

City of Blair Regular Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board Meeting
January 20, 2026

Agenda Item #1 – The Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board met in regular session on January 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, with Chairman Neil Jensen presiding.

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 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, Joe Burns, Corey Hafer, Neil Jensen, and Kristi Rounds. Absent: Sarah Boeka. Also present were City Administrator Green, Deputy City Administrator of Public Works Heaton, and Non-Lawyer Assistant Ferrari.

Mayor Rump presented Todd Wick with a plaque showing appreciation for his dedication to the Park, Cemetery and Recreation Board since June 2014.

Agenda Item #3 – Election of Chairperson – Motion by Joe Burns, second by Kristi Rounds to approve Betsy Anderson as Chairperson for the Blair Park Board. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Absent, Joe Burns: Yea, Corey Hafer: Yea, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea. All Board members voted as follows: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #4 – Election of Vice Chairperson – Motion by Betsy Anderson, second by Kristi Rounds to approve Sarah Boeka as Vice Chairperson for the Blair Park Board. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Absent, Joe Burns: Yea, 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 #5 – Approval of minutes from the October 21, 2025 – Motion by Kristi Rounds, second by Neil Jensen to approve the Minutes from October 21, 2025, meeting. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Absent, Joe Burns: Yea, Corey Hafer: Yea, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea. All Board member voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Agenda Item #6 – Budget report for October and November/December 2025 – A budget report covering October and November/December 2025 was presented for informational purposes. No motion was made, and no formal action was taken.

Agenda Item #7 – Discussion and possible action permitting multiple cremations per burial lot. – Deputy City Administrator Heaton lead the Board in a detailed discussion regarding cemetery regulations, specifically whether to permit more than two cremations per burial lot. Staff explained the matter was being revisited following previous consideration and requests from families seeking flexibility in burial arrangements. Background information was provided on current City practices, state-level regulations, and common standards used by other cemeteries. Discussion included operational and regulatory considerations such as grave depth requirements, monument limitations, recordkeeping and software tracking, long-term maintenance impacts, and potential costs to the City. Board members discussed the importance of avoiding practices that could require disinterment and reburial, except in rare circumstances, and emphasized the need for clear, enforceable policies. While Blair does not currently face immediate space constraints, members noted that any policy change could establish long-term precedent. Chairman Jensen suggested before recommending a policy change, a committee should be formed to review cemetery burial rules in greater detail and develop recommendations. Board members Corey Hafer and Kristi Round volunteered to meet with staff to review the proposed changes. Other Board members were invited to forward comments or suggestions to the committee. Motion by Neil Jensen, second by Corey Hafer, to refer this issue to Committee for further consideration and report back to the entire board at a future meeting. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Absent, Joe Burns: Yea, 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 #8 – Discussion and possible action to consider and approve March 20, 2026, as the official date for the dog park opening – The Board discussed the upcoming completion and opening of the new dog park, including the desire to coordinate a formal ribbon-cutting and public event. Motion by Kristi Rounds, second by Joe Burns to recommend the official opening of the dog park be held on March 20, 2026. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Absent, Joe Burns: Yea, 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 #9 – Staff Report – Deputy City Administrator Heaton provide an update on recent and ongoing parks and facilities activities. Improvements were noted at Generations Park, including painting and epoxy floor treatments in the restroom to improve safety. Additional restroom maintenance at Lions Park and Steyer Park was discussed, along with cleaning and organization efforts at the Parks office and shop. Staff have also submitted a grant to the Washington County Community Foundation seeking \$20,000 with a 50 percent match for improvements at Rhoades Park. Vandalism incidents at Lions Park and the Depot were discussed. Staff indicated that damages are being documented and referred through the court system with the intent of recovering costs where possible. Installation of security cameras is planned once all equipment components are received.

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment – Motion by Neil Jensen, second by Corey Hafer to adjourn 6:08 p.m. Board members voted as follows: Betsy Anderson: Yea, Sarah Boeka: Absent, Joe Burns: Yea, Corey Hafer: Yea, Neil Jensen: Yea, Kristi Rounds: Yea. All Council members voted: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1. Chairman Anderson declared the motion carried.

Brenda Wheeler, Recording Secretary