



Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 – 6:15 pm

Council Chambers, City Hall
101 W 4th Street S
Newton, Iowa

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance:

Is there anyone present that may require special assistance in being able to participate in this public meeting?

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm by Board Chair Michener
- 2) Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance: Board Chair Michener read the ADA compliance statement above, with no responses.
- 3) Roll Call: Michener, Heitman, Price, & Vandall present; Humphrey absent
- 4) Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law: Brian Laube, Community Services Manager, confirmed that the meeting is being held in compliance with the Iowa Open Meetings law.
- 5) Review and approve minutes from January 15, 2020: motioned for approval by Vandall, seconded by Price, motion passed 4-0.
- 6) Roles & Responsibilities of the Park Board - Mayor Hansen
 - a. Mayor Hansen began by thanking the Board Members for volunteering their time to serve on the board, and spoke on the importance of volunteers in filling numerous roles in local government.
 - b. Mayor Hansen then continued by highlighting how the City Code defines the roles and responsibilities of this board, and stated that the board's role is to "advise City Council on the planning and coordination of the city-owned parks, trails, greenspaces and recreation facilities and advise on recreational activities that are offered by the City of Newton. The Park Board will also advocate the use of the city-owned parks, trails, greenspaces and recreation facilities and promote volunteerism at events at city parks and recreation facilities and for projects within city parks and recreation facilities."
 - c. Mayor Hansen then finished by sharing the code section stating "Members shall demonstrate a positive interest in the parks system and recreation activities, and

Park Board Chair – Levi Michener

Park Board Members – Bryce Heitman, Melanie Humphrey, Amanda Price, and Adam Vandall

shall have a positive outlook and vision for the future of the Newton parks system and related activities.” Mayor said that board members still have their first amendment rights and can share their opinions, but this code section addresses the manner that public comments should be made. The Mayor ended by stating that the City is working on a social meeting policy for staff and board members.

7) Survey Results: New Recreation Ideas

- a. Brian Laube shared the following concerning the recent online survey completed by board members:
 - i. The survey did not yield the desired separation from top to bottom, with most ideas falling in the 7 to 9 scoring range. Only four ideas fell below the 7 level.
 - ii. Brian asked that the board give some direction or a consensus on 3-5 ideas that staff can pursue in 2020.
 - iii. Brian then shared that staff was already working on or planning for the following items, and they should not be included for consideration by the board:
 1. Intro to Golf (scored a 7)
 2. Mountain Biking Course (7) - staff working on a biking/hiking [path concept plan this year for 30-Acre Park. Discussions continued on whether this will occur since it's not in the CIP, and if the trail spur to 30-Acre Park would occur. Brian stated that the current CIP does include a project to construct a hike/bike trail spur to 30-Acre Park.
 3. Pickleball Leagues (7) - Brian stated that staff is scheduled to look at some locations to determine if a court or courts can be painted this summer.
 4. Glow ball Golf (6) - Brian stated that staff will be scheduling two to three of these events at Westwood this summer.
 5. Teen Swimming Party (5) - Brian stated that staff is exploring this as an event option at Maytag Pool this summer.
 - iv. Brian also stated that he did not think he'd be getting a rec intern this summer, so the one-week summer camp idea will likely not be pursued this year.
- b. The board then discussed the survey results, and felt that the additional following items should be pursued by staff:
 - i. Rollerblade Hockey (9) - due to the high score, the board felt this would be a worthwhile rec. idea to pursue.
 - ii. Senior Walk & Coffee (9) - Brian Laube stated that this idea was from another community elsewhere, and envisioned it beginning and ending at Maytag Pool in the mornings.
 - iii. Disc Golf Tournaments (8) - Amanda Price inquired about existing disc golf tournaments in Maytag Park. Nick Cummins, PW Parks Ops Supt., stated he is in contact with the local disc golf community when they have events. Staff will pursue the idea of sponsorship of one of these in 2020.

8) 2020 Park Board Goal Setting Schedule

- a. Brian Laube shared the following schedule for the 2020 Park Board goal setting exercise:

- i. April 15, 2020: initiate discussions on potential board goals
 - ii. May 20, 2020: discuss and prepare a list of potential goals
 - iii. June 17, 2020: vote on goals based on online survey taken by board members prior to this date.
 - b. Bryce Heitman then asked about the Westwood Clubhouse, and how it became a goal of the board. Discussion ensued with the following comments/observations:
 - i. Amanda Price and Adam Vandall both shared that previous boards felt that the replacement of the Westwood clubhouse was needed, so that's how it became a goal.
 - ii. Brian Laube shared that even though a project such as this may become a board goal, it does not necessarily make it a goal of the City Council.
 - iii. When asked if he'd ever visited Westwood, board member Heitman said he has not. Brian Laube then stated that staff would gladly give him a tour of the building and course should he request one.

9) Fireworks Donations

- a. Brian Laube reminded the board that City staff cannot put out the donation collection containers at businesses, and the Park Board has always handled this in the past. Brian shared that the containers can be picked up at the Community Services office from Lisa Bernal.
- b. Discussions were held concerning last year's somewhat unsuccessful efforts with the donation cards at Hy-Vee registers. The board felt that the cashiers did not always promote these. Board Chair Michener stated that he felt the board should take a couple of Saturdays this spring and stand outside Hy-Vee seeking donations.
- c. Adam Vandall also reminded the board of past efforts in seeking donations the day of the event at Agnes Patterson Park.
- d. Brian Laube reminded the board that last year's July 4th donations came in slightly short of the goal, and with increased prices for fireworks more money will need to be raised in coming years to maintain the same level of show.
- e. Brian Laube also shared that staff is exploring an acceptable online donation process.

10) Old Business - nothing discussed

11) New Business

- a. Brian Laube shared the following items:
 - i. Staff has all of the seasonal pool and Westwood Clubhouse jobs posted online.
 - ii. Staff has all the online reservations available for parks shelter and pool rentals.
 - iii. Concerning the possible sledding hill at Agnes Patterson Park, staff has been working with the design engineer on the proposed grading project at Arbor Estates development and has directed them to include the fishable pond (in the development) and the sledding hill (in adjacent Agnes Patterson Park) as part of the plans. A possible grant is being explored to offset some of the costs for these two items. The sledding hill is proposed for the area immediately south of the slope going up the NW soccer field, and does not

- disturb any prairie areas in the park.
- iv. The Library's Story Walk project at Agnes Patterson Park will be having a kick-off event on June 6th from 9 to 11 am. Board members are invited to attend.
 - v. 2019 Season Pool and Golf Course numbers were shared with the Board, in an abbreviated presentation from what Brian had shared with City Council on February 17th. In summary, the pool numbers were down likely due to a slight cost increase plus cool and wet weather at times. The golf course numbers of rounds played, concessions, cart rentals, merchandise sales, Twilight rounds, and 10-punch pass sales were all up. Brian reported that the reduced pricing had a negative effect on season pass sales, and that he is working on a business plan to counter that effect.
 - vi. Bryce Heitman shared a complaint about some bad fence at the Adult Softball Complex, and some group had said they would help replace it. Brian Laube and Nick Cummins both stated that they were not aware of this complaint, but that Nick would look into it.

12) Adjourned at 7:36 pm.

BJL
2-20-2020