



Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 – 6:15 pm

Electronic Meeting was held via Zoom at:

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

or

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.
- 2) Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance statement read by Board Chair Melanie Humphrey.
Nobody requested special assistance.
- 3) Roll Call – all 5 members present.
- 4) Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law – Community Services Director Brian Laube confirmed that the meeting is being held in compliance with all applicable open meetings laws.
- 5) Citizen Participation or Comments: This is the time of the meeting that a citizen may address the Park Board on matters that are not included on this meeting's agenda. After being recognized by the Board Chair, each person will be given three (3) minutes to speak. Comments and/or questions must be related to Parks and Parks-related issues and shall not include derogatory statements or comments about any individual. The Park Board cannot take formal action at the meeting, but may ask the Community Services Director to research the matter or have the matter placed on a subsequent Park Board meeting agenda. – No citizen input occurred.
- 6) Review and approve minutes from April 21, 2021 meeting: Motioned by Vandall, seconded by Heitman - no board discussion - approved 5-0.

Park Board Chair – Melanie Humphrey

Park Board Members – Bryce Heitman, Jeff Osby, Rachele Tipton, and Adam Vandall

7) Park Board 2021 Goal Setting Introduction:

- a. Community Services Director Brian Laube introduced the upcoming goal setting exercise by sharing that tonight is just an introduction to the process, the discussion and compiling proposed projects to be considered as goals will occur at the June 16th board meeting, followed by an online survey for review and consideration to approve the results at the July 21st board meeting.
- b. Brian Laube added that the Park Board's approved goals are shared annually with City Council for their consideration in their goal setting exercise.
- c. Brian Laube then screen-shared the board's 2020 approved goals document, along with the current park-related projects in the recently approved Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- d. Brian Laube continued by asking the board members to plan on submitting ideas at the next meeting for inclusion in the survey list.

8) Maytag Pool 2021 Season Update:

- a. Community Services Director Brian Laube shared the following information on the upcoming 2021 season at Maytag Pool:
 - i. The pool is nearly full of water, chemicals will be added tomorrow, and the circulation pumps should also be on tomorrow.
 - ii. The first in-water use will be a lifeguard training session on May 22nd, followed by a second session on May 29th.
 - iii. Lifeguard in-service training will occur in the pool on June 2nd, along with concessions/ticket workers training that same afternoon.
 - iv. Opening day is June 4th, with Toddler Time at 10 am. Toddler Time will be starting at 10 am instead of 11 am this season as a trial in response to feedback from those who visit at that time.
 - v. The first pool party will be June 10th (free pool party provided by Advantage Credit Union), followed by the Newton Fest Free Pool Party the next evening.
 - vi. Closing day will be August 21st, on which day the dog swim is also planned that late afternoon/evening.
 - vii. The pool intends to open the season under Phase 2 Covid guidelines as spelled out in the operating plan prepared last season. This plan is less restrictive while limiting the maximum capacity to 350 people. It also recommends, but does not require, masks. These rules can and will likely be modified as-needed leading up to and during the season.

9) Old Business:

- a. Board Chair Humphrey asked about a plan to move meetings back to in-person. Brian

Laube shared that City Council will likely be returning to a more-normal setting very soon, and that this board could operate under that same plan.

10) New Business:

- a. Bryce Heitman asked if there was any truth to the City receiving about \$2.3 million from the Federal government. Brian Laube shared that it appears that the City may receive about \$2.2 million due to the American Recovery Act. Heitman inquired whether it could be spent on parks projects. Brian Laube shared that from what he heard, parks projects were likely not included in the narrow definition of the rules on how these funds could be spent. Laube continued by stating that the decisions on how the money is used would most-likely be at the direction of City Council.
- b. Bryce Heitman asked if Keri Van Zante with the Jasper County Conservation Dept. might be able to present at the next meeting on the county's proposed trail projects and how they might connect with the City's trail system. Brian Laube shared that he has met with Keri a couple times on this in the last year, and that the City's trail planning aligns with the county's higher priority trails leading to Newton. Laube shared that City staff just submitted an application last week to the Iowa DOT for \$860,000 in trail funding to complete the missing trail loop along the Union Dr. corridor. Because this proposed project would allow for a very simple and short connection to the County's proposed trail to Baxter (and the Chichaqua Trail system to DSM), the County provided a letter of support for the City's project which was included in the grant application submittal. Laube continued by stating that in working with the County on this project, both groups benefit. Brian Laube ended by stating that he would contact Keri Van Zante to invite her to present at the next board meeting.
- c. Adam Vandall announced that due to him taking a new job in Chattanooga, Tennessee this would be his last Park Board meeting. He continued that he was proud of what the board had accomplished over the last 11 or 12 years that he's been involved, and hoped that the board continues to move forward to get the new Westwood clubhouse constructed. Following this announcement the other board members, Councilperson Ervin, and Brian Laube all thanked Adam for his service on the board. Brian Laube also shared that with this opening occurring, he would welcome any suggestions from the board on a possible replacement to be appointed by Mayor Hansen.
- d. Parks Operations Supt. Nick Cummins shared with the board that if any of them want a tour of any park site or proposed project location, they could contact him or Brian Laube who would be more than willing to show them in-person.

11) Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.