

CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES

APRIL 2, 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 John. Motion carried (4-0)

OLD BUSINESS

Patty noted that the bottle cap collection for the benches is still going on until June 1st. Once enough caps are collected, we will be able to purchase a bench for \$225.00. We currently have a list of individuals wanting to purchase a bench. We have applications available for anyone wanting to purchase a bench also.

The skate park grant is almost complete and we are working on expanding the skate park if the funds allow. The rules sign needs to be placed and will be done soon. The restrooms will also be completed soon once the weather cooperates. The skate park bathrooms will be opening for the season soon also. We are still working on additional security with ASI and the police will be having extra patrolling in the area.

Sandy noted the new playground equipment has been installed and the mulch will be placed once the weather cooperates. The other piece of playground equipment will be placed at Baker Park soon. After discussion, Sandy mentioned April 13th as a day for the high school kids to help the spreading of the mulch either after school or after team practice. The remaining funds from the Riverboat will be used to improving our existing equipment, ordering new swings, and ordering mulch/sand.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor York made an announcement to the public that there would not be a decision made on Trojan Woods as far as it being voted in favor of a bike trail or not. He explained the woods is in dire shape and needs attention from an arborist before it can even be considered to make a bike trail or continue it as a walking trail. The woods needs to become healthy again before any decisions will be made. The only decision that can be made at this point is whether or not to

close the woods until an arborist can make it safe and welcoming. Patty noted that a decision would be made ASAP.

Patty noted that a survey has been passed out to the Park Board, Council, and City Administration to complete regarding the current conditions of the park equipment in each park. Patty asks all survey results be emailed to her by April 27th. Patty and Sandy will work on the data collected and make a presentation of the results to Park Board and City Council. Sandy made a motion to proceed with the survey. Second by John. Motion carried (4-0) Patty mentioned the success of the Easter Egg Hunt considering the weather conditions. Special thanks to Brenda and all who helped make the Easter Egg Hunt happen. The skate park advocates also held a trash pickup day that Saturday. That trash collection day was a success as they collected trash at the skate park, baker park, and Trojan woods.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Parks will open for the season once the weather cooperates and the mud isn't a problem. With all the rain we have had, the parks are too muddy to open right now.

Mayor York also announced Mike Bergum is the new Park Superintendent and will be overseeing duties at the Armory, Pool, and Parks. We are thankful for his willingness to oversee this position and look forward to an exciting Spring and Summer at our parks, pool, and Armory. Mayor York also announced that the new swings have been purchased and the Sanctuary Church is volunteering to clean up Baker Park on Saturday, April 14th at 10:00am and will help install the new swings and help with any other projects needed. The Mayor and Mike will be putting an action plan together to work on all updates needed for the parks.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mike noted that he is excited to get started and work on the current needs of the parks, armory, and pool. He understands the tasks at hand and is willing to work with the Park Board and Mayor to make the recreation for New Castle better than ever.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Alan Leduc came before the board and discussion was held regarding his park concerns.

Nancy Paul came before the board to offer a suggestion to the board to have all public meetings recorded/ live broadcasted so all citizens have access to see what is going on in public meetings. The board noted that all meetings are subject to be filmed and have been in the past. The board thanked her for her suggestion. Nancy also noted she tried contacting the Mayor via

email and did not receive a response. She stated that any and all elected officials should respond to citizen's emails. The Mayor noted that he passed her email to the Park Board President, Patty, and Patty responded to Nancy.

Sonny Carter came before the board and noted he walks through Baker Park everyday even during the winter months when the park is closed and the trash bins are not emptied on a regular basis and it is hard to pick up trash and dispose of it in the trash can if they are overflowing. The Mayor stated the Street Department will pick that trash up regularly.

Todd Thalls came before the board to thank the Park Board for all the efforts made in making the skate park a reality and the positivity it has created. He thanked Mike and Patty for their continued support of our parks, especially being so involved at the skate park. Todd and Sonny walk the Trojan woods and it is currently marked with markers for bike trails. The Board noted they are aware of it.

Councilman Peckinpaugh came before the board with a handout for each member outlining a request for the board, superintendent, or outside entity to do an inventory of the equipment at each park. Once that is completed and a quote for what the expense would be, he asks the information be given to city council for review for possible Riverboat funding.

Councilman Hancock echoed on what Councilman Peckinpaugh said about needing a full inventory completed of the needs of the parks. Once that is done, City Council can consider help with funding.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:20PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 7, 2018