

City of Blair Regular Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board Meeting
February 17, 2026

Agenda Item #1 – The Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board met in regular session on February 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, with Chairman Betsy 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 all members of the 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 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: Betsy Anderson, Corey Hafer, Neil Jensen, Sarah Boeka, and Kristi Rounds. Absent: Joe Burns. Also present were City Administrator Green, Deputy City Administrator of Public Works Heaton, and Non-Lawyer Assistant Ferrari.

Mayor Rump presented Neil Jensen with a plaque showing appreciation for his dedication to the Park, Cemetery and Recreation Board since 1998.

Agenda Item #3 – Approval of minutes from the January 20, 2026 – Motion by Neil Jensen, second by Kristi Rounds to approve the Minutes from January 20, 2026, meeting. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Absent, Corey Hafer: Yea, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 – Budget report for January 2026 – A budget report covering January was presented for informational purposes. No motion was made, and no formal action was taken.

Agenda Item #5 – Discussion of the Installation of a Wiffle Ball Field at Stemmermann Park – Nick Sweeney of Blair Little League gave a presentation on a proposed wiffle ball field at Stemmermann Park. His key points included: a) The goal is to improve family experiences at the sports complex and create a welcoming space for children and adults, b) The field would not be a Little League field but a general-use wiffle ball facility, c) Turfing this area to provide programming aimed at individuals with disability, d) Estimated cost: Up to \$144,000 with turf, fencing, leveling, sod, drainage and up to \$180,000 for the highest-quality version, e) Costs could be reduced by decreasing field size, reducing turf area, and receiving donated labor, f) Turf is important for accessibility and to help offer programming for individuals with disabilities and its lifespan is estimated at 12–15 years, and it would reduce chalking, mowing, and maintenance. Sweeney presented 3D models, concept drawings, and photos of fields in Kearney, Nebraska, and other areas. The proposed layout would not interfere with shelters, restrooms, or sidewalks. Board member Hafer supported the idea but emphasized the need to pursue grants and donations. Board

member Jensen expressed concern that kids might bring baseballs instead of wiffle balls, creating risk of baseballs being hit into the nearby playground. Sweeny stated that signage and providing wiffle balls would help reduce the misuse. Board member Boeka asked about the turf maintenance requirements. No action was taken by the Board. Topic may be revisited at budget time.

Agenda Item #6 – Discussion regarding adjusting cemetery fees and rules and permitting multiple cremations per burial lot – Deputy City Administrator Heaton reported the ad hoc committee met and discussed allowing multiple cremations per burial space. There is also a need to update the entire cemetery rule book to align with comparable cemeteries. Current cost to the city to dig a grave is \$500, and the city charges the public \$550, suggesting a need to examine the fee structure. Heaton recommended continuing to work with the same ad hoc group to complete the rule book update. No action was taken.

Agenda Item #7 – Deputy City Administrator of Public Works Report – Deputy City Administrator Heaton gave updates on parks and facilities stating restroom flooring is being redone with epoxy garage-floor coating and the city will evaluate its traction performance at Generations Park. Rhoades Park cleanup efforts are ongoing. The city issued a solicitation for a comprehensive plan and received a separate safety grant. Both plans will develop over the next 12–18 months, and Board members will be invited to participate in the planning process.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment – Motion by Sarah Boeka, second by Neil Jensen to adjourn the meeting 6:07 p.m. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Yea, Joe Burns: Absent, Corey Hafer: Yea, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea. All Board members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1.

Brenda Wheeler, Recording Secretary