

**TOWN OF NEWTON
RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 18, 2015
6:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the Newton Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:07 PM on March 18, 2015 by Chairman Frank Sebastiano.

Mr. Sebastiano read the OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Roll Call: Mr. Coward, Ms. Bond, Mr. Teets Mr. Sebastiano

Excused: Mr. Morris

Absent: Mr. Smith

Also Present: Kerry Deckert, Recreation Supervisor and Suzie Givone, Administrative Assistant.

Approval of Minutes

February 18, 2015

Ms. Bond made a motion to approve the February 18, 2015 minutes. Mr. Teets seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a unanimous "aye" vote.

Event Reports

Easter Egg Contest. March 28 with a rain date of Saturday April 4, 2015. All the candy and the prizes have been brought to Brock Kithcart at DPW. Frank S. has secured the Easter Bunny. It will be a young lady named Skylar. The new candy store on Spring Street is not sure she can be available for the Easter Bunny. She said she will follow-up with us. Ms. Givone handed out the rules for the Easter Egg Contest to the Commission members.

Spring Senior Dinner is Sunday, March 29th at 12 noon. Everything is ready for the dinner. The High School cafeteria will be preparing the Italian dinner. The high school was unable to provide the complementary tickets for the seniors to see the High School Musical. Tom Russo reached out to Thorlabs and they graciously have us a \$1,000.00 so we can purchase the tickets for 100 seniors. The first 100 seniors that call in to reserve their seat will receive a ticket for the play. Suzie Givone and Kerry Deckert purchased the table cloths and gave them to Frank S. Volunteers will arrive at 11:30 to help with the dinner.

Miss Newton is scheduled for Friday, June 5 at 5:30 PM at PSS. Jean Bond will bring the flyers and application to Merriam Avenue for Mr. Stanton, Principle to approve. Frank S. has the donation letter to give to Hank S. for him to sign. Ms. Givone will make copies of the letter for him to take to local businesses for donations for the goody bags. Ms. Givone and Ms. Deckert purchased small note books and book covers for some of the prizes for the Littles. The Commission received a chart of the Miss Newton Competition Planning. Mr. Teets will contact the photographer from the NJ Herald to photograph the winners. 2 judges are needed for the competition. Ms. Bond and Mr. Sebastiano will ask around. Ms. Givone asked Sandy Diglio and she is not available. She

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will be out of town. Ms. Givone has contacted SECTV to secure videotaping and Ms. Deckert will update the scoring worksheets.

Newton Day is Saturday, June 13th. Ms. Bond will keep in touch with Nancy Woods in regards to the games at Memory Park.

Couch to 5K: Kickoff meeting is March 30th. This is a running program that can be done on your own through mapmyfitness.com (an application that you put on your Iphone). Mapmyfitness.com will keep track of your workouts. There are currently 4 people signed up. There are also 2, possibly 3 coaches that will supervise a run. One run will be on Monday mornings around Park and Ride and one will be around the Newton High School track. The participants are eligible to win prizes. The goal of the program is to get you in shape to complete the Newton Firehouse 5K on June 13 either by walking or running. Ms. Deckert and Mr. Morris are the coordinators for the program. T-Shirts will be given out and hopefully a team can run the Newton Firehouse 5K.

Youth Duathlon: Sunday, August 30th 9 AM kickoff. Ms. Decker and Mr. Morris will oversee this program. It will be a swim/run contest for youth. A section of Memory Park will be closed down by Moran Street starting at the pool parking lot, but allowing access for the residents that share the driveway and Straway Boulevard from 9 AM and 10:30 AM. The swim segment of the duathlon will take place at the pool, followed by the run segment which will involve a run around Memory Park. We will need 15 volunteers. Ms. Deckert contacted the National Honor Society. This will not be a sanctioned ran. Every one's time will be recorded on a Popsicle stick and the winners will receive a prize. There will be metals given out to all participants.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Deckert talked about a grant she is working on to build a pavilion at Memory Park. This pavilion can be a place for children to get out of bad weather. It will also give the Recreation Department a chance to have an Arts and Craft program during the summer months. The Commission discussed the best location for the pavilion. It was suggested to have it built between the basketball courts and the bleachers.

Ms. Deckert stated she is working on a Pre-K Enrichment program at the High Rise in Newton with the YMCA. This program will help to get the children ready for Kindergarten in the fall.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission started their conversation on the Bylaws. A motion was made to move the Bylaws on to the next step with the corrections and additions discussed by the Commission. All were in favor. Kerry will type up the bylaws with correction and additions and forward them on to Ursula Leo, the Town Attorney. The Commission agreed on: A quorum of four members will be needed in order to have a meeting and 5 members needed in order to vote. Items that will be voted on are anything relating to money, contracting, and chairperson and vice-chairman for

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the commission and vice-chairs for events. New Commission members must read and sign the code of conduct in the Town of Newton personnel manual. In the sample, bylaws, Section IV. Expulsion of Members- copy verbiage from child protection ordinance and add to our bylaws. .

OPEN FORUM

Mike Teets was asked by Dave Young, Newton Football President if more lights could be added to the small practice field by the pool.

Mike brought up the benches at Pine Street for people to have a place to seat. Ms. Deckert put a call into Brock to follow up.

Discussion ensued on fundraising ideas - How to get people involved and where to apply the money once raised.

The Commission would like to see field use applications.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Bond made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Coward seconded the motion. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a unanimous "aye" vote.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on April 15, 2015 at 6:00 PM at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Givone
Secretary Recreation Department