



Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 19, 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, Caldwell, Daniels, and Tipton; absent - Osby
- 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 February 15, 2023 Park Board meeting:
 - a. Motion by Caldwell & seconded by Daniels to approve said minutes. No discussion.
Motion carried 4-0.
- 7) Parks, Golf, and Pool Budgets and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Overview:
 - a. Community Services Director Brian Laube provided a summary of City Council's recently approved City budget and 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan, and how it relates to the parks. Information provided included how park projects and programs are funded, how park budgets (parks, pool, and golf) not only compete with each other for funding but also with other City departments' projects and equipment requests, various funding sources that contribute to the parks budgets' operating expenses, and why some projects that are Park Board goals never seem to get built. No discussion or questions followed.
- 8) Proposed Adopt-a-Park Program Discussion:
 - a. Community Services Director Brian Laube shared staff's preliminary plans to institute an Adopt a Park Program. A handout was provided with some proposed rules and guidelines, all of which were modeled after several other communities in Iowa. Staff will prepare a proposed map showing sections of trail and parks planned to be available for adoption, and share this with some more refined rules at an upcoming Park Board meeting.
 - b. The only question posed about the program related to signs, to which Laube shared that the vision is to have small and somewhat permanent signs in place that can be revised with decals in the future should sponsorship change.

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

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

9) Update on Upcoming Park Study:

- a. Community Services Director Brian Laube updated the board on this goal of the Park Board following funding being included in the upcoming FY24 budget. The goal of this study is to gather recommendations on use and maintenance of existing park land, disposal of unneeded land, maintenance recommendations, and programming changes. The plan is to have this study professionally prepared by a consultant, with input sought from the park Board and the general public.
- b. During discussions, Councilperson George recommended finding a volunteer group to gather park usage and attendance data. Board member Caldwell added that this data would be valuable.

10) Proposed Dog Park Rule Revisions Discussion – this item was pulled by Community Services Director Brian Laube as the proposed rules were not ready to share.

11) Maytag Pool Play Feature Upgrades:

- a. Community Services Director Brian Laube updated the board on the progress towards bidding for the pool improvements. Laube shared the following points:
 - i. Staff trying to assemble an affordable first phase of the project that will enhance the guest experience.
 - ii. Due to rising costs, some items may be bid as an add-alternate.
 - iii. An informational open house is scheduled at City Hall on April 27 to share the proposed amenities in Phase 1 (shallow-end play features, upgraded and additional shade structures, stairway access to the 3-meter board, and other minor upgrades).
 - iv. The proposed timeline was also shared, with the current goal to have some of these initial projects in-place by opening day in 2024.
- b. Following this presentation, a Motion was made by Caldwell & seconded by Tipton to approve Staff moving forward in this manner towards an eventual bid opening. Motion carried 4-0.

12) Old Business:

- a. Following a question on this, Community Services Director Laube informed the board that the Newton High School baseball team will use Eversman Field for the 2023 season. After that, the field's control and maintenance will revert entirely back to the City per the proposed 28e which will be shared in New Business.

13) New Business:

- a. Brian Laube shared that an updated 28e agreement between the school district and the City has been prepared. The school board is scheduled to consider this on April 24th, and the City Council is set to consider its approval on May 1st. Said agreement includes language related to the pool, golf course, Children's Forest trail, cross-country at Maytag Park, tennis courts, and other related items.

14) Adjourn: motion by Caldwell and seconded by Daniels to adjourn. Motion carried by 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM.