

Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 15, 2023 – 6:30 pm

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

Minutes

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:30 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, and Tipton – Absent: Caldwell and Osby
- 4) Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law confirmed by Community Services Director Brian Laube
- 5) Citizen Participation or Comments:
- 6) Review and approve minutes from June 28, 2023 Park Board meeting (see attached):
 - a. Motion by Tipton & seconded by Daniels to approve said minutes. No discussion.
Motion carried 3-0.
- 7) Disc Golf Presentation: Eric Sash, resident of Newton, made a brief presentation on his request to expand the disc golf course in Woodland park from 12 to 18 holes. Information shared included:
 - a. He is a 20-year player of the sport, and sees many benefits to playing disc golf including health benefits and minimal costs.
 - b. Shared that Newton is 9th in Iowa for disc golf rounds played, and has hosted many tournaments.
 - c. Noted that there are many children living near Woodland Park, and he sees an increase in kids playing the sport.
 - d. He shared that he could provide a proposed layout of the added holes to City staff.
 - e. The only question posed was by Board Chair Humphreys, who asked what the typical space is needed per hole. Mr. Sash replied that it can vary greatly.
 - f. Staff will explore this possible low-cost upgrade to a popular option.
- 8) Proposed Project AWAKE expansion plans - presentation & vote on recommendation to support project and remove cropland from upcoming lease process – Community Services Director Brian Laube offered a recap on what Project AWAKE had proposed at Agnes Patterson Park. Discussions included:
 - a. Board Chair Humphrey asked a couple questions on prairie planting, long-term goals, and timeline; to which Project AWAKE Board President Lana Wohlers replied that plantings would

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

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

begin in the spring should approval be received from City Council this fall. Goals would then be established and grant writing process would begin once approval is granted.

- b. Board Member Daniels asked how long this entire project might take from start to finish, to which Wohlers replied 5-10 years if the funds are available.
- c. Discussions ended and a motion was made by Tipton and seconded by Daniels to vote on a recommendation to support the Project AWAKE expansion project and remove cropland from upcoming lease process. Motion carried by 3-0 vote.

9) **2023 Park Board Goal Setting – Community Services Director Brian Laube** shared the results of both online surveys completed by all board members, and allowed discussion prior to a motion to approve.

Discussion followed:

a. **Projects List:**

- i. Humphrey inquired about inclusive playground equipment, followed by Tipton asking about location. Laube shared that the vision is to create an inclusive playground somewhere in an existing park, and that flat locations would be preferred due to accessibility.
- ii. Humphrey inquired about the tennis court project at Aurora, to which Laube shared the plan is to resurface the existing 6 courts and add two new courts.
- iii. After Humphrey stated that she had no problem with the top 7 projects listed, discussion ended on the proposed project list.

b. **Goals/Visions:**

- i. Humphrey mentioned volunteer opportunities could exist for high schoolers seeking silver chord hours.
- ii. Tipton complimented Victoria Jordan on implementation of new rec opportunities.
- iii. Discussion ended on goals/vision list.

- c. A motion was made by Daniels and seconded by Tipton to approve the 2023 Park Board Projects and Goals/Visions List (see attached). Motion carried by 3-0 vote.

10) Old Business: none

11) New Business:

- a. Brian Laube shared that he will be reaching out to a couple board members concerning their term expirations on Dec. 31, 2023 to gauge their interest in possibly serving another term.

12) Adjourn: motion by Tipton and seconded by Daniels to adjourn. Motion carried by 3-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.



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.

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

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

The Goals of the Newton Park Board – August 2023

City of Newton, Iowa

Approved August 15, 2023

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 several years.

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/goals. 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/goals. Based on that survey, the Park Board approved the goals on December 20, 2017. This process has been repeated annually since 2018, with the latest list of goals and visions approved on July 20, 2022.

To align with the City's CIP and budget schedule in 2023, the Park Board again reviewed a list of proposed goals and visions at their meeting on June 28, 2023; and then completed an online survey. Based on the results of this survey, the Park Board's top priorities are as follows:

Projects:

1. Hike & Bike Trail Loop: complete the city-wide hike & bike trail loop.
2. Inclusive Playground Features: construct inclusive playground equipment and features in a park location TBD.
3. Sunset Park: complete park improvements per recent planning and design efforts.
4. Westwood Clubhouse: build a new clubhouse 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).
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. Skate Park: construct new, larger skate park in Aurora Park.

Visions/Goals:

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. Volunteer Opportunities: Create volunteer opportunities to encourage more ownership of the parks among citizens to discourage vandalisms and other unwanted activities.