



**City of Newport
Park Board Meeting
May 25, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members present – Emily White; Anita Perkins; Jared Flewellen; John Graber

Board Members absent – Heidi Tweeten;

Also present –Matt Yokiell, Executive Director; Dan Lund, Council Liaison

3. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

A. Park Board Minutes of April 27, 2017

Motion by Flewellen, seconded by Perkins, to approve the Park Board Minutes of April 27, 2017 as presented. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

4. 6TH STREET OVERLOOK DISCUSSION

Councilman Chapdelaine presented on this item. The City Council recently voted not to pursue the fishing pier and as such Councilman Chapdelaine would like to redesign and rename the area. Councilman Chapdelaine is proposing a walkway down the middle and place native plants along the sides. Additionally, the watershed district is conducting a survey of Newport and the roadways that go into the River and will provide a report to the City. Since the watershed is already conducting this survey, Councilman Chapdelaine is going to wait to see what recommendations they come back with before bringing back other proposals to the Park Board.

Councilman Chapdelaine would like to recommend that the current sign at the end of 6th Street regarding a fishing pier be taken down.

Councilman Chapdelaine also provided an update on the Cedar Lane area. The City is in the process of buying one of the three remaining houses and the other two homeowners have said that they would most likely sell to the City by the grant deadline of May 31, 2018.

5. FIELD RESERVATION POLICY DISCUSSION

The Park Board discussed this item as outlined in the May 25, 2017 Park Board packet. The City does not have a current policy for field reservation. The Newport Athletic Association has been in charge of the field reservations for the past several years. Mayor Lund noted that it's important for the City to take this role on. Jared will put together a draft policy for the Park Board to review.

Vice-Chair Perkins asked if this was being created to have the fields reserved all the time or just in case. Jared noted that he would anticipate the City informing the nearby associations of the policy and the opportunity. He also doesn't see it being a problem where the field would be reserved all the time.

6. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT-

Chairperson White - I have a couple things. Busy Beaver Park has two shelters up now and they are very nice. Thanks to Public Works for doing that. Also, our community garden is up and running. Thanks to Public Works for getting that set up.

7. BOARD REPORTS

A. Anita Perkins - Nothing to report.

B. Heidi Tweeten - Nothing to report.

C. Jared Flewollen - Nothing to report.

D. John Graber - Nothing to report.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Yokiel - I have a few things. We looked at restriping one of our small tennis courts at Loveland Park to be a pickleball field and it would be about \$1,000. Renee and Deb worked on a grant to get us new recycling and garbage cans in the parks and those are up in all of the parks. Finally, three of us at Public Works went to a tree inspector course last month.

Jared Flewollen - Has there been any push for composting at the parks?

Executive Director Yokiel - Not that I heard. Last summer we met with the County regarding our compost site.

Chairperson White - I know Heidi is still working on the tree signage and prairie restoration at Bailey School Forest. Also, just an FYI, I did contact Woodbury about the senior service day for garlic mustard. I haven't heard anything back. If I do, I'll let you know and see who can help.

Pauline Schottmuller, 97 10th Street - As a representative of Newport on the Move, we are exploring projects and one of the projects that we'd like to do and work through the Parks Board with is providing donated skates at the Lions Park rink. We'd want to work with the Park Board and Public Works on how to store them. It would be nice if we could advertise this at Pioneer Day in August. If you could discuss it and then let us know.

Chairperson White - Being a member of Newport on the Move, I think it's a wonderful idea.

Jared Flewollen - I think it's great.

John Graber - Me too.

Ms. Schottmuller - As a private citizen, the Star Trib last Sunday had an article about a program called paddle-share. There are sites where you go to rent a kayak and paddle it down to another site and leave the kayak. It's been very popular. The National Park Service wants to expand it. Dakota County is wanting to expand the program down to their part of the River by 2019 and I was thinking we have lots of parks on the River and Cedar Lane would be a perfect spot. I lobbied Commissioner Bigam and will also give it to Susan Lindoo who is on the County Parks and Recreation Board. I think this is something that Newport needs to say they are interested in. That needs to come from an official level.

Jared Flewollen - Do you know what the cost of the system is? Is that a city or county cost?

Ms. Schottmuller - My understanding is that we would provide them a site. Finally, I was not aware of the watershed district coming back into Newport and looking at those overlooks. I was involved in those three overlooks and I maintain the 10th Street overlook. I knew very little about native plants until the watershed came in and planted all three with native plants. When Councilmember Chapdelaine was talking about native plants, I want to raise some red flags. Not every native plant behaves the same way. I have spent hours, days, ripping out plants that were going to overrun the overlook. I have dug rattlesnake master seedlings out by the thousands. The prairie onions look just like grass and you can't tell them apart. If the watershed district comes in with suggestions for plantings, you need to go over it very carefully

and make sure we're not planting garden thugs that turn into a maintenance nightmare. If you look at the 12th Street and Pioneer Park overlooks, you're seeing maintenance nightmares. They've distracted from what the overlooks could be.

Chairperson White - We should all appreciate the work you've done. I saw it when it was overgrown and a nightmare and I know how much time you've spent on it. If and when 6th Street does get developed, we do need to look closely.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Perkins, seconded by Graber, to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. With 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, the motion carried.

Signed: _____
Emily White, Chairperson

Respectfully submitted,

Renee Eisenbeisz
Assistant to the City Administrator