

City of Newport  
Parks and Recreation Committee  
Minutes 10-21-2009

I. ROLL CALL: Members present: Committee Chair Paul Reed, Susan Boehlert, Roger Holstein, Karen Smith; and Council Liaison Lon Brusselback. Sarah Follett, Sandra Surber, and Ed Simon were not able to attend.

Also present representing staff: Parks and Recreation Department Head Jim Protiva and Administrative Assistant Bob Fuller.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Committee Chair Paul Reed called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M. Susan Boehlert moved to approve the June 21, 2009 minutes. Motion was seconded by Roger Holstein and approved on a unanimous voice vote.

III. CONCERNS OR COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Darryl McKeel, a resident of Newport and a regular user of the pool facilities, offered follow-up comments for consideration/discussion regarding issues he raised at the June 21, 2009 meeting:

- A. Pool maintenance has significantly improved, especially over the past month. There was less debris in the pool and less sand in the locker room.
- B. Parking: Seems the same issues regarding Sam Case staff parking outside of their parking lot, at least in the early morning hours. They occupy several spots near the pool which makes those places unavailable for pool patrons while their parking lot appears to have plenty of room.
- C. The lane divider at lanes 5-6 has been in place, and that has been an improvement. However, it is removed at 7 AM because the water-walkers use that area. McKeel thought it was to be in place until 7:30 AM.
- D. Kathy Cline has requested the water-walkers not use foam barbells when sharing a lane area with lap swimmers, but this is not enforced regularly.

IV. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR:

- A. Director Jim Protiva addressed the pool parking area and related issues. The area at the north end of the building has been paved for additional parking. The department got a great deal on this because Public Works was doing paving in the area. Protiva advised he had contacted Sam Case School and probably needs more follow-up if things have not changed. He mentioned that there are no enforcement issues, has more to do with being good neighbors. Additionally, the pool was shut down in September for maintenance and improvement. Among other things, new tile was installed and this has improved the look of the pool.
- B. Orders for two new public restroom facilities have been placed with two Oregon contractors. The new restrooms will be on the Bay front and at 9<sup>th</sup> and Hurbert.

- C. The department received a \$350,000 State Parks grant for the Coast Park project. The total budget for this project is \$500,000.
- D. Architects have been hired for the Senior Center remodel. Staff will be meeting with them next week to review plans, then bids will be requested for construction.
- E. Our Youth Activities Director Mike Gonzalez has a fun Halloween event planned for kids here at the Rec Center on Friday, Oct. 30th. We expect an impressive turnout.
- F. The painting project for the Rec Center building is nearly complete; the contractor is finishing up some detail work at this time.
- G. Staff is researching 501-3-C status (non-profit) for the Rec Center. This opens many possibilities for additional funding sources (e.g., grants).
- H. Our website has had some significant updates, including a blog spot and on-line payment and registration options.
- I. Sam Moore Skate Park improvement and expansion is under discussion with a local interest group. We will be meeting next Monday with them to review a number of options.
- J. This Friday at noon, the Chamber of Commerce will have their luncheon at the Rec Center. This is excellent exposure for our facility to area business leaders, and the Chamber gets the use of a great facility. We hosted them a few months ago, and there were over 75 attendees. The committee members are invited to attend; \$5 entry covers lunch and beverages.

#### V. FACILITIES:

- A. Roger Holstein asked about rules regarding food and drink in the gym areas. He noted during the quilting festival several attendees with food and drink items, and a few spills. Protiva advised there are no hard and fast rules per se; however, staff is quick to attend to such incidents and there has not been any permanent damage to any of the gym floors.
- B. Protiva summarized the South Beach trail project area from Hatfield Marine Science Center to OCCC Campus. There are two local property owners who are willing to work with us in trail access on their property. Another area landowner is working on a park that will be adjacent to Mike Miller Park; these are all non-motorized trails and will eventually go as far south as the airport and connect to the Corvallis-to-coast trail system.

#### VI. OTHER:

- A. John Baker provided a presentation regarding the Department business plan he is developing to address budget issues. The challenge and goal is to overcome a \$179,000 shortfall, yet maintain current programs.

There are two parts to this approach: Marketing and financial. Marketing explores such things as new programs and advertising strategies; financial looks at fees, staffing, budget numbers, and comparisons with other similar

entities. The plan will be presented to City Council on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>. Baker asked the committee to develop a statement for inclusion in the business plan regarding the value of the Parks and Recreation Department to the city.

Susan Boehlert suggested pointing out what is unique about the Rec. Center compared to private gyms in the area. Baker advised this is addressed in the plan, and it is important to discuss “complimentary” services, not “competitive”.

There being no other business, Chairman Reed adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2009 at 8:30 AM at the Rec Center.

Signed:

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Paul Reed, Committee Chair