

## CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER 7, 2022

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

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 noted that the previous minutes date was wrong, it should have read, October 3, 2022. Patty made a motion to accept the minutes from the former meeting with the correction. Second by Dave. Motion passed (3-0)

### **OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

**Updating terms for Board Members** - The four-member Board has identified the term dates for each of its members. There are no term limits for Board Members. The years assigned indicate the opportunity for reappointment. Sandy Scott – 2022, Patty Broyles – 2023, John Henderson – 2024 and Dave Nantz 2025. Each appointment is for a four-year term. Patty mentioned added a 5<sup>th</sup> person to the board and what everyone thought. Discussion was held and Patty asked the board to give it some thought.

**Osborne Park Softball Diamond Update** – To date most of the fencing at the diamonds has been removed. We are in the process of removing the fence poles, top rails and backstops this week. The infield contractor started work on laser grading the diamonds today! The timeframe for infield construction is approximately three weeks providing the weather cooperates. The fencing portion of the project could begin as early as December. The contractor is waiting on the delivery of materials. Other immediate tasks that will be completed at the diamonds are; upgrading the existing buildings, removal of landscape items and pouring of concrete.

To finally see this development get underway is a tremendous lift for this facility and the community, Mike Bergum Park Superintendent stated. When the infield and fencing projects are completed the Osborne Park softball diamonds will be a top-notch place to practice, play and host tournaments.

**Skate Park Expansion** - Bids for the skate park expansion were advertised this past week. Bids will be opened on November 21 at the Board of Works meeting. The recommendation to hold a "special park board meeting" on November 21 at 10:30 was made in order to formally accept the winning bid. This will allow the process to continue to move forward. Sandy made a motion to proceed with a special Board of Works meeting to open the bids for the skate park expansion. Second by Dave. Motion passed (3-0)

Sandy also noted that finalizing the plans for the skate park expansion project is exciting. To see that facility continue to grow is wonderful. The expansion and other items necessary to complete the project will put us on the “extreme map.”

**Disc Golf Course Update** - Waiting on the last four tee pads to be installed. Also waiting on the artwork to be approved for the hole signs. Other amenities, benches and trash cans will be installed in the next two weeks. The official announcement along with the scoring app will be released soon. The goal was to get 75% of the course completed before it went live. The grand opening will be held next Spring.

Mike noted the amount of enthusiasm for the new disc golf course is incredible. Since day one, when the baskets were installed there have been so many people on the course. Seasoned players along with beginners have enjoyed the new track.

**Shelter Rentals** - Shelters at Baker Park and Osborne Park will be available to reserve/rent starting on November 9<sup>th</sup>. The cost will be \$35

**Trees and stumps** - A little unnoticed improvement in the parks has been the removal of dead trees and stumps. Over the past two months 11 dead trees and 74 stumps have been removed from Baker and Osborne Park. The removal of the trees and stumps has enhanced the aesthetics and safety of each of the parks. It is the goal to continue to remove these items and make a difference.

Dave stated that the removal of the dead trees and stumps within our parks usually goes unnoticed and that is ok but what is important is the safety and the long-term development of each of the parks in our community. Doing the little things makes a difference.

Patty noted a special thank you to Your Park and the Breakfast Optimist for helping to beautify that area. Everett Cole and the Hospital have been tremendous to work with and very helpful. Also, a special thank you to the Poynter Brothers for their Halloween event for the community. They are a wonderful asset to our Parks and Recreation.

**New Trees** - it is the goal to plant 8 to 10 trees in Baker Park yet this season. This will jump start the growing season in the spring. Some of the new trees will be strategically placed to enhance the disc golf course.

**Bench Order** – If anyone is interested in purchasing a bench, the deadline will be December 5<sup>th</sup>. Benches will be ordered this winter and placed in the parks in the spring.

**Winter Walking Program** - The New Castle Parks and Recreation Department is excited to open the doors again this year for the start of the Winter Walking Club (WWC)! The WWC provides an indoor opportunity for individuals to stay motivated, live healthy and support mental well-being. The WWC takes place at the Armory, 1537 Grand Ave., Monday through Thursdays from 11:30am to 1:30pm! The Walking Club is for walkers only; no running. For details and updates on the club, be sure to follow us on Facebook at: *New Castle, IN Parks & Recreation*.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

None

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Noted in old/new business.

**CITIZEN CONCERNS**

Christy Pasman of the Henry County Pickleball Association came before the board with concerns over the newly resurfaced courts. The surface is already starting to peel and flake off. Park Superintendent, Mike noted he has been in contact with the company that did the work and they are going to send a representative out to do a site survey and look to fix the errors in the Spring.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:20PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 5, 2022.