

City of Newport
Parks and Recreation Committee
Minutes 03-18-2009

ROLL CALL: Members present were: Susan Boehlert, Roger Holstein, Sarah Follett, Ed Simon. Absent: Paul Reed, Karen Smith.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Susan moved to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2009 minutes. Seconded by Roger. Hearing no objections, the minutes were approved.

CONCERNS OF COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: None.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: Jim introduced Peggy O'Callaghan from the Senior Center. Peggy reviewed some of the things happening there, including the CDBG grant that was recently awarded in the amount of \$800,000. The grant funds will be used to excavate and upgrade part of the Center's basement, while adding an exercise room and restrooms. Peggy noted that the Center had held a St. Patrick's Day Wii bowling tournament and potluck. Ten teams of four people participated, and over 75 people attended the event. Senior Trips are scheduled, starting in April and going through the end of November. Jim mentioned the parking issues at the Senior Center and that he has held discussions with the Police and Public Works Departments to discuss possible changes to alleviate the problem.

Jim shared an architect's drawing of the proposed Deco District Tower, which will emulate the towers on the bridge. The project will use stamped and colored concrete and have a great visual impact, anchoring the Deco District. With the completion of the design, the next step would be a search for funding.

Work on a grant for the Coast Park has started, while the conceptual design is almost completed. The City Council is in support and has passed a resolution backing the grant application. Bobbi Nyhus is doing a fine job assembling the information and is working hard to complete the grant which is due by April 3rd.

Preparations are being made for the annual budget process. So far, the news is that funds will be status quo with no big changes, which is good news for these hard economic times. However, all capitol projects have been put on hold due to the fact that current tourism revenue is lower than anticipated. The Department is getting all projects "shovel-ready" with hopes they will be given the go ahead.

RECREATION CENTER BUSINESS: Interviews for the Recreation Superintendent are scheduled for Friday, March 20th, and the interview team has been put together. Four people are scheduled for interviews, and the hope is to have the new person in place before the end of the month.

An update on the lighting system was requested by the Committee. Jim noted that he had worked with the School District maintenance people to determine how to rectify the lack

of lighting in our gym. So far, any suggestions we have received from citizens and others, will not work in our facility. For additional lighting, extra fixtures would have to be installed and they would not fit in with the current fixtures. Jim will request funds during the upcoming budget process, and if funds are secured, the issue will be re-visited.

NEW BUSINESS: The Committee was given an update on trails. There is a citizen who may donate 85 acres north of town for watershed protection and park and trail development. Jim has a meeting planned with a citizen from the South Beach area regarding the Newport to Corvallis trail.

OLD BUSINESS: The Quilters Guild has been granted a fee waiver from the City Council and will be holding their quilt show in August at the Rec. Center.

The Swim Team Agreement is in place. Stephanie Simpson, who is the President of the Club, is doing a fantastic job, and we now have a good, working agreement that will work for all those involved.

The High School graduates have been granted a fee waiver by the City Council for the use of the Rec. Center on graduation night. The party will use most of the Rec. Center and will go from about 5pm to 4am.

Jim noted that Donna Davis of the Parks Department had recently passed her Master Gardener's class.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.m.