

# Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes September 19, 2018

## Newton City Hall - Council Chambers

1. Call to order 6:15 pm
2. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Statement
3. Roll Call
  - Present: Jackson, Price, & Vandall
  - Absent: Humphrey and Klier
4. Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law (confirmed by Brian Laube)
5. Approve Minutes from 7-18-18
  - Motioned by: Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Price
  - Ayes: 3 Nays: 0
6. O.P.E.N. to discuss proposal to put recycling containers in parks.
  - Jane Johnson and Jane Ann Cotton, representing O.P.E.N., shared a plan to put recycling containers or bins in the City parks.
  - O.P.E.N. was willing to provide funding for this, but could not commit to a number at this meeting.
  - The proposal included placing recycling tubs or containers with the O.P.E.N. and recycling logos on them at all shelters, or near other trash cans.
  - Brian Laube stated that he would visit with the Public Works staff that is responsible for parks maintenance about this proposal.
  - A limited roll-out is possible to test the bins, containers, collection, etc.
  - City staff will contact Jane Johnson about the proposal after reviewing it.
7. Proposal to go to every other month meetings instead of monthly.
  - Brian Laube presented the option to the Board to schedule meetings every other month instead of monthly, with the option to have board meetings on off months if needed for different reasons.
  - Brian stated that this was being proposed due to recent smaller agendas, and was not driven by the need to cut down on the number of meetings.
  - During discussion, Brian also suggested possibly going to an every-other moth schedule in the winter, and keeping the monthly schedule during the summer.
  - Board members present felt that they did not want to make a change at this time without having a full board present for consideration.
  - No action taken by the board.
8. Waterslide Rehab Project Update
  - Brian Laube stated that the waterslide rehab contractor, Slide Pros from Oronogo, Missouri had recently begun work on the project, and estimated that they'd be done within three weeks.

## 9. Old Business

- Brian Laube mentioned the inspection of the pool by City staff following its closure for the season, and that a list of repair items was compiled for completion prior to opening in 2019. These items were mainly due to weathering, and wear and tear over 20 years, and not due to neglect.

## 10. New Business

- Board member Jackson stated that he was happy with the new golf carts purchased earlier this year at Westwood Golf Course, and was also glad to see repairs & clean-up work was completed following the recent flooding on the back nine.
- Brian Laube mentioned that he was going to visit the Grundy Center Municipal Pool late this month to look at their new splash pad play area adjacent their pool. This type of additional feature is being explored for Maytag Pool.
- Board member Vandall asked about the Westwood clubhouse, and if the City has compiled a repair list w/costs for upkeep to the old building. Brian Laube responded that the list has been compiled, and it totals an estimated \$400K. Brian went on to explain that the \$400K is not all needed at this time, but that is what we could reasonably expect to pay for on-going upkeep and repairs should a new clubhouse not be approved in the near future. The list of upcoming or impending repairs includes: HVAC replacement, new windows, plumbing and electrical upgrades, new roof, carpet, restroom and locker room remodeling, siding, and others. Brian Laube stated that by spending the estimated \$400K on this old building, this does not add any extra space or the desired room to host golf tournaments. Also, it was noted that the business plan that had been prepared a couple years ago for the grand-scale clubhouse is not applicable to the current vision for the clubhouse, and Brian stated that a new business plan is being worked on to increase the revenue at the golf course by revisions to the fee structure and increased marketing. The proposal for a new clubhouse would be beneficial to this plan, and no expected change in staffing levels is anticipated with the downsized clubhouse plan.
- Brian Laube talked briefly about the upcoming council goal setting session scheduled for September 25<sup>th</sup>, and mentioned that the Park Board's recently approved 2018 goals were included in a large list council will consider. When asked by Board member Price about what happens if the new clubhouse or other Park Board goals did not make Council's final 2018 goal list, Brian Laube stated that staff would probably not work on those projects if it is not one of council's goals and they decide not to fund it. If other funding is found by securing grants or donations, Brian stated that the project could be brought before council again to see if would become a priority at that time.
- Matt Holmes, a board member of girls softball and boys little league, spoke about the City's fee schedule for renting fields along with the maintenance of said fields. Matt was concerned that their leagues could not support the "new" fees, and that more maintenance and lights were needed at the fields. Brian Laube stated that the "new" fees were not new, and that they are council approved fees from the past that groups haven't been paying. Brian stated that they have scheduled a meeting with the softball and little league reps to discuss rental options, fees, field maintenance, and other topics. Brian stated that the City wanted to help grow they leagues, and didn't want to cause their demise. City staff will be proposing an agreement with each individual group that will spell out field maintenance requirements and expectations, possible fee changes, and other items. All of these proposed fee changes would be need council approval.

## 11. Adjourn Regular Meeting (7:21 pm)

- Motioned by: Price, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jackson
- Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

Brian Laube - Community Services Manager

9-24-2018