



Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes *January 17, 2018*

City Hall-Council Chambers

1. Call to order 6:15 pm
2. Roll Call
 - a. Present: Humphrey, Jackson, Klier, Price
 - b. Absent: Vandall
3. Approve Minutes from 12-20-18
 - a. Motioned by: Klier, 2nd Price
 - b. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0
4. Jody Rhone – Update on Sunset park planning and cost estimates
 - Jody provided handout – master plan improvements showing the two phases of completion and estimated project costs per HBK Engineering.
 - Jody also said that the Sunset Park updates did not make it as one of City Council’s goals for the 2018-19 budgets due to needs taking precedent over wants.
 - Melanie Humphrey asked which park items did make the cut. Jody replied that repair/reconditioning pool slides for \$80,000 and purchase new golf carts for \$51,000 will be up for approval.
 - Amanda Price asked if there are other opportunities for raising the funds needed to complete this project. Jody replied they are looking at applying for the Prairie Meadows Legacy Grant but the drawback is that the City must have matching funds in order to apply.
 - Marc Jackson asked what are we going to do with Sunset Park now to improve. Jody replied that Sunset West could potentially be a good site for another dog park that would be relatively inexpensive to complete and also stated that City staff has been looking at other revenue possibilities. Jody said that Jamie Murphy had brought up that other communities register their dogs for a fee to get into the dog park. Amanda Price thought another dog park in the downtown area would be great as the City grows in this area to accommodate future as well as present dog owners.
 - Evelyn George commented that the League of Cities Variety Club of Iowa has helped other communities raise money for parks with volunteer groups leading the fundraising efforts and collecting donations.
5. Jody Rhone – Update on budget requests for Parks CIP projects
 - Jody restated that repair/reconditioning pool slides for \$80,000 and purchase new golf carts for \$51,000 will be up for City Council approval.

- Jody also stated that Park staff is currently working on repairing and fixing up things at the pool, parks and cemeteries to take better care of what we have and make it look nicer. He said the pool is one area they are concentrating on and hope to redo the steps leading down to the pool as well as other much needed maintenance on various items within the pool.

6. Jody Rhone – Update on Rotary’s Maytag Park seating project

- Jody provided handout – map of seating area location with benches.
- Jody said at their meeting on January 8th, the Newton Historic Preservation Commission voted in favor of the Maytag Bowl Rotary Project moving forward. Comments have also been received from the State Historical Preservation office, and a few minor items will be addressed in the construction plans.
- Per Jody, City staff will now begin preparing plans and bid documents for this project due February 23rd, with the goal to have concrete bid work completed by May 11th. Then City staff will install benches and plant grass seed so it will be available for use prior to NHS Graduation on Memorial Day weekend.

7. Jody Rhone – Update on Fireworks funding efforts

- Provided a handout on the current revenues showing a balance of \$4466.54 with our goal being \$10,000 to \$12,000.
- Lisa also asked if Park Board members could contact any potential sponsors to help fill the remaining sponsorships available and that another letter would be mailed out in February.

8. Old Business

- Amanda Price asked what was happening with 30 Acre Park. Jody Rhone replied that the Park’s staff is currently looking at completing a few small projects such as cut overgrowth on trails. He also thought this may be a good place for possible Eagle Scout projects and trying to get a DNR grant for natural parks.
- Marc Jackson said he would like to see a sign placed near the road at the east parking lot and maybe move the west parking lot sign closer to the entrance.
- Marc Jackson also asked if the sidewalk along Sunset Park by Skiff was City responsibility to shovel. Nick Cummins will check into this but Jody said he didn’t think that was ours.
- Melanie Humphrey brought up that there was a pothole at the bottom of Sunset Park sledding hill by the fence and that the sculpture pad was dangerous with the bolts and concrete where kids could get hurt. Nick Cummins will also look into this.

9. New Business

- Melanie Humphrey informed us that she had put her name in for the open ward 1 City Council seat.
- Marc Jackson asked Jamie from the Newton Daily News if she could put something in the paper about the eagles at 30 Acre Park to encourage people to go see them.

10. Adjourn: 6:57pm

- Adjourn Regular Meeting
 - a. Motioned by: Price, 2nd: Jackson
 - b. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0