

Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 – 6:15 pm

Electronic Meeting was held via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86255869103?pwd=MWoxaHVSy0t3VnBjQTZrK2ZkRHNEZz09>

and

Website Streaming at <https://www.newtongov.org/CivicMedia>

(Pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8) This electronic meeting was held because a meeting in person is impossible or impractical due to concerns for the health and safety of board members, staff, and the public due to COVID-19. The public was able to participate in this meeting and comment on an agenda item by submitting via email to brianl@newtongov.org before 5:00 PM the day of the meeting or, during the meeting, by calling 641-521-7137. Providing comment in person was not an option.

Minutes

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance:

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

- 1) Call to order by Board Chair Humphrey
- 2) Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance statement read by Board Chair Humphrey. Nobody requested assistance.
- 3) Roll Call: Present – Humphrey, Heitman, Tipton, and Vandall; Absent - Osby
- 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 February 17, 2021 meeting: Motioned by Heitman to approve, seconded by Vandall, approved by 4-0 vote.
- 7) National Skin Cancer Awareness event: Community Services Director Brian Laube shared with the board that on May 1, 2021 the Old Lonely statue near Maytag Pool will be covered with clothes as part of a national skin cancer awareness campaign in all 50 states. This campaign will be making a small donation to a local charity or City for use of this. Laube continued that he had this on the agenda for a vote of support on March 24th, but there was no meeting due to not having a quorum. Staff decided to allow this one-time event.
- 8) Edible Orchard presentation: Parks Operations Assistant Supt. Jamie Murphy shared information and some pictures on the edible orchard project that staff have started on recently as an enhancement to the park system. Some key points shared were:
 - a. Located on unused City property immediately south of the railroad tracks and east

of the end of W 3rd St N.

- b. Friends of Newton Parks has pledged to pay ½ of initial costs estimated to total \$3,000; and then help fund it annually. City's share being paid from budgeted funds for grounds upkeep and improvements.
- c. 5 raised beds have been installed, and 16 fruit trees have been planted.
- d. The establishment of the trees and plants will take a couple years, and be promoted to reduce food insecurity.
- e. Although this parcel may not become an official park, plans are for a future bike trail spur to Sunset Park and Legacy Plaza to run through this area. The project's location is not very desirable for redevelopment, but in the event it was needed for that many of the improvements could be relocated elsewhere.
- f. When asked why it wasn't placed in an existing park, Jamie Murphy shared that no suitable location could be found without having to remove existing trees.
- g. Small signs describing the project and its rules will be installed at some point.

Board member Tipton added that she felt this was a good idea.

9) Old Business:

- a. Bryce Heitman shared that City Council passed a resolution of support on Monday night for using the City-owned lot at 224 W 3rd St N as the location of the proposed downtown splash pad project. Brian Laube added that staff was moving forward on preparation of an improved concept plan, and intends to have that for the group's fundraising efforts this summer. Councilperson Randy Ervin added that he is in favor of the project, but was just voicing his concern at the council meeting on the project's annual cost to the City and the obligation of granting this lot to this project.

10) New Business:

- a. Brian Laube floated the idea of having this board meet in person sometime soon. It was a consensus that this would be discussed at the next board meeting.
- b. Nick Cummins, Parks Operations Maintenance Superintendent, forwarded a question from Board member Osby who is absent. The question was who is responsible to correct or prevent erosion along the bike trail NE of Cardinal Pond. Brian Laube answered that he is responsible for this through either his department's maint. staff or through the Arbor Estates grading contract.

11) Adjourn: Motioned by Vandall to adjourn, seconded by Tipton, approved 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

BJL

4-21-2021