

Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 – 6:15 pm

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

Minutes

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:16 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, Caldwell, Daniels, Osby, and Tipton; absent - none
- 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 July 20, 2022 Park Board meeting:
 - a. Motion by Caldwell & seconded by Tipton to approve said minutes. No discussion. Motion carried 5-
- 7) Sunset Park Concept Plan – Community Services Director Brian Laube shared a handout showing the results of the online survey taken by Board members for proposed Sunset Park amenities. Laube added the following points:
 - a. The survey results are valuable to staff in phasing of the proposed improvement projects.
 - b. The dog park, which scored in second place, is being designed in-house and will be located to accommodate the other future amenities on the survey list.
 - c. The dog park plan will be used as a base for the proposed revised or updated concept plan.

There was no discussion on this item, as it will be shared at a later date. (A copy of the survey results is attached to these meeting minutes.)
- 8) Ice Fishing at Cardinal Pond – Community Services Director Brian Laube shared a PowerPoint presentation with the board on the proposal to allow ice fishing on Cardinal Pond. The presentation touched on the how Cardinal Pond is suitable for this activity, the benefits of allowing it (new rec activity, low maint. by staff, off-season activity when most parks are closed, and low cost investment for gear). Laube continued that with the board's vote of recommendation to allow ice fishing; rules would be proposed by staff based on the Iowa DNR, the City's insurance carrier, the Newton Fire Dept., and what other communities in the area allow. These rules would then be proposed to City Council for their consideration. Following a motion by Caldwell and seconded by Daniels to recommend ice fishing be allowed on Cardinal Pond, discussion followed:
 - a. Board member Osby asked why some cities do not allow ice fishing in their ponds. Laube replied

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that it was probably a decision based on feedback from their EMS and insurance carrier.

- b. A follow up question was asked about plowing access to the ice when there is snowfall. Laube stated that initially no access would be cleared, as there is no parking area for the pond. That may change in later years should additional amenities be built there.
 - c. The last question by Board member Osby concerned ice skating and if it would be allowed. Laube shared that if ice fishing is allowed, the proposed rules would likely not prohibit ice skating. Laube continued that staff does not intend to maintain a skateable ice surface on the pond; instead skating would be subject to the weather, ice smoothness, snow cover, ice fishing holes, etc. Discussion ended. The motion to recommend ice fishing be allowed on Cardinal Pond then passed 5-0.
- 9) Alcohol Sales in City Parks – Community Services Director Brian Laube shared a PowerPoint presentation with the board on the proposal to allow limited alcohol sales in some City parks. The presentation included:
- a. Current Rules or Policies:
 - i. Alcohol consumption allowed in City Parks (no kegs or glass bottles).
 - ii. Some parks may be restricted by stipulations of donors.
 - iii. Sale of alcohol prohibited in City parks.
 - iv. Westwood Golf Course does have a liquor license – this discussion does not apply to that park.
 - v. Rules are lacking or vague in some areas.
 - b. Recent requests to allow alcohol sales in parks include:
 - i. Allow alcohol sales in some parks for large events
 - ii. Newton Fest in Maytag Park
 - iii. Summer Concert Series Events in Maytag Park
 - iv. Softball Leagues
 - v. Large special events (RAGBRAI or similar)
 - vi. Food Trucks Events in parks
 - c. Community Services' proposed plan to seek approval of possible alcohol sales in certain parks include:
 - i. Seek Park Board recommendation first
 - ii. Prepare a plan to present to City Council which may include:
 - 1. Only in Maytag Park and Harmony Park.
 - 2. Only for special events, with a Council approval needed in each case (permit process and fee required).
 - 3. Sales restricted to beer (beer & wine?) only. No hard liquor.
 - 4. No glass containers sold or used.
 - 5. Newton Police review and approval of said plan/process.
 - 6. Outside Liquor License only (not City license).
 - 7. No alcohol inside pool fence.

Following a motion by Osby and seconded by Tipton to recommend support for the proposed sale of

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alcohol in some city parks, discussion followed:

- a. Board chair Humphrey voiced her opinion of support on no alcohol in the pool. She continued with questions on the licensing process and private party sales. Laube stated that those items would be addressed in any potential rules.
- b. Board member Osby asked why only two parks were being considered. Laube shared that the plan was to implement this in small pieces and that only larger parks were being considered as they host the larger events. Board discussion ended.
- c. In citizen discussion, Parks Supt. Nick Cummins added that past alcohol sales in public areas required a perimeter fence. Laube added that again this would likely be part of the rules if required by the Police Dept. or others.
- d. Councilperson George asked what types of canned drinks could be sold. Laube added that that would be sorted out in the rules, and that the proposal would likely restrict hard liquor.

Discussion ended. The motion to recommend support for the proposed sale of alcohol in some city parks then passed 5-0.

10) Old Business

- a. Board member Osby inquired about the status of the four parks projects in the recently-approved park bond referendum. Brian Laube shared the current status of each, and promised that additional updates will be provided at all upcoming park board meetings.
- b. When asked by Board member Caldwell about an earlier agenda item, Laube stated that in preparing the updated Sunset Park concept plan, the nearby senior living facilities and the hospital will be given another opportunity to provide their input.

11) New Business

- a. Board member Tipton shared that the High School Cross-Country meet held the previous evening in Maytag Park was a success.
- b. Nick Cummins shared that staff had met recently with the Newton Schools again on some items in the existing 28E, and that the schools were fine with playing another season at Eversman Field if needed with the temporary backstop in place following the March 2022 tornado. Staff is waiting guidance on if or how to repair the backstop with the long-term uncertainty of the field's future.

12) Adjourn: motion by Caldwell and seconded by Tipton to adjourn. Motion carried by 5-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM.

BJL
9-22-2022

Sunset Park Concept Plan Amenities Survey (Sept. 2022)

	Score
Paved Walking Trails	12.8
Dog Park	12.4
Inclusive and Accessible Playground Equipment	12.2
Upgrade Existing Parking Lots	9.2
Fitness Stations Adjacent Trails	8.8
Year-Round Restroom	8.2
Trail Lighting	7.8
Second Shelter/Restroom (off N 8th Ave E)	6.6
Patio at Shelter	6
Second Parking Lot (off N 8th Ave E)	5.8
Basketball Court	5.8
Baseball Field	3.6
Splash Pad	3.2
Sculpture Pads	2.6

Please rank the following amenities in order of importance for inclusion in a new Sunset Park Concept Plan (highest being your number one priority).

