

**CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES**  
**NOVEMBER 1, 2021**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Henderson

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

Mayor 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 from the former meeting. Second by Dave. Motion carried (3-0).

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

Patty opened the meeting discussing the 2022 Budget. The 2022 Budget was passed at the last council meeting. \$50,000 has been earmarked for capital projects. We are hoping that raises for 2022 can be made for pool employees. This will require a change in the salary ordinance.

Patty noted that the bond process is official and closed. The Money is in the Parks and Recreation Departments account. A Project Time Line or "spending calendar" was submitted as the last part of the process. See attached. The Department has hit the ground running with some fall 2021 projects that are currently underway. The parking lot expansions are close to being completed in Baker Park. Bids are going out this week for items at the Armory along with stump removal in Baker and Osborne Park. A project report along with a balance update will be provide at each Park Board meeting.

Mike noted that the Parks Department has entered into a partnership with the New Castle School Corporation in an effort to upgrade the softball diamonds at Baker Park. The plan is to redo and improve the fencing/gates on the west diamond to address safety, maintenance, security and make the facility more fan friendly. The School Corporation has allotted funds to help with the project. The backstop on the east diamond will be replaced as well. Some late fall field maintenance will be applied to both outfields as well.

Mike noted that the Food and Beverage Grant application deadline has been extended to January 10, 2022. The Parks and Recreation Department still plans to complete the grant application prior to the deadline for the softball diamonds at Osborne Park. The extension has provided an opportunity for the Department to provide a bigger and more in-depth plan for the revitalization of the facility. Mike is working with the members of the NC Little League to gather input on ways to enhance the entire facility.

Also, discussed, A lease agreement has been signed with NC Little League Softball, formally called New Castle Girls Softball League. The new title is a new beginning for the league. The association with Little League will provide the organization an opportunity to grow softball in New Castle and Henry County with a recognized brand. A new Board has been formed for the league and promising future is ahead.

Mike noted that the Department is planning on submitting a grant application to Duke Energy for the removal of several dead trees in Baker Park and replacing them with strategically located new trees. The grant application is in conjunction with the Bond Project Plan that includes the new playground area between Shelter #1 and Shelter #2. The grant will allow the Bond money to go even further and provide a better outcome. This will be the third time that the Department has applied for a Duke grant. The partnership with Duke Energy has been rewarding! Dave made a motion to proceed with this grant application with Sandy seconding. Motion carried (3-0)

A special thank you to the Property Management Class lead by Dave Allen. The students in this class have continued to complete projects for the betterment of our parks and community. The class recently mounted the new sign at North Main St. Park, installed drain tile at the new playground in Baker Park and cut down and trimmed foliage/branches on Washington St. to clear areas near the Fitzgerald Trail.

Shelter rentals will begin for the 2022 calendar year on Wednesday, November 17. Shelters can be reserved by calling the Mayor's office during regular business hours. Rental fees will remain the same for 2022. Rental policies will be reviewed and updated prior to the start of the rental season.

Your Park has undergone cleanup in the last few weeks courtesy of the Parks Department, Mayor York, and Breakfast Optimist Organization. This Park is not on our 5-year plan currently but will be taken care of as the need arises.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor York noted that Baker Park will be open to drive through this Winter. It was a success keeping it open last year for patrons to park and eat lunch and get out and about while the weather cooperated.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

See old/new business.

### **CITIZEN CONCERNS**

Bruce Roberts came before the board to request the Baker Park Shelter #1 for the 2022 Blue Grass season every Monday from May 2, 2022- October 3, 2022. The board approved his request and thanked Bruce and the Blue Grass Group for their continued support of our parks.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:15PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 7, 2021.