

# Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 – 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
- 3) Roll Call: present - Humphrey, Caldwell, Osby, and Tipton; absent - none
- 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 January 19, 2022 and January 27, 2022 Park Board meetings:
  - a. Motion by Caldwell & seconded by Tipton to approve said minutes. No discussion. Motion carried 4-0.
- 7) Comprehensive Plan Parks Focus Engagement Activity:
  - a. Community Development Director Erin Chambers briefed the board on the current status of the ongoing new comprehensive plan process.
    - i. She stated that they have had many meetings with citizen input, and tonight's exercise with the Park Board would focus on parks.
    - ii. A slideshow was shared with the board highlighting what the objectives are in preparing a new comprehensive plan.
    - iii. All attendees at the meeting then participated in a Mentimeter Poll conducted by Community Development staff. Results and comments included:
      1. What are three words that come to mind when you think of parks in Newton?
        - a. Beautiful Used Spacious
        - b. Fun Green Big
        - c. Recreation Fun Historic
        - d. Maintained Vintage Nice
        - e. Green
        - f. Children Sports Swimming
        - g. Options Activities Family
        - h. Active Family Each unique
        - i. plentiful large historic
        - j. Historic Large Aged

- k. Vast
  - l. Beautiful Active Fun
2. How would you rate the park system in Newton?
    - a. Excellent: 3 votes
    - b. Good: 9 votes
  3. How frequently do you visit Newton parks or recreation areas?
    - a. Frequently (once a week): 5 votes
    - b. Sometimes (2-4 visits per month): 5 votes
    - c. Occasionally (1 visit per month): 1 vote
    - d. Rarely (less than 5 visits per year): 1 vote
  4. Thinking about your favorite park or open space in Newton, what do you like about it?
    - a. Convenient Location: 8 votes
    - b. Trail Connections: 3 votes
    - c. Variety of Rec Facilities/Opportunities: 9 votes
    - d. Condition of the Parks & Facilities: 8 votes
    - e. Natural Character and/or Shade: 8 votes
    - f. Programs/activities offered: 3 votes
    - g. Not too crowded: 4 votes
    - h. Accessibility: 1 vote
  5. What would you like to see at Agnes Patterson Memorial Park in the future?
    - a. Shade around the play areas
    - b. More tournaments - a regional draw.
    - c. More shade
    - d. More shelters & Programs
    - e. Paved parking
    - f. Paved parking lots.
    - g. Inclusive/accessible playground
    - h. Winter activities; field lights for tournaments; dog park area
    - i. Additional reserveable shelters.
    - j. Hard surfaces on parking areas.
    - k. Bigger shelter for more Rec opportunities
    - l. Adult soccer league, Sand volleyball league, & Recycling bins
  6. What would you like to see improved or added to Maytag Park in the next 10 years?
    - a. Updated pool features
    - b. Connect with the school/Children's Forest for permanent XC course
    - c. Improvements to the bowl and shelters.
    - d. Pickleball courts
    - e. Fix up park house exterior to preserve it
    - f. Better seating and accessibility at Bowl
    - g. Shade in Bowl seating area
    - h. More concerts - bigger names
    - i. Pool improvements
    - j. Splash pad there and not downtown
    - k. Fix up disc golf
    - l. Splash pad
    - m. Splash pad in or around the pool.
    - n. Updated pool features

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- o. Family activities; young children using playground
  - p. Major face-lift to the pool.
  - q. Updates to house, with new vision of usage.
  - r. Updated pool pavilion.
  - s. Recycling bins
  - t. More recreational opportunities
7. What future improvements would you like to see at Aurora Park?
- a. Pickle ball courts
  - b. New Skate features
  - c. More swings
  - d. Another slide
  - e. I'd love to see more unique feature like the zip line and climbing boulders.
  - f. 6 Pickleball courts minimum and to hold tournaments
  - g. Skate park
  - h. Pickleball courts installation
  - i. Improvement to skating area with separation of basketball courts.
  - j. Bigger and more updated skate park
  - k. Expand skate park; pickle ball courts
  - l. Stand-alone pickleball courts.
  - m. Upgrade to lights and Skate Park.
  - n. Newer shelter and improved basketball courts and skate equipment
  - o. Pickle ball courts
  - p. More skate board/roller skate equipment
8. What would you like to see improved or added to Woodland Park in the next 10 years?
- a. Better promotion of being a great green space
  - b. I'd like to see a trail with those "workout" station/equipment.
  - c. Upgrade toilet facilities
  - d. Better shelters
  - e. Trail for walking
  - f. Permanent entertainment like cement bag boards
  - g. Complete tear and recreation of baseball fields
  - h. Paved parking lot and spaces by shelters.
  - i. Disc golf updates
  - j. A second top notch baseball field for tournaments; expand disc golf
  - k. Update the disc golf course.
  - l. Updated playground features
  - m. Expansion of disc golf course
  - n. More use of Holland Patterson field
  - o. Update fields
9. What improvements should the City make to Sunset Park in the next 10 years?
- a. Add dog park, add walking trail,
  - b. more playground features like swings and monkey bars
  - c. Inclusive and sensory playground equipment for all ages.
  - d. Water mitigation
  - e. Activities for seniors
  - f. Fix up shelters
  - g. Playground upgrades
  - h. Expand playground area and features

- i. Update playground & add work out equipment.
  - j. Updated/inclusive/accessible playground
  - k. Dog park; walking paths with exercise stations; natural play spaces
  - l. Giant Dog Park.
  - m. Updated shelter with better parking. New playground is a must!
  - n. Walking trail and inclusive playground equipment
  - o. Better parking lot
  - p. Update playground
10. What would you like Maytag Pool to look like in 10 years?
- a. Features for younger kids
  - b. I'd like to see a remodel of the pool house/pavilion allow for better changing rooms,
  - c. Remodel of the work space and seating areas.
  - d. Complete remodel. Climbing wall. Upgrade pavilion
  - e. Add splash pad at end instead of downtown
  - f. Better locker rooms
  - g. More adult exercise classes
  - h. More adult activities ... Like adult only swims
  - i. More affordable prices
  - j. Complete remodel
  - k. Splash pad
  - l. Fun and exciting play features for all ages
  - m. Larger pavilion; unique new features like the climbing wall
  - n. Bring it up to date. New play features, shade structures, building improvements.
  - o. Extensive maintenance and updated to Pavilion
  - p. Updates pool pavilion and updated play features. New heating system
  - q. Better bathrooms
  - r. More swim activities
11. What do you see Westwood Golf Course looking like in 10 years?
- a. New clubhouse,
  - b. More tournaments/charity events
  - c. Host non-golf related events and activities as well
  - d. Mini golf!
  - e. Hard surface path improvements. Extend them to be longer too
  - f. Please new clubhouse ASAP
  - g. Mini golf course
  - h. Bad golfers night
  - i. Brand new clubhouse attracts events for community
  - j. Additional sports items, basketball court, mini golf
  - k. Sand volleyball, house shoes, axe throwing.
  - l. Better club house, better parking, bar carts, more activities for all ages/skill levels
  - m. Larger parking lot; new cart storage shed; more activities and youth golf
  - n. New clubhouse, with many year-round activities for non-golfers as well as golf.
  - o. Updates to parking areas and maintenance buildings built out of sight of public
  - p. New parking lot, maintenance building,
  - q. New clubhouse better parking lot, bags and other fun sports and entertainment
12. What can the City do to improve the recreational areas (Cardinal Pond, Softball Complex, Newton Dog Park, Union T-Ball Area) over the next 10 years?
- a. Trail connections to Cardinal Pond and shelter/pavilion for rent

- b. dog playground equipment, normal maintenance and upkeep
  - c. I'd love to see better parking and signage for these areas.
  - d. Cardinal Pond is going to be a great asset.
  - e. Maybe one of these areas could have rental for the pond
  - f. New home to ice skating rink.
  - g. Food trucks
  - h. Dog playground equipment
  - i. Continue to improvement the park that we already have
  - j. Trails leading to each of these parks.
  - k. Add a dog park and splash pad to downtown for residents and to attract day visitors.
  - l. Planned maintenance and upgrades
  - m. More full time maintenance staff to maintain everything.
  - n. Cardinal pond hike/ bike trail spur, off street parking, dock.
  - o. New fences at Adult Softball Complex
  - p. Better parking lots. Updated equipment and fencing. Added amenities
  - q. Food trucks, educational programs
13. What would you like to see at the Neighborhood Parks (Callison, Denniston Knolls, Hillcrest Park) over the next 10 years?
- a. Shade at Denniston Knolls, inclusive playground equipment, trail connections
  - b. Make each unique in some way
  - c. Get neighbors options on what would improve them.
  - d. Better play equipment
  - e. More signage and promotion of these parks
  - f. Shelters
  - g. Something unique at each... Music garden, horseshoe pit, etc."
  - h. More usage
  - i. Trails to each of these parks. Updated play equipment.
  - j. Trails and more visibility for better usage
  - k. Measure the usage: are they even being used or do children play in their own yards?
  - l. Different times.
  - m. Rentable garden spaces.
  - n. Upgraded playground equipment.
  - o. Sell off some unused land.
  - p. Proactive plan to update play features.
  - q. Better playground equipment.
  - r. Educate folks that these parks exist, update playgrounds
14. What is one NEW feature you would like to see in the Newton parks system?
- a. Clubhouse
  - b. Splash pad
  - c. Inclusive equipment
  - d. Inclusive playground Equipment
  - e. Rental
  - f. Historic tour
  - g. Mountain bike trails
  - h. Zip lines
  - i. Pickleball courts
  - j. Clubhouse
  - k. Mini golf

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- l. Splashpad not downtown
- m. Clubhouse
- n. Splash pad
- o. Clubhouse
- p. Mini golf
- q. Splash Pad
- r. Food Trucks
- s. Accessible playground
- t. Inclusive park features
- u. stand-alone pickleball
- v. CLUBHOUSE
- w. Food trucks
- x. Inclusive playground
- y. Pickle ball courts
- z. New trail spurs
- aa. Maytag house renovation
- bb. Inclusive equipment

8) Food Trucks in City Parks:

- a. Community Services Director Brian Laube shared the following proposed plan with the Park Board:
  - i. Modifications to the current food truck ordinance(s) will be needed to allow for food trucks in City Parks. If approved by Council, then.....
  - ii. The Community Services Department will apply for premise permits at:
    - 1. Maytag Park
    - 2. Woodland Park
    - 3. Agnes Patterson Park
    - 4. Aurora Park
    - 5. Softball Complex
    - 6. Westwood Golf Course/Park (although this is in the county, we'll treat it like any other City park).
  - iii. These premise permits will likely be for only one food truck at a time at each location, but we will need to consider other special or large events with multiple trucks.
  - iv. The Community Services Department will utilize our existing online reservation system to schedule food truck placements or spots at these locations. The no-cost "reservations" would be available on a first-come basis. We may consider some sort of refundable deposit to hold these reserved spots so trucks don't sign up and then are a no-show. The available spots will be created for City events, or at the request of leagues or youth sports groups, so we don't have trucks just showing up at random times or whenever they feel like it. This system is flexible, and would allow additions or revisions to available dates/times as needed throughout the summer.
  - v. The rules governing the safety/inspections of trucks will be the same as those approved by

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City Council for food trucks elsewhere in Newton.

- vi. We do not envision imposing any fees above or beyond what City Council may establish for food trucks elsewhere in Newton.
- vii. We will not provide any water or electric hook-ups for the trucks. They should all be self-sufficient to operate in our parks without these.
- viii. No alcohol will be sold.

b. Questions and discussions followed by the board including:

- i. Why are we proposing only one space per park? Laube answered that they were trying to control the allowable number of trucks so those that do business in the parks are not competing with a large number of trucks at the same time.
- ii. Caldwell suggested that food trucks be able to use the parks in off hours if we don't have reserveable time slots available.
- iii. Osby inquired about the number of food trucks in the area, to which Comm. Development Director Chambers answered that there were about 40.
- iv. Caldwell commented that food trucks would increase park usage.
- v. Laube commented that staff is not concerned with food trucks affecting concessions sales at the pool or golf course, as we see that it would serve another or additional market.
- vi. Humphrey commented that the consensus seemed to be allow two trucks at most parks, but just one at Aurora Park due to limited parking.
- vii. Osby added that we would need to take into consideration more trucks at larger events.
- viii. Additional minor discussion continued on possible food trucks for private events at park shelters, and how much space these need.
- ix. After Laube shared that he could come back at a later meeting with a more defined plan based on the feedback received tonight from the board, there was a motion by Caldwell and seconded by Tipton to table discussion to a later meeting. Said motion carried by a 4-0 vote.

9) Old Business

- a. Board member Osby voiced his displeasure with the apparent delay in voting on the proposed park bond referendum (City Council to consider action on February 21<sup>st</sup> to approve a September 13<sup>th</sup> bond referendum).

10) New Business

- a. Community Services Director Brian Laube shared that he intends to begin board discussions at the next meeting (March 16<sup>th</sup>) on possible revisions to the Sunset Park Concept Plan prepared approximately 5 years ago.

11) Adjourn: motion by Tipton and seconded by Osby to adjourn. Motion carried by 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM.

BJL  
2-17-22