

City of Blair Regular Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board Meeting
May 19, 2026

Agenda Item #1 – The Blair Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board met in regular session in the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 5:30 PM with Chairman Anderson presiding.

The Chairman publicly stated to all in attendance that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available for review and indicated the location of such copy posted in the room where the meeting was being held. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Enterprise or the Pilot -Tribune as shown by the affidavit of publication filed in the City Clerk's office. Notice of the meeting was simultaneously given to the members of Blair Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board and the agenda is filed in the City Clerk's office. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Mayor and Council of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Agenda Item #2 – Roll Call of members – The following were present: Betsy Anderson, Sarah Boeka, Joe Burns, Corey Hafer, Kristi Rounds, and Dean Thoene. Also present were City Administrator Green, Deputy City Administrator of Public Works Heaton, and Park Supervisor Bilslend.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of minutes from the April 21, 2026, meeting – Motion by Kristi Rounds, second by Sarah Boeka to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2026, meeting. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Yea, Corey Hafer: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Dean Thoene: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 6, Nay: 0. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 – Budget Report for April 2026 – The April budget report was reviewed. Staff summarized current expenditures and noted that parks and cemetery spending remain within expected seasonal limits. No action was requested.

Agenda Item #5 – Discussion and possible action regarding E-Bike locations and the City accepting the grant through the NRD to offset the costs of the program – Deputy City Administrator Heaton reported the Natural Resources District (NRD) grant for the proposed bike share program had been approved and would be included in the NRD's next fiscal year budget, with funding anticipated after July 1. The grant is expected to offset approximately half of the program's installation costs, with the remaining city cost estimated at approximately \$50,000. Benny Foltz, CEO of Roam Share, presented an overview of the Heartland Bike Share program. He explained that Roam Share operates multiple bike share systems across Nebraska, including in the Omaha metro area, and described the proposed Blair program as consisting of two stations with a total of ten Class 1 electric bicycles. The system is dock-based, requiring bikes to be checked out and returned at designated stations. Mr. Foltz further detailed membership pricing, operational structure, safety features, and data capabilities, noting that if implemented in 2026, all Blair residents would receive free annual membership during the initial year. Discussion followed regarding system operations, including the city's responsibilities for battery charging and

swapping, as well as snow removal at station locations. Roam Share would provide equipment, training, and ongoing maintenance services. Board members also discussed safety, vandalism, and liability considerations, as well as the potential benefits of usage data for future trail and infrastructure planning. Potential locations for the stations were reviewed, including Generations Park, the Blair Public Library, and the YMCA area, with the intent of placing stations on opposite sides of the community to encourage broader usage. No final location decisions were made at this time. Motion by Corey Hafer, second by Dean Thoene to postpone moving forward with E-Bike locations until next month's meeting pending additional review of station locations and contract terms. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Yea, Corey Hafer: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Dean Thoene: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 6, Nay: 0. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #6 – Discussion and possible action regarding E-Bike locations and the City applying for a grant through NRD to offset the costs of the program – Deputy City Administrator Heaton reported that staff has contacted the Natural Resources District regarding a potential grant and has also met with representatives of an e-bike association to gauge interest in expanding recreational transportation options in Blair. The proposed project would total approximately \$100,000, consisting of a \$50,000 grant and \$50,000 City match, and would include 7–8 pedal-assist e-bikes per station with speeds under 20 mph. Suggested locations included city-owned property near the YMCA/NRD building, Generations Park, and possibly central downtown areas. The long-term vision would be to extend trail connectivity toward Fort Calhoun, Boyer Chute, and Omaha. Heaton explained the City would not manage rentals or maintenance. All usage would occur through an app. Users would have one-hour rental periods, significant penalties for late returns, and be financially responsible for lost bikes. City staff may be asked to assist with battery swaps and limited cleaning. Jake Loftis, 2129 Park Steet, described the bike system, age limit of sixteen, fee structure, lack of physical locks, and customer service policies that he was familiar with from using the e-bike system in Omaha. Board discussion focused on cost-benefit concerns, enforcement, safety on trails and ballfields, ordinances regulating scooters and e-bikes, and whether the service would see sufficient usage in Blair. They also expressed concerns about readiness, partner participation from Fort Calhoun, and whether the program aligns with community needs. Motion by Corey Hafer, second by Dean Thoene to postpone moving forward with E-Bike locations until the next meeting pending additional review of station locations and contract terms. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Yea, Corey Hafer: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Dean Thoene: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 6, Nay: 0. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #7 – Discussion and possible action regarding the rules, regulations, and fees for the Blair Cemetery – Deputy City Administrator Heaton presented updates to Blair Cemetery rules, regulations, and fees was introduced, including a proposed fee for grave and headstone layout services to recover staff time. Due to time constraints, it was decided to postpone this item to the June meeting for further discussion and action. Motion by Joe Burns, second by Kristi Rounds to postpone until the June meeting. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Yea, Corey Hafer: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Dean Thoene: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 6, Nay: 0. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #10 – Staff Report – Deputy City Administrator of Public Works Heaton provided updates on seasonal operations, noting preparations for Memorial Day, including placement of flags at the cemetery, the opening of the splash pad, and the upcoming opening of the municipal swimming pool. The Board was also informed of plans to evaluate possible relocation of certain playground equipment at Black Elk Playground and the installation of a camera to assess pedestrian usage. A draft budget will be presented at the June meeting.

Agenda Item #11 – Adjournment – Motion by Sarah Boeka, second by Kristi Rounds to adjourn the meeting 6:34 pm. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Yea, Corey Hafer: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Dean Thoene: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 6, Nay: 0. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Brenda Wheeler, Recording Secretary