

CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES

APRIL 7, 2025

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

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

Patty opened this meeting at 5:30pm.

John moved to approve the minutes from February. Second by Dave. Motion carried (4-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor York stated that Sandy Scott has resigned from the board. He asked the board to keep a replacement in mind for her.

Patty noted that if there are not any pressing agenda items, there may be months the board will not meet. We do not want to waste time of others.

New Disc Golf Course –

It is exciting to announce the addition of *The Pebble*, a new par-two-disc golf course that will complement the existing full-length course, *The Rock*. With this expansion, Baker Park is poised to become a true disc golf destination—locally, regionally, and beyond.

The Pebble is designed to provide a fast-paced, accessible experience that welcomes players of all ages and skill levels. Its par-two layout emphasizes control and accuracy, making it ideal for beginners, families, youth programs, and experienced players looking to refine their short game. By offering a different style of play than *The Rock*, *The Pebble* enhances the overall disc golf experience in Baker Park, providing more variety, training opportunities, and casual recreation options.

The goals with this addition are clear: to diversify recreational offerings, promote physical activity, and enhance the usability of park space year-round. Strategically integrated into the existing landscape, *The Pebble* has been carefully planned to impact Baker Park and maintain the natural beauty of the park.

The design encourages smooth course flow between *The Rock* and *The Pebble*, allowing for creative event formats and increased programming such as leagues, clinics, and tournaments.

With both courses in place, Baker Park becomes a true disc golf *mecca*, rare for a single location. This elevated status will attract more visitors to the area, and strengthen the park's role as a hub of community connection and outdoor enjoyment. We are proud to continue investing in recreational amenities that bring people together, promote wellness, and highlight the unique character of Baker Park. The future of disc golf—and outdoor recreation—is bright here, and *The Pebble* is a key part of that vision.

Baker Park Softball Lease Agreement with New Castle Schools

The 50-year lease agreement between the Parks Department and the New Castle School Corporation provides long-term stability and a shared vision for the future. It offers both organizations the opportunity to proactively collaborate, plan, and develop an attractive, high-quality softball facility that aligns with the Baker Park and the Parks and Recreation Departments philosophy. This agreement formalizes responsibilities, clarifies liability, identifies annual usage, and lays the groundwork for thoughtful, sustainable growth moving forward. This is a win-win proposal. The lease is attached.

Pickleball Court Project Update

Progress on the new pickleball court facility continues to move forward, despite a few weather-related delays. I am excited about how things are shaping up and anticipate an amazing finished product!

Recent accomplishments include:

- Landscaping and grass planting are underway.
- Fencing installation is nearly complete.
- Light pole bases have been dug and are ready for footers to be poured and poles installed.
- Court standards will be installed soon.

I am currently awaiting a scheduled date for sealing, painting, and striping the courts.

Importantly, the project remains on track financially and within the speculated budget. In addition, planning is underway to secure further funding for refurbishing the existing restroom facility and upgrading the nearby horseshoe pit area, bringing even more value to the park's recreational offerings.

Baker Park Aquatic Center Updates

As we approach the start of the 2025 pool season things begin to move quickly.

This year, we are committed to certifying 20+ lifeguards through our scheduled lifeguard certification courses. While the returning lifeguard roster has been impacted by expired certifications and retirements, we are confident that the 2025 roster will be strong and prepared to provide excellent service to all visitors. The first certification session has already been completed, and a second session is scheduled for April 13, 2025.

In addition to our lifeguard training, we continue to prioritize the maintenance and upkeep of our pool facilities. The pumproom mechanics are being addressed according to our annual maintenance schedule, allowing us to proactively resolve any issues and ensure the pool operates smoothly throughout the season. The main pool pump was refurbished and will be reinstalled soon.

The pool will be filled during the first week of May in preparation for our opening day on May 27, 2025.

We are excited to announce that pool party reservations are already filling up quickly, and we encourage those looking to reserve a spot for special events to do so soon.

We look forward to another wonderful summer season and to providing our community with a safe, fun, and inviting space to enjoy the outdoors.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor York noted the Baker Park Carnival will be May 13-17. We will get 15% of all ticket sales.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

See new business

CITIZEN CONCERNS

Justin McCrobie came before the board to give a short presentation over Osborne Park. He did a project there several years ago as an Eagle Scout and it is needing refurbished. He and some friends are campaigning to raise funds to complete this task. Mike stated that he and Justin will meet periodically to get a plan put together.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:20PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 5, 2025.