days events. Dr. Deb Jordan and graduate students will be walking the parade route and setting up in the park to gather information from willing participants. 4. And 5. We have delayed public hearings on the Master Plan due to PARTF Grant changing the due dates to later in May. The meetings may be in October or November. Item 6. Mrs. Christian is working with the County to share a part time recreation person.

Financial Report: Kelley reported the \$50,000. in the Budget will be expensed out to the Lighting contracting company that installed the lights on the Little League Field. She noted the Finance Office will request a budget amendment to expense these funds. The balance in recreation is \$9,609. The Community Garden balance is \$5,309. Recreation Activities balance is \$2,970., contracted service is \$1,130. And gifts and donations is \$200.

Community Garden: no additional information to report

Council Member Comments: Councilman Shinn introduced himself to Chairman Mason. He expressed his appreciation to the members for their participation and for volunteering. He also thanked Kelley for the jobs she performs for the Town. Councilman Shinn noted he can't speak for all the Councilman, but has no issues with the Community Garden continuing.

Commission Member's Comments. Mr. P.K. Johnson asked Councilman Shinn if the property across the street from the Town Hall was going to be available for Recreation. Councilman Shinn noted access might be an issue and he wasn't aware of any requests to use the property for recreation. At one time, the former Mayor suggested using the property for the Community Garden. Mr. Shinn noted if there is something the Recreation Commission would like to see the property used for then they should propose the idea. P.K. Johnson then expressed his concerns with aggressive dogs on East Forest Dr. After some discussion it was determined this was not in the scope of the Recreation Advisory Commission. C.D. Whitlow thanked everyone on the board for their service and thanked Chairman Mason for accepting the role as Chairman. He went on to thank Councilman Shinn and wished him well in the upcoming election.

Chairman Mason invited everyone to the Newport Little League lighting ceremony Sunday, November 1, 2015. It will be held at dusk as they turn the lights on for the Majors final game of the season. The concession stand will be open. Initiations will be mailed very soon.

Chairman Mason also noted he would like to see a better job of getting information to the people. In this day, it's important to connect through social media, Facebook, Twitter and other apps.

Kelley reported the Hootenanny has set the date for Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 9:00pm, as always they are in need of volunteers.

Kelley also noted September 19 through October 3, 2015 is Fall Litter Sweep, if anyone is interested in participating she will be happy to provide information.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. Next meeting is October 15, 2015 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelley Caldwell