

Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 20, 2022 – 6:15 pm

**Council Chambers - City Hall
101 W 4th St S
Newton, Iowa**

Minutes

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm by Board Chair Humphrey.
- 2) Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance statement read by Board Chair Humphrey – no accommodations requested.
- 3) Roll Call: present - Humphrey, Daniels, Osby, and Tipton; absent - Caldwell
- 4) Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law confirmed by Community Services Director Brian Laube
- 5) Citizen Participation or Comments: none
- 6) Review and approve minutes from June 15, 2022 Park Board meeting:
 - a. Motion by Tipton & seconded by Osby to approve said minutes. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.
- 7) Annual Goal Setting Exercise – Community Services Director Brian Laube shared the results of the online surveys for both projects and goals, along with a draft document on the proposed 2022 Newton Park Board Goals being considered tonight by the board. A motion was made by Osby and seconded by Tipton to approve the 2022 Newton Park Board Goals. Discussion then followed:
 - i. Board member Osby voiced concerns about Sunset Park, and that some of the possible projects such as inclusive playground equipment and the downtown dog park were already being proposed as part of the Sunset Park project. Following misc. discussion on how this should be addressed, Osby suggested that the Sunset Park project description reflect the completion of an updated concept plan instead of completing improvements per the 2017 concept plan. With Board consensus, Laube stated that the revised Sunset Park description would read “Complete an updated concept plan for park improvements.”
 - ii. Discussions occurred concerning the possibility to include 8 projects in the approved list. Brian Laube stated that this was possible, but the survey results showed a clear, but small separation between projects scoring 7th and 8th places. The board decided to keep the list at seven projects.
 - iii. Last year’s park Board Goals lists were also discussed, and how they compared to this year’s survey results.
 - iv. When asked whether the projects in the September 13th park bond referendum should be removed from consideration as goals, Brian Laube recommended that any project, if it has not

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

Park Board Members – Miranda Caldwell, Collin Daniels, Jeff Osby, & Rachelle Tipton.

yet been funded or awarded by City Council, should remain as a possible project to consider by this board as it is possible that the Sept. 13th referendum fail and those four projects would remain uncompleted.

- v. The hike and bike trail loop around Newton was discussed, along with trail connections to interior parks. Brian Laube stated that staff continues to look for funding options to complete this system, and has visited with the County on coordination of certain parts of the trail loop.
- vi. Discussion then followed on the survey results of the visions/goals section. Board member Osby asked why marketing had scored low. Brian Laube shared that staff has increased marketing and communication efforts this year for not only the parks but also Westwood.
- vii. The board's consensus was to title the visions/goals section as just "Visions" to not confuse goals with project goals.
- viii. With a few minor revisions to the proposed 2022 Park Board Goals List, a motion was made by Osby and seconded by Daniels to approve the revised 2022 Newton Park Board Goals (see attached). Motioned carried by 4-0 vote.

8) Sunset Park Concept Plan – Community Services Director Brian Laube began this discussion by sharing that he'd held off on preparing the online survey for board members to vote on park amenities they'd like to see to get through the goal setting exercise first. Laube then shared a list of possible survey items which was followed by discussion:

- a. The "new parking lot" item should be changed to "upgrade existing parking lot" for clarification.
- b. The difference between accessible and inclusive playgrounds was discussed. The survey will reflect "accessible".
- c. The "fitness stations" item will be clarified by adding "... adjacent trails."
- d. The "convert ball field to turf" will be removed, as that work is already done.
- e. "Park benches" will be removed as that is a given in any park.
- f. "Second parking lot" and "second restroom/shelter" will both be further defined as off N 8th Ave E.
- g. "Nature play area" will be deleted from consideration.
- h. "Build a walking trail at top of sledding hill" will be deleted, as that will be considered part of the "Paved walking trails" item in the plan.
- i. Discussion ended. Brian Laube then shared that these revisions would be included in an online survey to be sent to board members soon.

9) Old Business

- a. Board member Tipton inquired about the mobile food vendors in the parks to-date, and what the feedback was that staff has received. Brian Laube shared that it has been mostly positive, with crowds being about what staff had expected when sharing the attendance expectations ahead of time with the vendors.
- b. Brian Laube gave a brief recap on the July 4th activities at Agnes Patterson Park. Included in this was discussion by staff to upgrade the level of fireworks show next year, and growing the on-site event with possible new or increased offerings.

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

Park Board Members – Miranda Caldwell, Collin Daniels, Jeff Osby, & Rachelle Tipton.

10) New Business

- a. Brian Laube asked the board if they were fine in cancelling the scheduled August Park Board meeting due to no pressing agenda items. The consensus was to do so. Brian will send cancellation on said meeting.

11) Adjourn: motion by Osby and seconded by Tipton to adjourn. Motion carried by 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

BJL
7-21-2022

The Goals of the Newton Park Board – July 2022

City of Newton, Iowa

Approved July 20, 2022

In 2013, the Newton Park Board sought public input to help identify park needs, new ideas for the parks, and other ways to improve the park system. Based on that initial input, the Park Board established a set of goals they felt were important to accomplish over the next five years. These initial goals were then updated in August 2014.

In September of 2017 the Park Board's original goals were reviewed again, with updates given on those goals that have been completed or partially done. The Park Board was then asked to come up with two new lists of actual projects and visions. Board members were then given a survey to prioritize these two lists, with the intention of determining the top seven projects and the top three visions. Based on the survey, the Park Board approved the goals on December 20, 2017. This process was repeated in 2018, 2019, 2020, and again in 2021 with the latest list of projects and visions approved on July 21, 2021.

To align with the City's CIP and budget schedule in 2022, the Park Board again reviewed a list of proposed projects and visions at their meeting on June 15, 2022; and then completed an online survey. Based on the survey in July 2022, the Park Board's top priorities are as follows:

Projects:

1. Sunset Park: updated concept plan for park improvements.
2. Westwood Clubhouse: build a new club house for Westwood Golf Course to better serve golf customers and to generate more usage of the facility (downsized vision to seat 150 people for events).
3. Downtown Dog Park: construct a dog park in Sunset Park.
4. Inclusive Playground Features: construct inclusive playground equipment and features in a park location TBD.
5. Maytag Pool Upgrades: install new play features in the pool (includes removal of existing mushroom fountains and concrete structure in the shallow end), lazy river, or other large scale attraction.
6. ADA Improvements in Parks: construct ADA-complaint walks, routes, and other related improvements at various park locations.
7. Hike & Bike Trail Loop: complete the city-wide hike & bike trail loop.

Visions:

1. Parks Evaluations: Evaluate the long-term needs or uses of all City parks.
2. Hike & Bike Trails: Connect Newton to the Central Iowa bike trail system.
3. Reduced price pool admission passes: offer free or reduced-price pool passes/admissions based on ability to pay or need.