

Minutes of Meeting Newton Park Board January 22, 2024

A quorum being present, Chair Humphry called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

ROLL CALL: Board members present: Daniels, Humphry, Miller, Osby

Board members absent: Tipton

STAFF PRESENT: Nick Cummins, Parks Operations Superintendent
Erin Chambers, Community Development Director

Minutes. Minutes of the previous meeting from November 15th, 2023 were reviewed. **Motion** by Daniels, **seconded** by Osby to approve the minutes as written. **Role call vote**, approved 4-0.

Citizen Participation or Comments. None

Welcome New Staff/ Park Board Member: Nick Cummins introduced Sveta Miller and welcomed her to the Newton Park Board. Cummins Introduced Community Development Director, Erin Chambers. Chambers addressed the board and updated them on the current department reorganization following the retirement of former Director, Brian Laube.

League Contract Updates: Cummins gave update on renewal process with the Little League, NGSA, and NASA that takes place every 3 years. Cummins pointed out minor changes, such as, leagues responsibly for providing schedules to the City of Newton staff, thus allowing staff to schedule and utilize athletic fields during open time slots. League contracts have also been changed from every 5 years, to meeting every 3.

Agnus Patterson Trail Loop: Cummins gave an update on the status of the Agnus Patterson Parks winter trail loop. Last year staff rolled out a new recreational opportunity that included staff clearing a loop of existing hike/ bike trail, provided citizens a place to exercise during the winter months. Following good feedback from this action last year, staff will be continuing to honor this arrangement again this season. Snow removal on this loop takes place after normal snow clearing operations have been completed.

Mini Pitch Update: Cummins updated the board on the status of the proposed Mini Pitch project that the Park Board voted in favor of on November 15th, 2023. Staff has received a copy of the City of Norwalk's Construction and Fundraising Arrangement that was utilized along with the Mini Pitch/ Musco organization. Staff will proceed with arranging a presentation to City Council, followed by an action item, at a future date to be announced.

Park Project Update: Cummins updated the board on the 4 parks projects that were approved by the Parks Bond Referendum.

- 1) Sunset Dog Park is operational and has been well received.
- 2) Pickeball Courts in Aurora Park. Construction crews made great strides, help by a warm November and December. Remaining construction includes, court top coat surface, painting lines, and installation of 2 shade structures.
- 3) Maytag Pool Upgrades. Construction crews were also blessed with good weather in November and December and are in good shape to meet their completion deadline this

spring. Shallow end piping was installed and concrete poured before the end of the year. Spring work by contractors includes painting of concrete areas, and installation of new shallow end play feature, diving board, zip-line, and new shade structures.

- 4) Westwood Golf Course. Cummins gave an update on updated project timelines for the next 2 phases of this project. Asbestos abatement has been completed. Demolition bid is being awarded with a completion deadline of March 29th. That will be followed by a site grating project that city staff is preparing for the bid process. Actual building planning is still underway.

Osby commented to staff that these project updates are something that should be shared with the community and posted on our platforms.

Old Business.

Osby asked for feedback in regards to potential increase in fees at Westwood Golf Course. Board and staff had discussion of continuing to look at slowly stepping fees up throughout the upcoming years.

Humphry asked about the status of the hail repairs through the parks. Cummins updated the board that the shingle portions of the parks roofing project have been completed. Other items, including gutters, siding, and slate roofing material will be completed as weather allows.

Osby commended staff on this seasons Holiday Lights Display. Cummins clarified the electrical issued that took place. Concerns from the board also included citizens playing disc golf throughout the park. The concern was also surrounding them playing later in the evening while dark. Cummins informed them that staff will look at potential solutions for next season, and will most likely look at promoting the Woodland Park Disc Golf Course while displays are in place throughout Maytag Park.

New Business.

Osby asked about the status of the ice rink. Cummins updated the board that the staff will not be installing the ice rink this season. Several items factored into this decision. Unseasonably warm weather, expensive new liner needed, large staffing costs to maintain, and having another rink located in Legacy Plaza, all factor into the uncertainty of staff continuing to provide the ice rink each season.

Motion by Daniels to adjourn the meeting, **seconded** by Miller. **Voice vote**, approved 6-0. Meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.