

**Newton Park Board
Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2019
Newton City Hall - Council Chambers**

1. Call to order 6:16 pm
2. Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Statement
3. Roll Call
 - Present: Jackson, Price (Acting Chair), & Vandall
 - Absent: Humphrey & Michener
4. Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law (confirmed by Brian Laube)
5. Approve Minutes from 9-18-2019:
 - Motioned by: Vandall, 2nd by Jackson
 - Ayes: 3 Nays: 0
6. Newton Charity Classic Golf Tournament
 - Brian Laube shared that the City had received \$2,000 from the Friends of Newton Parks for their 1/3 share of the 2019 Newton Cares Classic Golf Tournament, and that the funds have been deposited in an account separate from general parks expenditures. Brian went on to explain that due to the event being a charity event, the City was looking for input on how to use these, and future funds. Brian wants to be sure that the money is spent on a project or cause benefitting primarily the disabled or disadvantaged, and that the results can be used for future marketing purposes in the tournament.
 - Brian then discussed a couple of possible projects or ideas including:
 - i. Free or reduced price pool admission, swimming lessons, or golf passes.
 - ii. Inclusive playground equipment.
 - iii. Special needs swimming lesson sessionBrian then asked the Board to think about this, and share some of their ideas at a future board meeting. A brief discussion was then had after Mark Jackson suggested maybe we could buy some golf clubs for loaner sets for kids to get them on the course. Amanda Price also mentioned maybe a reduced price on youth sports fees, even though the City doesn't run these groups.
7. Parks Fees
 - Brian Laube shared the proposed revisions to the parks fee schedule for 2020. These proposed fees, which will be presented to City Council on December 2nd, were prepared following a staff meeting on the overall Public Works and Community Services fee schedule. Brian shared the following proposed revisions:
 - i. Westwood Golf Course

1. No proposed change in fees for 2020
 2. Added a \$3.50 Range Fee (small) to the list, which has been available in past years but never on the list.
- ii. Parks Rentals
1. Increase the basic shelter rentals by \$5 each - these run at nearly full capacity so no anticipated loss in revenue on this. When asked by Adam Vandall, Brian stated he did not yet have the anticipated affect to revenues, but said he would have that in his council report on December 2nd.
 2. Added large event and water surcharge fees to shelter rentals. Brian and Nick Cummins explained these that some groups require additional space due to crowds, or desire water for dunk tanks or the like.
 3. Increased the prices for Maytag Bowl rentals. The ½ day fee is to be doubled to \$100, and the event fee for those events that charge admission is being raised from \$225 to \$300.
 4. Added field marking fees for the soccer and softball fields. These fees do not apply to the youth sports groups already under agreements, but only to those groups renting the fields for events and wish to have the city chalk or paint lines.
 5. Changed lighting fee from per hour to per day. The fee is the same, just simplifying the process when lights are desired by rental groups.

Brian asked for a vote to recommend these changes to City Council.

- Motioned by: Vandall, 2nd by Jackson
- Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

8. New Recreation Ideas - Brian Laube touched on the following possible recreation or entertainment items in our City parks:

- Glow Ball Golf at Westwood - Brian shared the results of the trial event held in October at Westwood where the City's engineering consultant, Bolton & Menk, held a corporate outing with a couple City staff members participating as well. Twenty players played 9 holes of glow ball golf on a Thursday night, with results being overwhelmingly positive towards having this again. At least \$300 in profit was made just with that event, providing a way to gain additional revenue on the course. Staff is planning to have a few scheduled events ready for next year where others could play.
- Pioneer Collegiate Summer Baseball League - Brian shared that the City was recently contacted by a group exploring putting a team in Newton, and that he'd reached out to the school's athletic director and baseball coach to further discuss this. These teams are mainly D-2 and D-3 players, and all the baseball that occurs inside the fence is provided by the league. The local communities who have these teams provide various support for all happenings outside the fence such as housing, promotions, concessions, etc. Brian said even though this appears to be something that outside groups would need to take the lead on if it were to happen, he would try to facilitate discussions on it related to the 28-E agreement with the schools on the baseball fields, or other groups interested in it. Brian said that although this isn't really a recreation item for locals, it is a possible entertainment option in our parks system.
- Pickleball Leagues

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

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

- One-Week Summer Day Camp - possibly ran by summer college interns majoring in a recreation area.
- Organized walks or run events
- Teen swimming parties - Adam voiced concern about this and the possible problems with a large number of teens. Brian stated that the pool has a long list of rules, and anyone inside the fence would be required to follow these rules.
- Volleyball or soccer leagues
- Additional softball tournaments - possibly held in conjunction with July 4th or Newton Fest.
- Expanded swim lessons - we had two sessions this past season, and they were full.
- Water Aerobics - still exploring holding some type of water exercise in the pool in the mornings before the pool is opened for the day.
- Croquet court - two separate requests have been received from the public for croquet courts - one for a tournament court in Maytag Park, and another for a recreational court in Sunset Park.
- Bags equipment at Westwood or elsewhere - Brian mentioned that a recent ICPA Golf Event in Central Iowa also had a bags tournament at the golf course. Brian said maybe we could look at adding some precast bags boards at Westwood or elsewhere for free public use.

Brian then asked the Board to think about this, and share some of their ideas at a future board meeting.

9. Holiday Lighting at Maytag Park - Nick Cummins shared the following:

- Jamie Murphy, who couldn't be present tonight, is the brains behind this whole event. She has envisioned doing this in Newton similar to what she'd done at a previous community she'd worked for.
- The City has completed \$6K in electrical upgrades on the light poles, which installed outlets on numerous poles allowing lighting to be plugged in at these locations. This work was covered by an anonymous \$10K donation, with \$4K being left for decorations.
- Clemon-Maki Insurance has donated \$3K to the project.
- Additional funds were raised by the Christmas tree pallet sales held by the Friends of Newton Parks.
- The security cameras installed around the pool are will cover a large part of the light display this year.
- Due to the traffic congestion last year on opening night by the toy drop-off at the pool pavilion, they are looking at beginning that process at the nearby American Legion just outside the park's fence.
- Although the grand opening is scheduled for December 7th, the lights will be on over the Thanksgiving holiday weekend to allow people visiting from out of town to see the display.
- Nick also shared a handout to the board that Jamie Murphy had prepared talking about the light display.

10. Old Business

- Adam Vandall asked Nick Cummins if he'd received the recent email concerning the broken dog park donation box. Nick said he had, and that they would probably

remove the donation box. Adam suggested a sign directing people were to leave donations instead of an on-site box.

11. New Business

- Brian Laube said the fireworks donation letter, which is sent on behalf of the Park board members, will be ready soon and Lisa Bernal will email all a copy for their review. Brian also shared that a possible grant opportunity may exist at Walmart for the Friends of newton Parks to pursue.

12. Adjourn Regular Meeting (7:08 pm)

- Motioned by: Vandall, 2nd by Jackson
- Ayes: 3 Nays: 0

Brian Laube - Community Services Manager

11-21-2019