

Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 18, 2022 – 6:15 pm

**Council Chambers - City Hall
101 W 4th St S
Newton, Iowa**

Minutes

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:15 pm by Board Chair Humphrey
- 2) Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance statement read by Board Chair Humphrey – no accommodations requested.
- 3) Community Services Director Brian Laube introduced new Park Board member Collin Daniels.
 - a. Collin was appointed to the Board by City Council on May 16, 2022.
 - b. Collin was then welcomed by other board members after sharing a brief summary of his background.
- 4) Roll Call: present - Humphrey, Caldwell, Daniels, Osby, and Tipton; absent - none
- 5) Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law confirmed by Community Services Director Brian Laube
- 6) Citizen Participation or Comments: none
- 7) Review and approve minutes from April 20, 2022 Park Board meeting:
 - a. Motion by Caldwell & seconded by Osby to approve said minutes. No discussion. Motion carried 5-0.
- 8) Introduce Annual Goal Setting Exercise – Community Services Director Brian Laube shared the following as an introduction to the board's annual goal setting exercise:
 - a. History of recent goal setting sessions. The 2021 approved goals list was also shared as a handout to the board.
 - b. Purpose of this exercise is to provide recommendations and guidance to City Council for their consideration during their annual goal setting session later in the year.
 - c. Proposed timeline for the board's goal setting:
 - i. June 15, 2022 Park Board meeting: discussion and compiling of list of potential goals and projects.
 - ii. Late-June: Online survey to be completed by board members.
 - iii. July 20, 2022 Park Board meeting: further discussion and vote on goals and projects.
 - iv. September 26, 2022: Park Board goals shared with City council for their 2022 goal

setting session.

- 9) Sunset Park Concept Plan – Community Services Director Brian Laube presented the following on this discussion item:
- a. Recap of Laube’s presentation on the most-recent Sunset Park concept plan to the board on April 20, 2022
 - b. Council’s direction to install a large dog park in Sunset Park per their approval of the resolution including said project in Sept. 3rd’s park bond referendum.
 - c. Question on whether the 2018 concept plan is too crowded with the proposed dog park added?
 - d. Looking for initial recommendations from Park Board on a revised concept plan. What revisions does the current Park Board wish to see in a revised concept plan when compared to what the 2018 Park Board wanted?
 - e. Suggestion that the board discuss and assemble a list of proposed amenities or revisions at the next board meeting, and then an online survey similar to goal setting exercise be prepared for the board members to rank ideas.
 - f. The survey results would then be brought back to a subsequent board meeting for additional discussion, if needed, followed by an eventual vote of recommendation on what the concept plan should include. This would then be the “base plan”.
 - g. The public input process would then begin using Park Board’s recommendations as the “base plan”. Nearby facilities such as Park Center, MercyOne Newton, and Newton Village would all be included in these input opportunities similar to those originally held in 2017.
 - h. Board discussion then followed including:
 - i. Jeff Osby suggested that a baseball or softball field be put back in the open greenspace due to need. He also asked whether the trail shown on the concept plan is too close to the sledding hill.
 - ii. Miranda Caldwell felt that the dog park area was good for that use, she didn’t think the plan was too crowded, suggested putting an inclusive playground in this park, fitness stations along the proposed trails should be included, and suggested that we move the playground elsewhere in the park.
 - iii. Melanie Humphrey questioned what the nature play was as shown on the concept plan, suggested that the playground be increased in size and possibly moved, and said consideration should be made about putting the proposed splash pad in Sunset Park.
 - i. Discussion then ended.
- 10) Old Business
- a. Brian Laube gave an update on clean-up progress following the March 5th tornado.
 - b. Brian Laube gave an update on progress with installation of pool mechanical upgrades this spring.

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

Park Board Members – Miranda Caldwell, Collin Daniels, Jeff Osby, & Rachelle Tipton.

- c. Brian Laube gave an update on Cardinal Pond and its upcoming opening to the public for fishing sometime soon.

11) New Business

- a. Community Services Director Brian Laube briefly touched on the following topics, which are planned for upcoming Park Board meeting agendas:
 - i. Ice fishing in Cardinal Pond
 - ii. Alcohol sales at special events in parks
 - iii. Comprehensive study of the entire park system
 - iv. July 4th donations for fireworks

12) Adjourn: motion by Osby and seconded by Tipton to adjourn. Motion carried by 5-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 PM.

BJL
5-19-22