

CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES

MAY 7, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patty Broyles, Dave Nantz, Sandy Scott, and John Henderson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Greg York, Mayor's Assistant Kendra Kennedy, and Park Superintendent-Mike Bergum

Mayor Greg York opened this meeting at 5:30pm.

Mayor York asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the former meeting. Patty made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Sandy. Motion carried (4-0)

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Patty announced that the Park Board will be filing an extension on the Food and Beverage Grant until December 2018. The balance is around \$27,000. Patty made a motion to file the extension with the County Commissioners. Second by Dave. Motion carried (4-0)

We are working on additional restrooms, security, and signage. Patty asked about the removal of ash trees at Baker Park. Mayor York noted the removal of these trees has begun and will continue over the next year as the new trees begin to grow. There have been removal of trees at Trojan Woods and Baker Park from a company named Wrights Tree Service. This company has been contracted by Duke Energy to remove trees from power line areas. Patty also noted she would like to have a welcome sign made for the New Castle Action Sports Park. Security is being added at the Aquatic Center and then Osborne Park will be added. Patty noted the port-a-pots seem to be working out well. They are clean and user friendly.

The park equipment has been installed at Osborne Park and it is the board's hopes to add additional swings, (4 Bay) also. This would be an additional cost of \$10,000. Patty gave a breakdown of the funds remaining in the riverboat match and the Community Foundation grant. There is additional funds remaining that will be used to purchase additional swings for the parks.

Patty noted the City's comprehensive plan has a section of word art that shows what the public thinks about New Castle and the parks was mentioned more often than not. Parks and quality of life are very important to this community. Sandy noted an inventory of all the parks has been taken. City Council has requested this information then they will determine if additional

Riverboat funds could be appropriated for more park equipment. This inventory list has been broken down into 6 phases.

Phase 1- Security at Osborne, Lowe, Hospital Heights, and possibly North Main Park. Replace all swings (4 Bay-\$10,000, 3 Bay \$7,500, 2 Bay) in all parks except Vine and Lowe.

Phase 2- Hospital Heights-Remove the large swing set that has not been painted and the straight slide and replace with the new/used equipment with playground mulch. Patty made a motion to have this equipment placed at Hospital Heights. Second by John. Motion carried (4-0) All that is needed is the volleyball court, water fountain, and the fence added around the north side of the basketball court. Patty asked that Mariah Allen come before the board to accept a tree plaque named in her honor. She has went above and beyond at Hospital Heights and the board wanted to show their thanks by having a tree plaque named in her honor and the date. She was very thankful and accepted the plaque.

Phase 3- Lowe Park Shelter/lighting/fencing. Also paving the circle drive, adding tables and benches and removing graffiti. Mike noted that picnic tables have already been installed at Lowe Park. He also covered the graffiti with spray paint on the equipment and walls.

Phase 4-Replace all playground equipment with mulch and installation for Baker which includes the center of the park. This does not include the FUN Park.

Phase 5- Memorial Wall in memory of Dick Leitch family. They donated \$3,000 in March 2017. Councilman Lynn Perdue asked the board when the new memorial wall will be constructed. Patty noted that we need to raise \$30,000 to have this project completed.

Phase 6- Fencing at North Main Park and possible new small equipment.

Brenda Grider noted that the bottle cap collection for the benches is going well. We are almost to the June 1st deadline. The caps need to be sorted because some have been donated with bottles attached. JoAnne McCorkle with the Henry County Solid Waste Management has helped tremendously with this project as she has already worked with the company that makes the benches.

Patty noted that Terri Pyle from Little Blessings called her to give an update on the benches/book boxes to be placed at Lowe, Hospital Heights, and North Main Park. Little Blessings is ready to move forward with this and they will be placed soon.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor York noted Steven is working on the canopy and bending the metal. It will be welded and placed soon. This canopy is in memory of Bonnie Peckinpaugh.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mike noted that hydroseeding at the skate park will begin in the next two weeks. Also, security doors will be added to the skate park restrooms. Mike also added the board and himself looked into applying for a DNR grant for 300k and 400k. The board and Mike decided to hold off on this grant opportunity and look into applying in 2019. This will give us enough time to get our ducks in a row and have a plan in place. Mike thanked the park employees for all of their efforts at the parks. The Armory will participate in the free lunch programs with the schools this Summer. It will be held on Thursday's and students will be able to have lunch and participate in recreational activities. Also, a new internship program will be available for college students interested in pursuing a career in park/recreational/sports administration. The pool staff will be going through training to update our pool manual policies and procedures to make sure it is a safe and fun summer.

Mike also noted that the street department has started collecting trash at the parks on Sunday mornings. This will help alleviate the trash debris from piling up from weekend activities. The pool will open Memorial Day weekend on Saturday, May 26th. Lifeguards have been hired and employees for the concession stand have been hired as well.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Nancy Paul came before the board to ask the future of Trojan Woods. It was discussed at April's meeting that the woods needs attention from an arborist before it can be considered safe for people to walk/ride bikes. After much discussion, the board decided that an official decision will be made at June's meeting. The Mayor asked the board to go out and take an observation of the woods to help make their decision.

Wes Huddleston came before the board to ask if he can have his wedding reception at the Skate Park. The board stated that this is a public place and cannot be rented. The Shelters are rented for a fee. The board discussed this and decided to table this request and revisit at June's meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:20PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 4, 2018