

CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

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 made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Dave. Motion passed (3-0).

NEW BUSINESS

Patty stated that we need to keep in mind we have 2 full time employees and sometimes 2 part time employees. We are focusing on wrapping on the Summer season and heading into Fall/Winter.

One Saturday in August at Baker Park we had all the following events take place. Disc Golf Tournament, Miracle League, a walk event at the pool area, Horseshoes, shelter rentals, skate park, pickleball courts, and full use of all playgrounds. What a day it was and wonderful to see all the amenities being used. We tried to work out the parking problems during all of this. Thank you to Mike and team for all efforts in making it go smoothly and all the hard work you all do.

The skate park lighting is in the process now. We were able to take a few of the Trojan Lane former lights and that will help light the newly added skate park. Landscaping will take place soon, as well. The restrooms will be worked on as soon as we can get to them. We are thankful to our park ambassadors on facebook who help to keep our parks clean and safe and notify us when there is a problem.

The splash pad will close for the season at the end of this week. It has been nice to have open the month of August while the pool was closed.

The board discussed Lowe Park Shelter. The idea of tearing the facility down was mentioned but ultimately it needs to remain with a little TLC. Mayor York mentioned adding siding to the graffiti area but keep the roof and open area as a mini shelter as the ones in Baker and Osborne Parks. It was also mentioned that the drive-way to Lowe Park could be extended instead of the U-shaped area it has now. If the parking area was extended closer to the existing shelter and playground, that could help deter the vandalism that we are having. The parks department will spruce this area up before Fall and Winter is over.

Patty also noted that the park shelter rentals have not seen an increase in the \$35.00 current fee for several years. After discussion, the board agreed it was time to increase the rentals to \$50.00 for the 2024 season. Dave made a motion to approve this increase with Sandy seconding. Motion passed (3-0).

Patty stated that she would like to see an increase in salaries for the part time pool employees for the 2024, as well. It would be \$1-\$2 increase for each position. Mayor York stated that she would need to talk to the Clerk-Treasurer about this since she is currently working on the 2024 Budget. Mention of increasing the pool entry fee was discussed, as well. It was decided to table that matter until the next meeting.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor York noted that all the new additions at the parks are exciting and not only for kids but adults, as well. We are creating parks that are family friendly and for everyone. Thank you to everyone who has played a part in making the parks look great.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None

CITIZEN CONCERNS

None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:15PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 2, 2023.