

**Newton Park Board
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2020
Newton City Hall - Council Chambers**

1. Call to order 6:15 pm
2. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Statement read by Chair Humphrey.
3. New board member Bryce Heitman was introduced by Chair Humphrey
4. Roll Call
 - Present: Heitman, Humphrey, Michener, Price, & Vandall
 - Absent: none
5. Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law (confirmed by Brian Laube)
6. Approve Minutes from 11-20-2019:
 - Motioned by: Vandall, 2nd by Michener
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
7. Elect Board Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020
 - Brian Laube discussed the rules of the board, and how a new chair and vice-chair can be appointed by the board each year. Following minor group discussion on who might want to do this, Levi Michener agreed to serve as chair and Amanda Price agreed to serve as vice-chair if approved by the others. This was then approved by a 5-0 vote of the board. Levi and Amanda will assume these roles following completion of this Park Board meeting.
8. Newton Cares Classic Golf Tournament
 - Brian Laube shared with the board the promotional material that has been prepared for the planned event on July 30, 2020.
 - The tournament committee members have begun seeking corporate sponsorships, and Brian stated he would email the information to the board members in case they wanted to share it with others.
 - Brian stated that he may have more info to share at the next board meeting concerning progress on sponsorships and celebrity commitments.
 - Brian also added that the committee may need some volunteers the day of the 2020 event to help out with various tasks.
9. Fireworks Donations
 - Brian Laube shared with the board that the Community Services Division will be sending out the annual fundraising request letter again this week, and the letter

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

Park Board Members – Bryce Heitman, Levi Michener, Amanda Price, and Adam Vandall

will be from the Newton Park Board. Lisa Bernal will be listed on the letter as the contact person for those with any questions or wanting to donate.

- Brian also stated that the donation boxes that board members have set out in the past at local businesses will be available again this year. Brian stated that he was told only 2 boxes went out last year, and reminded the board that this is something they should do since City staff is not allowed to do this.
- Discussions by all followed concerning last year's unsuccessful efforts to sell donations cards at the checkout aisles at Hy-Vee. Amanda Price stated that in prior years board members had spent a few hours at Hy-Vee on a couple Saturday mornings in the spring seeking donations. It was recommended by Brian Laube that this be considered if allowed by Hy-Vee.
- Bryce Heitman suggested having people at the entrances to the park on July 4th seeking a suggested donation from people. Adam Vandall and Melanie Humphrey stated that board members had sought donations at the park in past years.
- Brian Laube stated that staff is exploring the possibility of doing 50-50 raffles or other giveaway's at upcoming Summer Concert Series events or NewtonFest.
- Additional discussion followed on whether the Friends of Newton Parks still had a board, and if they could get involved with this fundraising. Brian Laube said he would check into this.

10. New Recreation Ideas

- Brian Laube shared the following recreation ideas with the board that came from numerous sources, and asked that they submit any other ideas:
 - Glow Ball Golf at Westwood
 - Pickleball Leagues
 - One-Week Summer Day Camp - possibly ran by college interns majoring in a recreation area.
 - Organized walks or run events
 - Teen swimming parties at Maytag Pool
 - Volleyball or soccer leagues
 - Additional softball tournaments - possibly held in conjunction with July 4th or Newton Fest.
 - Expanded swim lessons
 - Organized disc golf tournaments
 - Longest drive competition at Westwood
 - Water Aerobics or Yoga
 - Croquet court - two separate requests have been received from the public for croquet courts - one for a tournament court in Maytag Park, and another for a recreational court in Sunset Park.
 - Bags equipment at Westwood or elsewhere
 - Mountain biking course
 - Traveling rings
 - Yoga at the Bowl
 - Adult rec soccer league
 - Intro to Golf Program
 - Adult tennis tournament
 - Senior Walk & Coffee
- Other ideas from board members included:
 - Splash pad in a City Park

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- 3 on 3 basketball tournament
- Organized bike rides
- X-Country skiing
- Broomball tournament
- Rollerblade hockey
- Misc. winter sports
- Brian then asked the Board to think about this, and share some of their ideas via email in the next two weeks. After that, Brian said he'd send out an online survey to board members asking them to rank the ideas. Staff will then use the results as guidance on how to prioritize the proposed rec ideas.

11. Old Business

- Melanie Humphrey asked about the possible sledding hill discussed at Agnes Patterson Park. Brian Laube shared that the final design for the mass grading project at Arbor Estates Subdivision next to Agnes Patterson Park is not yet finalized, so the amount of waste dirt needing to be removed is not yet known. More will be known in the next month or two.

12. New Business

- Brian Laube shared that he intends to have the Mayor present his talk on the roles of boards and commissions at an upcoming board meeting.
- Brian Laube asked the board about holding fewer meetings at certain times of the year. Following discussion on this, the consensus of the board was that they felt that monthly meetings were necessary unless there are no agenda items to discuss.
- Melanie Humphrey asked about the agenda process and how it is decided when to cancel meetings. Brian Laube shared that he normally prepares the agenda based on staff input, and then will decide to cancel the meeting when there are no new or urgent agenda items. Melanie then asked how board members could suggest agenda items. Brian stated that he'll email a draft agenda to all about 10 days prior to the meeting, and ask for any other agenda items others may have. Brian stated that if board members reply, they are to not do a reply all.
- Bryce Heitman asked about the City's policy or rules on clearing snow from the bike trails. Nick Cummins, PW - Parks Ops Supt. replied that for trails adjacent residential properties, the property owner is required to clear at least a four foot wide path along the trail. Nick also shared that the City does clear a few other sections of trail that connect some of these residential areas, mainly in the SE part of Newton. The majority of the trail system is not plowed in the winter due to icing and refreeze that would leave the trail in a worse condition than if left uncleaned.
- Melanie Humphrey asked if the Holiday light display at Maytag Park is all taken down now. Nick Cummins confirmed this, with the exception of the ice rink lighting.

13. Adjourn Regular Meeting (7:17 pm)

- Motioned by: Vandall, 2nd by Price
- Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Brian Laube - Community Services Manager

1-15-2020