



Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 28, 2023 – 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, Caldwell, Daniels, Osby, and Tipton
- 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 April 19, 2023 Park Board meeting:
 - a. Motion by Caldwell & seconded by Daniels to approve said minutes. No discussion.
Motion carried 5-0.
- 7) Presentation by Project AWAKE: Project AWAKE Board President Lana Wohler's shared a slideshow highlighting Project AWAKE's proposed expansion to the north of their existing site. Highlights of this presentation, and discussions related to this, included:
 - a. Project AWAKE is requesting that the entire City-owned farm ground north of the arboretum not be put back into crops next year, instead they take control of it for their expansion plans. This request is also tied to concerns of herbicide and pesticide drift.
 - b. Presentation touched on a future maintenance building, learning/conference center, year-round restrooms, sculpture and prairie areas, parking lots, and walking trails.
 - c. Brian Laube shared that he'd bring this back to the board at a future park board meeting for a vote of recommendation that would be shared with City Council.
 - d. Questions from the Park Board, and Lana Wohler's answers, included:
 - i. Is there a budget estimate yet? Not yet
 - ii. Will there be any change to the current maintenance of AWAKE's land on City property?
No
 - iii. Will the existing Krumm Center remain? Yes
- 8) Introduce 2023 Park Board Goal Setting Process:
 - a. Community Services Director Brian Laube began this annual exercise by recapping the process

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

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

where the board members individually vote on a list of projects and goals, and then has discussion and a vote the following meeting to approve their goals for 2023.

- b. Laube then shared last year's Park Board goals, along with the 2022 goals of City Council. A brief recap was held focusing on whether a goal has been completed or should still be up for consideration again.
- c. The board was then presented with two lists of proposed projects and visions/goals. These lists were prepared using said Park Board and City Council current goals lists, and the current 5-year Capital Improvement Plan.
- d. Following a brief recap of these two lists, minimal discussion was held. One project was requested to be added to the projects list for consideration – Repurpose Woodland Park. Brian Laube said he would add it to the list.
- e. Laube then shared that he'd wait a couple weeks in the event that board members had an additional project to add to the lists for consideration. After that, he'd work with Danielle Rogers to prepare an online survey for board members to complete before the next board meeting.
- f. It was also noted that no board meeting would likely be held in July, since waiting until August 16th to consider the potential goals lists would be soon enough to share it with City Council ahead of their annual goal setting exercise.

9) Proposed Updates to Hike and Bike Trail Map - presentation & vote on recommendation – Following Community Services Director Brian Laube sharing a Hike & Bike Trail system map, discussion followed:

- a. Laube shared that the purpose of this map is mainly to have proposed trails on a map for use when seeking grants for said trails. There is no commitment to build proposed trails in locations shown.
- b. Laube continued by stating that some of the proposed trails on the outskirts of Newton are based on recent feedback received following meetings with Jasper County on what their main focus is in connecting Newton to the county trail system.
- c. Discussions continued with suggestions to color in all parks on the map, add a connecting loop down Iowa Speedway Dr. to S 13th Ave E and then west on 13th, add a section on E 31st St N from 1st Ave E to Agnes Patterson Park, and show some spurs to downtown and other City parks.
- d. Following discussion it was suggested by Brian Laube that this item be revisited after some proposed revisions are made to the map. A motion was made by Tipton, and seconded by Caldwell, to table this item. Motioned carried 5-0.

10) Old Business: none

11) New Business:

- a. Brian Laube shared an update on the upcoming activities at Agnes Patterson Park on July 4th.

12) Adjourn: motion by Caldwell and seconded by Daniels to adjourn. Motion carried by 5-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.