

CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER 4, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patty Broyles, Dave Nantz, Sandy Scott and Todd Myers

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

Patty opened this meeting at 5:30pm.

Patty moved to approve the minutes from the former meeting subject to amending under new business, first paragraph "Mike questioned whether the pool salaries line decreased in 2025 to \$20,000." Then the second paragraph regarding raises, full time park employees received a raise all part time employees did not. Second by Sandy. Motion carried 3-1 with Todd abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike began the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation to give an overview of the Parks and Recreation for the 2024 season. He highlighted the most recent addition to Baker Park of the new Pickleball Plaza. The conception of the facility; Two-and-a-half-year thought process, Viable greenspace, Near Baker Park and other recreational facilities, Address the needs for new/additional pickleball courts, Great addition to Henry County and the most popular leisure sport.

There was not a bidding process needed for this project as it was done in house with city employees and not over \$150,000. The total cost of the pickleball plaza once it is all completed in the spring will be roughly \$70,000. The board noted that they did not know the project was breaking ground as fast as it did and would have liked a heads up. Mike stated that time was of the essence and city employees had an open window of time to have the concrete poured while the weather was still nice. The board is in favor of this project and eager to see the completion in the spring.

Budget highlights for this project:

- There was a significant donation on the table for the project – fell through
- Remaining bond money - \$80,000
- The 2025 budget ensures the success of the project
- Park non-reverting account
- Foundation pass through

The Facility for Pickleball Plaza:

- Perfect green space to develop - continue to build/develop around Baker Park
- Four new courts – north and south

- What is needed/wanted/required in a facility
 - Courts
 - Parking
 - Restrooms
 - Lights
 - Security
 - Future of the facility – growth

Mike also noted that the Winter walking club – starts 11/12/24 Monday – Thursday from 11:30 to 1:30

Mike gave an overview of the Shelter Rentals for the 2024 season;

- 91 shelters rented this summer
- \$4,550 revenue generated
- New lights installed in the three rentable shelters
- Requests/rentals for next year begin on November 13th

Mike also stated to the board that Armory Rentals need to be raised for the 2025 season. This will not be a large increase but enough to keep up with our maintenance of the Armory facility. He proposed the following;

- Small event daily rate: \$75.00 to \$125.00
- Big event daily rate: \$250.00 to \$350.00
- Profitable events daily rate: \$500.00

After board discussion, Patty made a motion to approve the rental increases. Second by Todd. Motion carried 4-0.

Mike gave an overview of the Disc Golf;

- Since the course was installed – 5,868 total rounds have been recorded on the app
- 714 unique players have played
- The summer league was a big success

- Glow rounds are being played via the league
- Indoor league will begin on November 13th

Finally, Mike gave a report over Osborne Park. The city employees along with Parks and Recreation staff have worked to get the park cleaned up and ready for winter. There were several trees down due to the Hurricane Helen remnants, the workers crafted a neat bench out of a fallen tree. This has become a staple in Osborne Park for photo opportunities. Thank you to all who helped clean up the park.

The Story Trail along the Fitzgerald Trail has become a major hit with patrons. There are 24 book posts mounted for viewing. Thank you to the Bowers family for the donation to making this project a reality.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No Report

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

No Report

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Christy Pasman of the Pickleball Club came before the board to address concerns they have. She requested the nets be brought in during the winter months. She also had questions regarding the new courts, where will the new nets be placed and where will the fencing be placed? Mike stated that will all be completed in the spring and will be accommodating to the patrons of the facility. Christy also asked if the new pickleball courts could be named Maple Court for Bill and Sandy Maple who started the original pickleball courts in 2013. The board took her request under consideration but noted that naming amenities after individuals is not ideal as if you do one dedication you have to for everyone and that is not realistic. The board thanked Christy and the pickleball club for their continued use and support of the Parks and Recreation.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:22PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 2, 2024.