

City of Blair Regular Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board Meeting
March 18, 2025

Agenda Item #1 - The Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board met in regular session in the City Council Chambers on March 18, 2025 at 5:30 PM and called to order by Chairperson Jensen.

The Chairperson 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 Chairperson and all members of the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Advisory Board. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice and in the notice to the Park, Recreation, and Cemetery Advisory Board of this meeting. All proceedings shown hereafter 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: Present: Betsy Anderson, Sarah Boeka, Joe Burns, Neil Jensen, Kristi Rounds, Todd Wick. Absent: Joe Burns (After 6:00 p.m.). Also present were: City Administrator Green, Director of Public Works Heaton, Non-Lawyer Assistant Ferrari.

Agenda Item #3 - Approval of minutes from February 18, 2025 - Motion by Rounds, second by Boeka to approve the Minutes from February 18, 2025 meeting. Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Yea, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Todd Wick: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 6, Nay: 0. Chairperson Jensen declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 - Budget report for February 2025 – City Administrator Green stated the budget report for February 2025 is presented for review. No action is required.

Agenda Item #5 - Presentation by Brent Fullmer to review annual report on bike trail usage by THOR and discuss bike trail repairs – Brent Fullmer, 1403 Wright Street, came before the Board and provided a report on behalf of THOR regarding the bike trail. Approximately 35 volunteers worked 217 hours to maintain the trail. Mr. Fullmer reviewed the schedule of events for 2025: 1) On April 26th 150-300 runners will participate in the Darn Hill Goat Race, 2) Each Monday in June, DEVO will provide a program for young children (6-12 years old) who are interested in learning basic skills in mountain biking, 3) Tuesdays and Thursdays (July-September), NICA will use trails for youth practices, and 4) August 16th-17th NICA will hold the Grasshopper Grand Prix. Fullmer noted improvements are needed on the trail. Rainstorms have contributed to significant erosion in the jump line area. He suggested an erosion control carpet be added to the area. This carpet is specifically added to lifts and jumps to help water from puddling, channeling and will keep the ground from eroding. An estimated 250 feet is needed. If approved, they are looking at installing it in April or May and it will remain intact all year long. He also noted the initial layout on the Prairie downhill routes was not well planned out. Due to the steep grade, it will need to be re-routed. Mr. Fullmer suggested a new line not to exceed 10% of grade and grade reversals will be incorporated every 15-20 feet. Discussion pursued on how to avoid erosion in the future. Board member Anderson asked about the pump track that was previously approved.

Joe Burns excused himself from the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Fullmer stated THOR was denied grant, and it is unlikely they will receive it in the future. Therefore, the track will not be constructed, and they are currently discussing options on what to do with the money raised for the pump track. They include 1) possibly adding four bike repair stations at various locations town (\$2000 each); and (2) a park study for a future bike skills park. Once decided, these items will be brought back to the Board for approval. Motion by Anderson, second by Wick to approve addition of engineering carpet on the jump line and rerouting the Prairie DH section of the trail as presented. Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Abstain (With Conflict), Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Todd Wick: Yea. All members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Abstain (With Conflict): 1. Chairperson Jensen declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #6 - Recommendation from the Blair Park Board to amend Chapter 2 Article 8 Section 2-801 and 2-802 of the Blair Municipal Code – Non-lawyer assistant Ferrari opened discussion on amending Chapter 2 Article 8 Section 2-801 and 2-802 of the Blair Municipal Code. She reviewed the changes that were made at the February 18th meeting. After review, a grammatical correction was made by board member Boeka. Motion by Anderson, second by Boeka to recommend approval of the amendment to Chapter 2, Article 8, Section 2-801 and 2-802 of the Blair Municipal Code to the Mayor and City Council as corrected. Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Absent, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Todd Wick: Yea. All members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Chairperson Jensen declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #7. Consider increasing fees for the Depot and park shelters, a procedure for when the Depot key is not picked up during office hours and eliminating stay limits at Hardy RV Park during the winter months. Director of Public Works Heaton discussed the possible procedure for when the Depot key is not picked up during office hours. The renter will need to call the parks department who will take the deposit and give them the key. The renter's deposit will be forfeited. Next, Heaton discussed Hardy RV Park stay limits. Currently renters are limited to fourteen days. It has been suggested there should not be a stay limit during winter months. Chairperson Jensen was concerned about potential squatting. Lastly, Heaton discussed the change in Depot and park shelter fees and updating the master fee schedule. He reviewed the current fees as well as the recommended fees. There will be a \$25.00 increase for the Depot and shelters. Currently non-profits are not charged but it was suggested a smaller fee be charged. Board member Anderson asked if the shelters with no power or water cost the same amount. It was confirmed these shelters do not have a charge and are on a first come and first serve. Chairperson Jensen inquired about fees for the amenities at Generation Parks. City Administrator Green informed everyone that these fees would be first discussed by council committees and would come back to the Board for further discussion. Motion by Boeka, second by Rounds to recommend to the City Council to increase fees for the Depot and park shelters as well as implementing the procedure for when the Depot key is not picked up during office hours as presented and eliminating stay limits at Hardy RV Park during the winter months. Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Absent, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Todd Wick: Yea. All board members voted as follows: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Chairperson Jensen declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #8. Staff Report - Director of Public Works Heaton reported on the following: 1) The Human Resource department posted seasonal jobs on March 18th. Two are needed in the parks department and staffing the pool is underway. 2) The final inspection of Generations Park will take place on March 19th. The City is waiting on locks for the doors and in mid-April there

will be a trial run for the splash pad. Once everything is determined to be sufficient, a date for the ribbon cutting will be set. 3) Pat Long submitted his retirement notice and May 2nd will be his last date. Chairperson Jensen congratulated Mr. Long and thanked him for his long-time service. City Administrator Green extended his sincere thanks to the Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board. He encouraged all members to continue to review their packets and provide any feedback necessary. If any members have items they would like to bring to the Agenda do not hesitate.

Agenda Item #9. Adjournment - Motion by Rounds, second by Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Absent, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea, Todd Wick: Yea. All members present voted as follows: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Chairperson Jensen declared the motion carried.

Angel Clements, Recording Secretary