



**CITY OF NEWPORT
PARK BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NEWPORT CITY HALL
AUGUST 24, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Emily White called the Park Advisory Board Meeting to order on August 24, 2017 at 6:07 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Present (3): Chair Person Emily White, Board Member Anita Perkins and Board Member Heidi Tweeten

Not Present (2): Board Member Jared Flewellen and Board Member John Graber.

Non-Voting Members Present (1): Executive Director Matt Yokiel

Not Present (1) Council Liaison Mayor Dan Lund

3. ADOPT AGENDA

Member Perkins motioned to adopt the Park Board Agenda. Seconded by Member Tweeten. Approved 3 Ayes 0 Nays.

4. APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES

Member Tweeten motioned to approve the Park Board Minutes for July 27, 2017. Seconded by Member Perkins. Approved 3 Ayes 0 Nays.

5. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chairperson White spoke about the 2017 Park Board goal list. Annual buckthorn pull scheduled for October 28, 2017. Asked if the buckthorn hedge at Pioneer Park could spread since it is trimmed regularly to prevent seed development to which Yokiel answered that it would not spread. White also stated the "little libraries" have been a success and seem to be used regularly.

6. BOARD REPORTS

A. Anita Perkins

Member Perkins wished to thank everyone that stopped by the Park Board booth at Pioneer Day and if anyone wanted to adopt a park or volunteer that they should call City Hall.

B. Heidi Tweeten

Member Tweeten stated that with the help of the MN DNR the list of trees for the Tree Trek project is complete. The project is on hold until the Bailey School Forest Joint Governance

Committee positions for the school district are filled and a meeting can be held to discuss. Sign cost is approx \$7 per sign. Director Yokiell asked that a total number of signs needed be compiled so that the cost of the project would be known for any future meetings.

Member Tweeten also mentioned that an article in the Washington County Environmental Update said that people in the County value the current parks, trails and open spaces and would like to see more of the same developed in the future.

C. Jared Flewellen

(Not Present) Chairperson White spoke on behalf of Member Flewellen asking the Park Board to recommend to the City Council that the storage building at Pioneer Park be made available to East Ridge Athletic Association for use as a shared storage space with Newport Athletic Association and in return EAA would purchase \$600 of athletic equipment for use by both groups. Member Tweeten asked for a comparison of prices for rental. Chairperson White thought the prices should be left up to City Council to decide.

Member Perkins made a motion to recommend to City Council to allow East Ridge Athletic Association to have shared storage use of Pioneer Storage building in exchange for money put towards athletic equipment to be used by them and Newport Athletic Association. Seconded by Chairperson White. Approved 2 Ayes (White, Perkins) 1 Nay (Tweeten).

D. John Graber

(Not Present)

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Matt Yokiell asked that board members begin to consider what they would like to see the City offer as river access to residents in the future. Chairperson White recommended waiting until watershed personnel were available to have a meeting or workshop to discuss their plans for the future. Member Tweeten stated she would like to keep neighbors to parks with river access in mind so as not to disturb their privacy and suggested trees and fences as a way to prevent negative impacts.

8. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson White spoke about the possibility of taking the Red Rock from the current location at the Methodist Church and moving to the new Cedar Lane Park and creating a plaque to tell the history of this rock. She would also like to consider naming the potential new park something to honor the history of Red Rock.

Member Tweeten asked if the Newport's insurance would be affected by offering ice skates for public use at City skating rinks. She posed the same question if a canoe/kayak rental program was started at a City park with river access. Chairperson White felt that insurance would not be an issue if the skates were available to use for free instead of renting them to users.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Member Perkins motioned to adjourn the Park Advisory Board Meeting. Seconded by Board Member Tweeten. Approved 3Ayes 0 Nays.

The Park Board Meeting was adjourned August 24, 2017 at 6:38 pm

Respectfully Submitted By:

Matt Yokiell,
Executive Director,
Newport Park Board

Signed: _____
Emily White,
Park Advisory Board Chairperson