

CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES

MARCH 5, 2018

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sandy Scott

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

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 Dave. Motion carried (3-0)

OLD BUSINESS

Patty noted that during the last meeting, the Blue River Pool Association made an offer to the Park Board to donate their pool to the City. With much discussion between Mayor York, the Park Board, and Dan, it was decided it is in the best interest of the Park Board and City to decline their donation. The Board thanked the Blue River Association for their offer but ultimately declined the offer. Motion made by Patty. Second by John. Motion carried (3-0)

Patty noted that during last meeting, the board received a 2 ½ page list from a citizen that discussed unresolved issues for neighborhood parks (North Main and Lowe Park). The board reviewed this list and agreed that a maintenance schedule cannot be given due to weather, staffing, and the budget.

Patty mentioned that the board and community are still collecting plastic caps to help with the purchase of park benches with June 4th will be the cut off date. It takes 400lbs of caps to purchase a \$225.00 bench. Thank you to Brenda Grider and the Courier Times for the publicity for this fundraiser.

NEW BUSINESS

On Friday, March 2nd, the Mayor, Bart, Christy, Patty, Daniel, Wes, and Mike met to talk about a street addition to the Sk8 Park. We are in need of more beginners and street sk8 for young BMX riders. The board asked them to design an area 130 x 70 (9,100) sq. ft. for the north side. This will also include a high observation deck 10 x 40 with shade underneath. The Sk8 boarder that passed away in 2017, Chance Smith, the board asked Bart to remember him in his rendering for the new addition. The park needs to be sealed yearly, usually August or September, per Hunger.

A success story was shared about a man in his 20's who has lost 80lbs by using our park. This is exactly what we are saying by this park is a part of our quality of life. John made a motion to proceed with the expansion of the Sk8 Park. Second by Dave. Motion carried (3-0)

The rules sign will be placed ASAP, one on the restrooms and one on the fence. Dave made a motion to post the rules sign. Second by John. Motion carried (3-0)

Patty noted the grass area in the front needs work. The Mayor noted the drain needs to be established first before anything can be done.

Patty noted the Thank You Sign will be relocated from its current position. There will be additions made to it and it will look more completed once it is done.

The restrooms are still a work in progress. Dave Barker is still working on this. There are more security cameras coming in the next few weeks once the weather breaks.

The Henry County Community Foundation Grant/Riverboat Funds are being put to good use. Sandy has been working very hard on this project. Sandy, Patty, and Mike went to Osborne Park on Wednesday, February 28th to layout the new park equipment. Eric and the city employees are ready to move forward once the ground and weather breaks. It may be the week of March 12th, weather permitting and it will take 3-4 weeks to install. We received \$22,137.04 from the HCCF and the Osborne Park equipment was a total of \$29,915.00. The remaining balance will be picked up by the Riverboat funds. Also, the Riverboat funds will be purchasing the Baker Park equipment, mulch, and sand for the equipment in other parks. These projects are just the beginning and we are blessed with what help we have to get the job done. Patty noted the new equipment for Baker Park is 26 x 30 and will be placed across the street from the skate park deck, in the middle of the park. An inventory sheet has been sent out for Baker Park to make a list of what we have and what our needs are.

Patty made an announcement that the Trojan Woods area is looking to be made into a trail/flow track/dirt track. Bart and Christy from Hunger met with Patty, Mike, Wes, Karl, and Daniel to discuss this further. Wes came before the board to give a presentation of this sport and how it would work and be beneficial to New Castle. The Mayor stated he still wants to keep the walking trail. Wes stated the bike trails would be separate from the walking trail. This trail would not disturb any of the existing trees and land area. There will not need to be any heavy removal or damage to the current woods. Wes stated all that would be needed is an excavator to smooth things out, other than that, the current natural habitat is key for this trail. The Mayor stated he is for this project and it would help enhance this woods natural beauty and help with more attraction to it. Patty made a motion to proceed with Bart making a rendering up for this proposed trail. Second by Dave. Motion carried (3-0)

Patty noted the City Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 31st at 1:00pm in the High School parking lot. The parks will open for the season Monday, April 2nd and the Aquatic Center will open on May 25th.

MAYOR'S REPORT

The Parks will open for the season on Monday, April 2nd.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dan noted the trees have been cut down at hospital Heights Park. Mariah asked for the board and Mayor to drive by and look at the park, it is really looking nice.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Kevin Green from the Courier Times asked if there were any trail renderings or proposed costs for the trail/skate park expansion. The board stated that this is very preliminary and nothing is set in stone yet or any costs to provide at this time.

Alan Leduc came before the board to address his concerns over maintenance/concerns over the city parks. The board stated these concerns are not news and the board/parks department work very hard at maintaining and cleaning our parks on a daily basis. Discussion followed.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:17PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 2, 2018