Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 – 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, Osby, Daniels, and Tipton; absent - Caldwell
4) Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law confirmed by Nick Cummins – Parks Operations Supt.
5) Citizen Participation or Comments:
    a. Jason Price addressed the Park Board with some proposed changes to athletic field usage throughout the parks in Newton. Upon completion of the High School Baseball field near HA Lynn Stadium:
        i. Convert Holland Patterson and Eversman Fields into “adult softball fields.”
        ii. Convert current “tee ball fields” near Union Cemetery to practice soccer fields
        iii. Utilize 3 fields at the current “Softball Complex” for little leagues tee ball, Minors, practices etc.
6) Appoint New Park Board Chair and Vice-Chair for 2023
    a. Board member Osby nominated himself for “Chair.” Daniels nominated Humphrey to be “Chair” again for 2023.
        i. Cummins called for a vote: (Daniels: Humphry, Tipton: Humphrey, Humphrey: Humphrey, Osby: Osby). Humphrey appointed 2023 Chair position by 3-1 vote.
    b. Osby nominated for Vice-Chair, second by Tipton: Osby appointed 2023 Vice Chair by unanimous 4-0 vote.
7) Review and approve minutes from November 16, 2022 Park Board meeting:
    a. Motion by Daniels & seconded by Osby to approve said minutes. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.
8) Park Assessment Discussion – Parks Operations Supt. Nick Cummins shared the following:
    a. With both the Park Board and City Council including the following item: “Evaluate the Long-Term Needs or Uses of all City Parks” as a highly rated goal in their respective goal setting exercises

in 2022, staff is now looking at which direction this study should take.

b. This agenda item is meant to introduce some ideas or plans on how staff might proceed with the study, and also seek input from the Park Board on ideas or suggestions on how to make this happen. There will be no vote of recommendation on this at tonight's meeting, instead it is anticipated that this item will return to a future Park Board meeting agenda to consider a vote of recommendation on how to move forward.
c. Staff has included some funding for this study in the proposed FY24 City budget currently being presented to City Council. If approved, funding would be available on July 1, 2023.
d. Staff is leaning towards seeking RFQ's from consultants to complete the study.
e. The work may be an extension or more in-depth dive into the park component of the Community Development Department's recently completed Comprehensive Plan.
f. Staff envisions involvement by both this board, City Council, and the general public as the study is be completed.
g. Items staff believes should be part of the study:
    i. Inventory of all parks, facilities, and amenities.
    ii. Recommendations on upgrades to existing parks.
    iii. Recommendations on additions of new parks, facilities, and amenities.
    iv. Recommendations on new proposed park programs, leagues, events, and activities.
    v. Recommendations on park maintenance practices, maintenance level expectations, and plantings to reduce costs of upkeep.
    vi. Recommendations on the disposal of unneeded or under-utilized park property to reduce the maintenance costs.
    vii. Completion of the revised Sunset Park Concept Plan.

9) Park Bond Referendum Projects Update – Parks Operations Supt. Nick Cummins provided the following information to the board:
    a. Westwood Clubhouse Project:
        i. Initial design input meetings have been held with the architect's team, staff, and a few members of the public. These will continue through February.
        ii. A public open house is scheduled for March 1, 2023 to seek the general public's input on the proposed scope of the project, which is being refined with these initial input meetings. (City Hall – 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm)
        iii. Construction cost estimates will be prepared after this March 1st meeting, along with plan preparation.
        iv. Current timeline, if all goes as planned, has the project under contract and demolition starting right after Labor Day 2023.
    b. Pickleball Courts:
        i. Design work will begin soon now that Council has directed the location of the courts in Aurora Park.

ii. Site survey data was collected last week.
iii. Timing to be determined over the next several weeks.

c. Maytag Pool Play Features:
    i. Design team has made initial site visit to pool to assess existing conditions.
    ii. Design team sought Iowa Dept. of Public Health's comments on proposed improvements, all based on current Iowa pool design rules and existing conditions at Maytag Pool.
    iii. Staff met with design team on Thursday, January 19th to discuss preliminary findings and recommendations.
    iv. Next design input meeting with design team to be held later in February.
    v. No impact expected on the 2023 pool season by this project.

d. Sunset Dog Park:
    i. Approximately 96% of the phase 1 fence work is installed.
    ii. Remainder of phase 1 items (waterline, dog water stations, concrete at entrances, and entrance gates) are to be completed once weather allows this spring.
    iii. Phase 2 upgrades will be under design in 2023, but a timeline is not yet known. These may include shelters/shade structures, trails or paths, play features for dogs, benches, etc.

10) Old Business - none
11) New Business - none
12) Adjourn: motion by Osby and seconded by Tipton to adjourn. Motion carried by 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.