

CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES

APRIL 6, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patty Broyles, John Henderson, Toddy Myers and Cheryl York

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Greg York, and Mayor's Assistant Kendra Blankenship

Patty opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

John moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Second by Cheryl. Motion passed 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Patty opened the meeting by discussing our Mission Statement. Everyone is welcome and safe at our parks.

The park rules are still in effect for each park location. Any issues can be reported to the police department at 765-529-4890.

New playground equipment for Baker Park has officially been ordered and funded through a combination of Park budget funds, Foundation support, and Park non-reverting funds. Delivery is expected by June 1, with a target installation date of July 1.

This addition may be small in size, but it will make a big impact—bringing areas of the park together and maximizing the use of our greenspace. The “tots” playground continues to grow, reflecting the increasing demand from young families in our community.

Several speed bumps have already been installed in Baker Park. To further enhance safety, it is recommended that additional speed bumps be placed in strategic locations.

As park usage continues to grow, this proactive step will help reduce liability, improve traffic flow, and create a safer environment for all visitors.

Mayor York provided (3) renderings for the new Osborne Park arch entry way. The board agreed with option (1) and would like for the Mayor to have more details on that rendering at the next meeting. The board agreed having the high school welding class would make a nice touch to this project.

The Baker Park Carnival is May 10-16. The park will receive 100% of sales.

The Miracle League has expressed interest in moving forward with the potential development of their facility at Osborne Park. Mr. Harvey is currently drafting the language for a possible agreement and lease as discussions continue around this exciting opportunity.

The fallen tree and resulting shelter damage at Lowe Park have been addressed. The tree has been safely removed, and an insurance claim has been filed. The adjuster has completed a site visit, and we are currently awaiting the final determination.

Demolition of the damaged shelter will begin soon, with a goal of rebuilding a structure that better serves park users and maximizes the park's functionality moving forward.

The pool is scheduled to open on May 26. Staffing progress continues, with four lifeguards certified during the February class and eight more registered for the April 19 certification session.

Applications are still being accepted for summer employment.

Preparation work in the pumphouse and bathhouse is already underway. As temperatures begin to rise, work on the pool itself will ramp up to ensure everything is ready for a successful season.

Approval has been granted by the Board of Works to conduct controlled burns at Osborne Park.

These burns will reduce hazardous debris and wildfire risk, while also promoting healthier ecosystems by encouraging new growth of plants, wildflowers, and trees.

Additionally, controlled burns help manage pest populations and fungi that can negatively impact tree health. Chief Moore is currently developing a plan to ensure these efforts are carried out safely and effectively.

The Walking Club at the Armory concluded on April 2 after another successful season. Open walking was offered Monday through Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with an average of 17 participants per day.

We look forward to continuing this valuable community program again next winter.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor York noted that he is impressed with the amount of people who are out in the parks despite the up and down cold weather. From walkers to Disc Golf, people are eager to get out and enjoy our parks. Very impressive!

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

None

CITIZEN CONCERNS

None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:55PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MAY 4, 2026.