

Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes September 18, 2019

Newton City Hall - Council Chambers

1. Call to order 6:15 pm
2. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Statement
3. Roll Call
 - Present: Humphrey, Michener, & Vandall
 - Absent: Jackson & Price
4. Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law (confirmed by Brian Laube)
5. Approve Minutes from 6-19-2019:
 - Motioned by: Vandall, 2nd by Michener
 - Ayes: 3 Nays: 0
6. Storybook Walk Project at Agnes Patterson Park - Phyllis Peter (Newton Library):
 - Phyllis shared this proposed project with the board, with the following key points mentioned:
 - i. The project will install approximately 28 permanent story boards around a 0.8 mile loop on the trails in Agnes Patterson Park. Kid's stories will be placed in these on a rotating basis, so the entire book is read by walking the loop and reading pages at each board or post.
 - ii. Estimated costs for the posts range from \$4,500 per 20 to \$7,300 per 20, depending on the material type used.
 - iii. The Wellness Committee has pledged \$2,000 to the project, and Kinetic Edge has pledged another \$1,000.
 - iv. Possible sponsorship of individual signs is being discussed to help offset remaining costs.
 - v. Jarrod Kingery (DMACC welding instructor) was approached about having these built as a class project. Since their class itinerary is already set, this could not occur. He did say he could build them as side work, but his material costs would likely make it cost-prohibitive when compared to buying the ready-built ones.
 - vi. The goal is to have this installed by May 2020.
 - Additional discussion by the board and City staff included:
 - i. The City would not have any direct financial outlay for this, instead just labor to install them.
 - ii. The boards would need to maintain a 3' clearance off the hiking trail, so the need to pour concrete pads to go from the trail to the board was discussed.
7. Westwood Clubhouse update:
 - Brian Laube shared that the council goal to have a downsized clubhouse concept plan is nearly finished. He shared the following:

- i. The architect is finalizing a cost estimate for the downsized plan, and this info will be included in the upcoming council goal setting session, CIP planning, and budget process. No cost estimate was shared with the board tonight.
- ii. The completed work does not include drawings ready to go to construction, and anything in the concept plan is subject to change should the project receive funding and final architectural services are approved.
- iii. Although this project is a Park Board goal, it would need to receive council approval and have funds budgeted for before it could become a reality.
- iv. The two poster boards prepared by Ethos, and originally shared at the Newton Cares Classic, were displayed as well at tonight's meeting.

8. Maytag Pool 2019 Season Recap:

- Brian Laube shared the following info:
 - i. The daily ticket sales and total attendance were down by about 20% when compared to last year.
 - ii. A contributing factor to part of this down year was the cold June. Throughout the season there were 4 days that the pool never opened due to weather, 1 day due to mechanical problems, and 6 days that it closed early due to cold or bad weather. Several days that we did stay open barely exceeded 70 degrees, and several other times a persistent drizzle kept people away.
 - iii. Enrollment in swim lessons was up by 49% over last season.
 - iv. The dog swim was up 14%.
 - v. Newton Fest held a free pool party that was well attended.
 - vi. The City hosted a free community pool party late in the year, and recorded 600 people entering the facility during the 4 hour window. Lifeguard staff noted that a majority of the kids in attendance were not normal customers during the year. 250 hot dogs were grilled and sold for \$1 each, and concessions specials were held to deplete the remaining stock. We plan to hold another one of these again next year.
 - vii. Brian sent a Survey Monkey survey to the seasonal staff, and had 18 people complete the survey. Of the 10 questions asked, the majority of the seasonal staff was satisfied with most areas (wages, training, supervision), while a lesser degree of satisfaction was noted with the conditions of the facilities.
 - viii. The pool partnered with the Library to host a toddler story time at the pool. About 40 kids attended, and then it led into toddler swim that day. Future events like this are planned for next year.
 - ix. Staff will be exploring new or different events and opportunities for next year.

9. Old Business

- Adam Vandal asked Nick Cummins if the swings at Aurora Park can be lowered. Adam said they are too high for some to sit in them. Nick said it might be the lack of mulch beneath them, and that he'd look into this request.

10. New Business

- Brian Laube mentioned that Westwood Golf Course is trying a private glow ball golf event Thursday night, October 3rd. The City's engineering firm will be bringing over a group of people, and that the City will be purchasing the needed supplies and may have a few players as well. Following this event, staff will discuss whether this is something they want to offer in 2020 as an event package for large groups or corporate outings.

11. Adjourn Regular Meeting (6:46 pm)

- Motioned by: Vandall, 2nd by Michener

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

Park Board Members –Marc Jackson, Levi Michener, Amanda Price, and Adam Vandall

- Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

Brian Laube - Community Services Manager

9-19-2019