

City of Newport
Parks and Recreation Committee
Minutes 1-20-2010

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

Also present: Lon Brusselback, City Council liaison.

Staff present: Jim Protiva, Judy Mayhew

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Paul Reed asked that the name Susan Reed be removed from the Roll Call section, as there is no member with that name. Hearing no objections, the minutes were adopted.

CONCERNS OF COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS: Deral McKeel stated that he very much appreciated the staff at the Rec. Center and Pool and that normally regular users of the pool receive a phone call when the pool has an unscheduled closure. He was surprised this morning when he arrived and the pool was closed. Paul Reed stated that he had spoken with someone from the Toledo pool who said that they had several people who had been regulars at the Newport pool before the fee increases, now coming on a regular basis to their pool. Deral also stated that he was thankful that the City Council spread the increase in rates and fees over several years, rather than all in one year. He then asked how the Department would make up the revenues that were expected and reported in the Business Plan based on the higher rate/fee schedule. Protiva explained the Financial Projections that he had developed with the Finance Director and noted that there had been lay-offs in the Department and with other cuts made, there would be no additional subsidies needed. Protiva mentioned that the Council had directed staff to outline the marketing plans they would use to make-up the additional revenues, some of which would include social networking, a blog, e-mail data base for direct marketing, being part of the "Lose to Win" contest sponsored by the News-Times and more.

PRESENTATION OF WILDER PARK CONCEPTS: Bonnie Serkin and Will Emery presented the Wilder Park Concept to the committee which includes housing development and several planned parks. Bonnie and Will said their intent is to develop the parks and deed them over to the City, with the hopes that the community of Newport would support their endeavors to provide green housing that encourages a village feel; with parks, small stores and coffee shop.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR: Protiva noted that the Department had applied for a grant to develop a trail in the South Beach area that would go from there up to the Community College. The trail would be made up of boardwalks and materials that were used on the Ocean to Bay Trail; trails that will connect right up to what we own and the Wilder property. The trail includes some amazing wildlife viewing areas.

Protiva showed the Committee two pictures of playground equipment that might be used in the new Coast Park. Both pictures were artists rendering of a pirate ship that would be placed on top of the dunes with some type of slide down to the lower portion of the park. He mentioned that the park was a

thematic playground and they had one more company that would be submitting a design for the pirate ship.

Protiva mentioned that the Department's programs were doing very well, with additions to the sports programs and youth activities as well.

FACILITIES: Jim noted that the pool is closed due to a burned out compressor, which was replaced last October. He said he hoped the pool would be open by Thursday.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

OTHER: Paul Reed asked about the letter the Committee had received from Nancy Mittleman and if she would be attending the meeting. Jim Protiva stated that he had not heard from her and knew that she had a meeting scheduled with the City Manager to discuss the fee increase.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2010.