

CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES

AUGUST 1, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patty Broyles, Sandy Scott, and 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 (June). Second by John. Motion passed (2-0, with Sandy Abstaining)

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Patty opened the meeting by discussing the Skate Park Phase II. We are close to being able to send out bids for this project. Hunger will work with Duke Energy in regards to lighting for the area. Lighting at the basketball courts needs updated, also.

The Pickleball Courts will be resurfaced and striped the middle of August. This will be a 3-4 day project from start to finish. Once everything is completed, the board will work with Christy on a celebration ribbon cutting for the renovations.

The Aquatic Center just completed the 2022 season. It was a record year as far as attendance and days open. There were only 2 rain days. The pool and concessions had a great 2 months and the Lifeguards, cashiers, and concessions workers worked a total of 6,873 hours all summer. It was a great group of kids and it was a successful summer for our patrons. The Splash Pad will continue to be open as long as we have chemicals to treat it. Also, a big thank you to the Police Department for the extra security detail at the pool, daily. It was refreshing to have the security and a friendly face to mingle amongst patrons.

Baker Park will soon feature a new amenity, Disc Golf. The Parks Department will be breaking ground soon on this new project. The new Tee Pads will be poured soon, as well. This new feature will consist of 18 holes throughout Baker Park. There will also be a score card app that you will be able to track your progress throughout the game. More details to come as this project rolls out.

Old equipment at Baker Park has been removed along with new additions added. There have been 5-6 swings removed and 4-5 slides removed. They posed a safety concern and were unsafe for children to play on. The Parks Department will continue to clear out unsafe equipment, as needed.

Osborne Park has had a lot of foot traffic this summer with hosting the softball tournament in June. The softball fields at Osborne Park will be renovated soon. The design phase is almost completed. A turf specialist is involved in the updates as a new surface and grading will be needed. The fields are currently in great shape and the updates should not be invasive. Bids will be accepted in the next few weeks for the fencing and in field work. This project is made possible by the Food and Beverage Grant and the bond proceeds. More details to follow once work begins.

A big thank you to the Bicentennial Celebration and the group that put the events on in June. Our parks received a lot of foot traffic with the car show and the events at the Fieldhouse. A special thank you also to the Foursquare Church for helping with painting the equipment at Baker Park. All City employees, Park, Pool, and Police Department, Thank You! Thank you for making our Parks and Recreation areas, safe and welcoming this summer.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor York noted that 1400 Plaza is in need of signage for No Loitering, No Smoking, and a Curfew time. There have been patrons staying all hours of the night and leaving cigarette butts all around the plaza. It is becoming unwelcoming and we are going to correct that with signage and police patrol. Mayor York also noted that Randy Howard will be coming to the September Park Board Meeting to present a plan for a garden at Lowe Park. Patty recommended each park board member to go to Lowe Park and survey the area for this possible garden suggestion.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mike noted that the Shelter at Lowe Park is being looked at to update and spruce up. There has been a lot of vandalism in that area over the years and we are trying our best to update the area and make it welcoming as possible. Four Square Church and Cemetery Superintendent, Dan Denney's church as also helped with sprucing up Lowe Park with mulching and trimming. Mike also noted that the Armory is going to host a self defense class on August 10th. Stuart Hamby and Assistant Chief of Police, Justin Wardlow are hosting this free event to the public. Pre-registration is recommended but not required.

The last and final day for the pool will host "Paws in the Pool". The pool will then be drained for the season.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Scott Frost came before the board to thank them for their support during the Bicentennial events at Baker Park. He noted that a donation would be made to the parks Pass-Thru Fund at the Henry County Community Foundation for their generosity.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:15PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 6, 2022.