



Park Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 - 6:15 PM

Newton City Hall - Council Chambers
101 W 4th St S
Newton, IA 50208

- I. Roll Call
- II. Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting: 2-19-2025
- III. Citizen Participation
- IV. Old Business
 1. Splash Pad Landscaping Boundary- Complete
- V. New Business
 1. City-wide Playground Evaluation
 2. Cardinal Pond Fishing Pier, Parking and Hike & Bike Trail Extension
 3. Introduction to Park Board Goal Setting FY26-27
- VI. Park Updates from Staff (No Action Items)
 1. Westwood Clubhouse Update
 2. Other Project Updates
 3. Security Cameras
- VII. Adjourn

Chair: Melanie Humphrey; **Members:** Rachelle Tipton, Jeff Osby, Sveta Miller, Collin Daniels

Minutes of Meeting Newton Park Board February 19th, 2025

A quorum being present, Chair Humphrey called the meeting to order at 6:15p.m.

I. ROLL CALL: Board members present: Miller, Daniels, Humphrey, Osby

Board members absent: Tipton

STAFF PRESENT: Nick Cummins, Parks Operations Superintendent
Liz Ventling, Rec Specialist

II. Minutes: Minutes of the previous meeting from January 15th, 2025 were reviewed. **Motion** to approve the minutes was made by Osby, **seconded** by Miller. **Role call vote**, approved 3-0.

III. Splash Pad Fence: It was requested that the Park Board made a recommendation as to whether or not some fencing should be installed at the Splash Pad for public safety. Parks Operations Superintendent, Nick Cummins presented this action item to the board, with three options to vote as follows:

- 1) Move forward with no fence.
 - 2) Install a "Natural Fence", with items such as bushes, ornamental grasses, bollards, and possibly some artistic boards along the west and north side of existing splash pad. This would be driven and funded by city staff, and would be more of a visual barrier.
 - 3) Install a permanent fence along the west and north side of splash pad. This type of fencing would require additional funding.
- Cummins also presented the following information regarding the fencing:
 - Main Street BOD voted against having a fence, and would not have funding available to contribute if it was to move forward.
 - ICAP communications clarified that the city is not legally bound to install a fence on this property, but with the close proximity to a city street (25'), they do recommend it.
 - Staff is not looking to close in this park with fencing, but if we are to move forward with fencing, it would only be on the west and north side of splash pad.
 - Majority of splash pads in other communities do have fencing.

Motion made by Daniels that if city council decided to move forward with fencing, option #2 would be the Park Boards Recommendation. Motion was **seconded** by Osby, vote passed 3-0.

IV. Old Business:

A. Cummins provided an update in regards to the Westwood Clubhouse. He indicated that the construction was still underway and drywall was being installed.

B. Osby circled back to a discussion from the January Park Board meeting in regards to the cattail population in Cardinal Pond. Having discussions with members of the community, Osby was seeking staffs plan moving forward. Cummins informed Osby and the board that the current cattails have been sprayed with the approved aquatic pesticide, by an outside contractor. Staff is working with the Fire Department about doing a controlled burn to remove the existing dead material. City staff now has a certified aquatic pesticide applicator to stay ahead of the cattail problem moving forward.

VI. New Business

- A. Cummins provided an update about the upcoming season at Westwood Golf Course. Bard Sponseller is looking at potentially adding a senior and/ or women's league to these years' offerings.
- B. Cummins asked recently hired Rec Specialist, Liz Ventling, to come forward and introduce herself to the Park Board.
- C. Bruce Showalter presented the idea about the development of a "Friends of Cardinal Pond". This group could look at things like fundraising, work days, to help promoted and develop the area around Cardinal Pond. Showalter provided a map of Cardinal Pond to outline some potential future ideas.
- D. Miller raised concerns over having heard and seen instances of dogs without leashes in the parks. Maytag Park seems to be the worst. Cummins agreed and confirmed that city staff has the same concerns. Cummins also alluded to staff working on replacing and/ or adding new signage throughout the parks to make enforcement easier.
- E. Miller also complimented this past seasons Holiday Lights display, but gave some recommendations on how to improve traffic flow in a couple of areas.

Motion by Daniels to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Miller. **Voice vote**, approved 3-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:53p.m.