

# Newton Park Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 15, 2021 – 6:15 pm

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

## AGENDA

### 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 at 6:15 pm by Board Chair Humphrey
- 2) Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance statement read by Board Chair Humphrey
- 3) Roll Call – present: Humphrey, Caldwell, Osby, and Tipton; absent - Heitman
- 4) Certification of Iowa Open Meetings Law confirmed by Community Services Director Brian Laube
- 5) Introduction of new board member Miranda Caldwell – Brian Laube introduced Miranda Caldwell as the new Park Board member. Caldwell shared some information on herself, and other board members followed by introducing themselves since some have not met others due to previous meetings having been held via Zoom since April 2020.
- 6) Citizen Participation or Comments: none
- 7) Review and approve minutes from July 21, 2021 meeting: Motion to approve by Osby, second by Tipton – no discussion – approved by 4-0 vote.
- 8) Update on projects in the park system in 2021 – Brian Laube shared the following list of park projects either completed, under contract, or under design in 2021:
  - a. Fence Installation Project – Agnes Soccer Fields
  - b. Baseball Field Regrading Project – Agnes
  - c. Westwood Clubhouse Roof Repairs (derecho)
  - d. Woodland/Union Cemetery Roof Repairs (derecho)
  - e. Sunset Park shelter chimney repairs (derecho)
  - f. Parks Fence repairs project (derecho)
  - g. Agnes Patt. Park Trail Repair Project
  - h. Westwood Tree Removal Project (derecho)
  - i. Tree Removal Project – misc. parks (derecho)
  - j. Maytag Pool Drain Repair Project

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- k. Maytag Park Tree Removal Project (derecho)
  - l. 2021 Tree and Stump Project – under contract
  - m. Maytag Sidewalk Improvements – award 9-20-21
  - n. Woodland Tree Removal Project – award 9-20-21
  - o. Agnes Patt. Park Roof Repair Project (derecho) – under contract
  - p. Agnes Patt. Park storage shed – under design
  - q. Nick Cummins, Parks Operations Supt. Also shared that staff had completed numerous projects in-house this year including upgrading the sand volleyball courts at Agnes Patterson Park, Cardinal Pond Erosion Control Work, and stocking of Cardinal Pond with the DNR.
- 9) Presentation on upcoming Comprehensive Plan and how it relates to parks - Brian Laube shared the following memorandum provided by Brian Dunkelberger, City Planner:

*“The City of Newton is ready for a new comprehensive plan. The current plan, Newton’s Future, is ten years old, and it utilizes data and information that may not be as accurate or relevant as it was a decade ago. A new comprehensive plan will serve as an articulation of resident desires, ideas, and vision for the future of the community.*

*What exactly is comprehensive planning? To briefly summarize, a comprehensive plan is a “living document,” in that it provides guidance and recommendations for a wide variety of topics and focus areas that have an impact on a community’s vitality for years to come. While only advisory in nature, the value of a comprehensive plan is found within a community’s desire to see to its implementation. For that reason, City staff is working to spread the word as much as possible about the upcoming project.*

*The planning process will depend on intensive public input and the hope is to mobilize all interested residents to participate – including all city boards and commissions. As stated within the original RFP, “The project of reviewing and holistically updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan will include the assembly and analysis of data relating to existing conditions in the City of Newton and utilize that data to develop policies, actions, and an implementation plan to guide future development and decision making. The new Comprehensive Plan shall establish a compelling and effective vision and strategy for Newton’s future...”*

*How can the Park Board participate? Community Development staff invites members of the Park Board to participate throughout the project for all focus areas. The planning process will include surveys, an interactive website, and various opportunities for in-person or virtual engagement. Specifically, though, the intention will be to utilize your*

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*knowledge, expertise, and ideas for an evaluation of existing conditions, goalsetting, and final recommendations as they relate to the parks and recreation system in Newton. This may involve a focus group at one of your future meetings, and/or inviting the Board to advise the steering committee and consultant when necessary.*

*If you have any follow-up questions, feel free to contact me directly or Erin Chambers, Community Development Director.”*

Minor discussion followed on the proposed timeline, with Brian Laube sharing that the main process is scheduled to start sometime in October. Brian encouraged board members to contact Brian Dunkelberger or Erin Chambers if they have any further questions on this process.

10) Old Business – Discussion included:

- a. Downtown Splash Pad – Board Member Osby asked if any new information was known on the proposed downtown splash pad. Brian Laube shared that he'd contacted the private committee, but no new information on their fundraising efforts was learned. Board Member Caldwell asked about the proposed City lot, and if it could be redeveloped by others if something else came along. Brian Laube shared that recent council action basically gave the committee first right of refusal, but if something else came up City Council could take action to allow the lot to be used for a private redevelopment project. Brian also shared that the proposed concept plan that the committee has shared is just a plan, and that no design or construction drawings would be prepared until the project is ready to move forward.
- b. Westwood Clubhouse – Board Member Osby asked for some clarification on where this project was at. Brian Laube shared that because the County has not taken the needed action allowing the City to bond for this project in their desired manner; it is possible that the next option could be a referendum in 2022. Councilperson Ervin added that this is one of council's priorities. Brian Laube added that staff continues to work on this project in trying to make it a reality.

11) New Business – Discussions included:

- a. Brian Laube shared that staff was working with the Newton High School athletic department for the upcoming x-country meet at Maytag Park on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The park will close to the public at 2 PM that day ahead of the large meet later in the afternoon.
- b. Brian Laube shared that he intends to have on the next Park Board meeting agenda a discussion item on the consideration to allow alcohol sales in some City parks for large events.
- c. Discussion was held concerning Cardinal Pond, and when it would be open for fishing. Brian Laube shared that before it is open, the fish need to reach a catchable size, likely

sometime in 2022. Also, Laube shared that he will be bringing a proposal to allow ice fishing on the pond in future winters, something which the Iowa DNR said should have City Council approval to do such.

- d. The upcoming Frank Fest was discussed briefly, with Councilperson Ervin sharing some info on it.

12) Adjourn – motioned by Caldwell to adjourn, seconded by Osby, motion carried 4-0 – meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm

BJL

9-15-2021