



**"OPEN MEETINGS ACT"**

**City of Blair Regular Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Advisory Board  
Meeting  
City Council Chambers  
February 17, 2026 - 5:30 PM**

**A Copy of the "Open Meetings Act" Has Been Posted at Both Exits**

**AGENDA**

**NOTE: A current copy of the agenda can be obtained at the City Clerk's Office at 218 S. 16th Street, Blair, Nebraska or on the City website at [www.blairnebraska.org](http://www.blairnebraska.org). The City Council reserves the right to go into Executive Session at any time.**

- 1.Meeting called to order by Chairperson Jensen at 5:30 p.m.
- 2.Roll Call of members.
- 3.Approval of minutes from the January 20, 2026, meeting.
- 4.Budget report for January 2026.
- 5.Discussion of the Installation of a Wiffle Ball Field at Stemmermann Park.
- 6.Discussion regarding adjusting cemetery fees and rules and permitting multiple cremations per burial lot.
- 7.Deputy City Administrator of Public Works Report.
- 8.Motion and second by Council members to adjourn the meeting.

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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

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT FOR CITY OF BLAIR

Balance As of 01/31/2026

\*NOTE: Available Balance / Pct Budget does not reflect amounts encumbered.

GL Number	Description	25-26 Amended Budget	YTD Balance 01/31/2026 (Abnormal)	Activity For 01/31/2026 Increase (Decrease)	Balance Normal	Available 01/31/2026 (Abnormal)	% Bdgt Used
<b>Account Category: Expenditures</b>							
PERSONAL SERVICES							
01-014-5001	SALARIES	328,200.00	113,149.80	24,740.39	215,050.20		34.48
01-014-5002	FICA - CITY SHARE	25,107.30	8,480.71	2,043.35	16,626.59		33.78
01-014-5003	WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION	12,100.00	11,128.86	2,967.90	971.14		91.97
01-014-5004	H.A.L. INSURANCE	100,300.00	37,384.22	13,147.18	62,915.78		37.27
01-014-5005	RETIREMENT - CITY SHARE	24,775.00	6,717.47	1,536.46	18,057.53		27.11
01-014-5006	UNEMPLOYMENT COMP	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00		0.00
01-014-5007	DISABILITY	1,500.00	355.88	88.97	1,144.12		23.73
01-014-5008	PENSION ADMINISTRATION	300.00	78.00	0.00	222.00		26.00
	PERSONAL SERVICES	492,782.30	177,294.94	44,524.25	315,487.36		35.98
OPERATING EXPENSE							
01-014-5210	LEGAL	3,000.00	118.80	0.00	2,881.20		3.96
01-014-5211	AUDITING	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00		0.00
01-014-5212	ENGINEERING/CONSULTANT	5,200.00	5,132.43	4,727.43	67.57		98.70
01-014-5213	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	31,000.00	0.00	0.00	31,000.00		0.00
01-014-5215	EMPLOYEE SCHOOLING	1,000.00	400.67	286.67	599.33		40.07
01-014-5216	POSTAGE	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00		0.00
01-014-5217	PRINTING & PUBLICATION	1,000.00	124.67	9.56	875.33		12.47
01-014-5222	TRAVEL EXPENSE	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00		0.00
01-014-5223	TRAINING EXP/CONF REGISTR	1,500.00	425.00	0.00	1,075.00		28.33
01-014-5224	DUES	500.00	68.63	0.00	431.37		13.73
01-014-5227	SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE	7,700.00	7,883.81	1,858.59	(183.81)		102.39
01-014-5228	UTILITIES	40,000.00	14,560.52	4,645.54	25,439.48		36.40
01-014-5229	TELEPHONE	3,500.00	2,665.28	719.49	834.72		76.15
01-014-5230	VEHICLE INSURANCE	5,000.00	5,809.32	0.00	(809.32)		116.19
01-014-5231	LIABILITY INSURANCE	1,500.00	1,666.80	0.00	(166.80)		111.12
01-014-5232	BLDG & CONTENT INSURANCE	32,000.00	50,305.33	0.00	(18,305.33)		157.20
01-014-5236	RADIO MAINTENANCE	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00		0.00
01-014-5239	MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT MAINT	12,000.00	2,560.55	346.92	9,439.45		21.34
01-014-5240	BUILDING MAINTENANCE	45,000.00	26,182.81	4,417.57	18,817.19		58.18
01-014-5241	TREE/STUMP REMOVAL & PLANTING	20,000.00	215.90	200.00	19,784.10		1.08
01-014-5244	RECREATION ASSISTANCE	60,000.00	0.00	0.00	60,000.00		0.00
01-014-5245	MEDICAL	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00		0.00
01-014-5253	REPURCHASE CEMETERY LOTS	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00		0.00
01-014-5258	OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00		0.00
01-014-5259	BLACK ELK MAINTENANCE	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00		0.00
01-014-5263	OPTIMIST BOAT RAMP	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00		0.00
01-014-5266	CONTRACT MOWING	80,000.00	12,391.25	0.00	67,608.75		15.49
01-014-5276	DEPOT / SHELTERS / COURT REFUNDS	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00		0.00
01-014-5281	STORM DAMAGE	50,000.00	0.00	0.00	50,000.00		0.00
	OPERATING EXPENSE	435,600.00	130,511.77	17,211.77	305,088.23		29.96
EXPENDABLE MAT & SUPPLIES							
01-014-5359	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00		0.00
01-014-5360	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000.00	566.94	200.00	433.06		56.69
01-014-5361	JANITORIAL SUPPLIES	3,000.00	648.20	0.00	2,351.80		21.61
01-014-5363	CHEMICALS	8,000.00	64.97	0.00	7,935.03		0.81
01-014-5364	SEED, SOD, ETC	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	3,000.00		0.00
01-014-5365	GENERAL SUPPLIES	11,000.00	158.39	0.00	10,841.61		1.44
01-014-5369	SAFETY EQUIPMENT/TRAINING	1,850.00	539.36	165.35	1,310.64		29.15

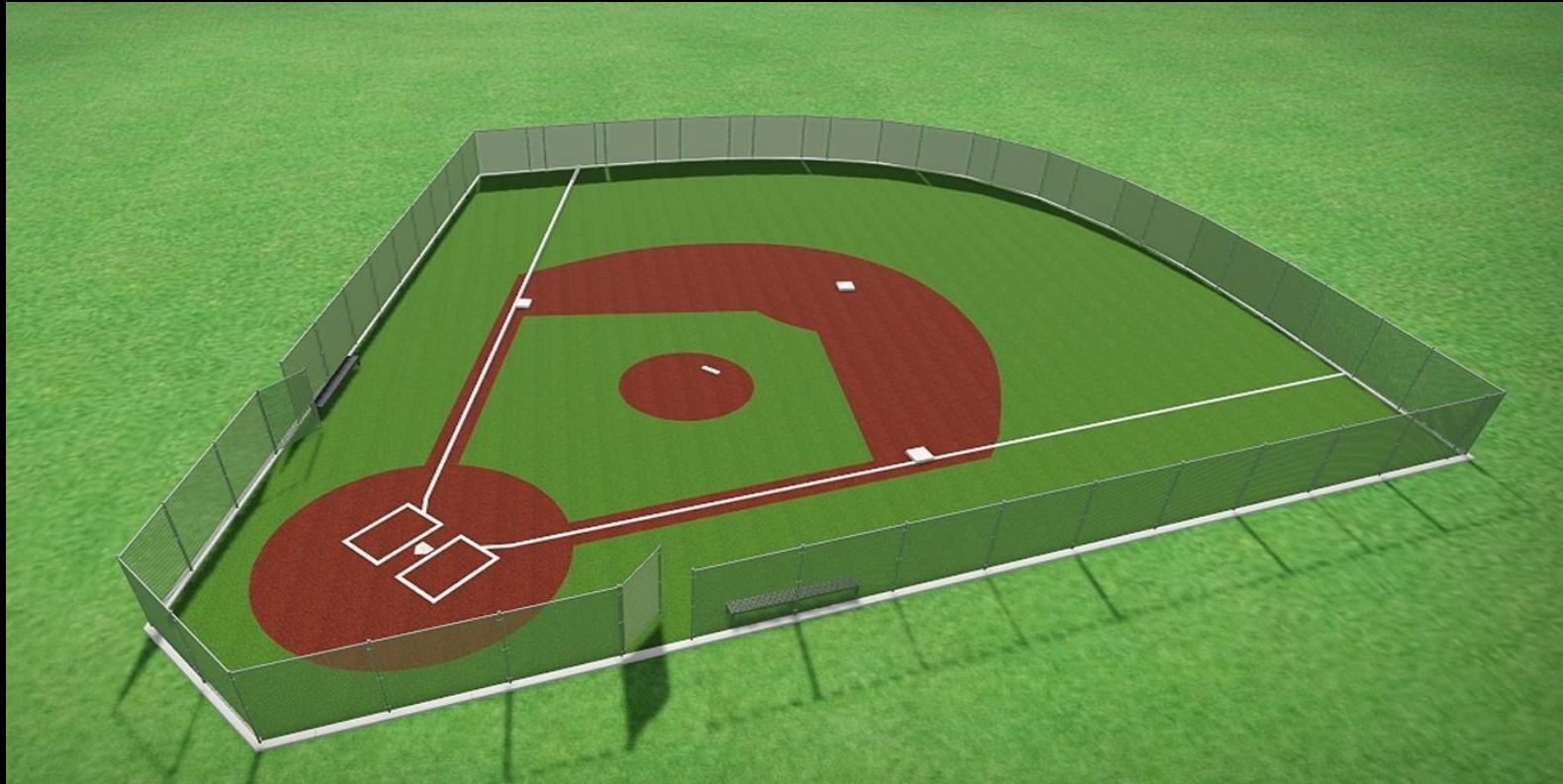
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<b>Account Category: Expenditures</b>						
EXPENDABLE MAT & SUPPLIES						
01-014-5370	GAS/OIL/DIESEL	8,500.00	2,584.99	512.64	5,915.01	30.41
01-014-5371	UNIFORMS	3,000.00	980.22	200.04	2,019.78	32.67
01-014-5372	BOOKS & MAPS	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
01-014-5373	SMALL TOOLS	4,500.00	2,852.05	329.93	1,647.95	63.38
01-014-5374	SAND/GRAVEL/ROCK	4,000.00	39.83	39.83	3,960.17	1.00
01-014-5383	OTHER EXPENSE MATL & SUPP	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
	EXPENDABLE MAT & SUPPLIES	49,450.00	8,434.95	1,447.79	41,015.05	17.06
RENTAL EXPENSE						
01-014-5392	MOTORIZED EQUIP/GRAVE OPENING	10,000.00	3,500.00	500.00	6,500.00	35.00
	RENTAL EXPENSE	10,000.00	3,500.00	500.00	6,500.00	35.00
OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY						
01-014-5401	OFFICE EQUIPMENT - CAPITAL	27,500.00	743.30	0.00	26,756.70	2.70
01-014-5402	MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT	14,000.00	5,189.30	0.00	8,810.70	37.07
01-014-5403	MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT (LARGE)	130,000.00	84,444.00	0.00	45,556.00	64.96
01-014-5419	OTHER IMPROVEMENTS/PARK SIGNS	64,000.00	879.46	641.25	63,120.54	1.37
	OTHER CAPITAL OUTLAY	235,500.00	91,256.06	641.25	144,243.94	38.75
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS						
01-014-5504	PAVING STREET & HIGHWAY	20,000.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00
01-014-5506	BUILDING/RESTROOM	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
01-014-5519	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	7,500.00	7,250.00	0.00	250.00	96.67
	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	32,500.00	7,250.00	0.00	25,250.00	22.31
Expenditures		1,255,832.30	418,247.72	64,325.06	837,584.58	33.30

# STEMMERMANN PARK WIFFLE BALL FIELD



# STEMMERMANN LOCATION



# STEMMERMANN LOCATION



# KEARNEY LITTLE LEAGUE CHALLENGER FIELD



# KEARNEY LITTLE CHALLENGER FIELD



# OTHER TURF WIFFLE BALL FIELDS



# WIFFLE BALL FIELDS-MIXED TURF AND GRASS



# WIFFLE BALL FIELDS – MIXED TURF AND GRASS



# GRASS WIFFLE BALL FIELDS



## STEMMERMANN PARK WIFFLE BALL FIELD PROJECT Q&A

### Location:

The proposed location is the area directly south of Wederquist field. The area is between the batting cage, park area, and park bathrooms.

### Reasoning for location of the wiffle ball field:

Currently, each night the siblings of kids playing on Wederquist will play a wiffle ball game over in this proposed area. They use the trees as bases. With windstorms last year, several of those trees had to be removed or are damaged. The current proposed area was damaged by the storms and adding a more permanent structure location would enhance the space.

Other options for location would include moving the wiffle field closer to the roadway, while working around the sidewalk and bathroom areas. At the youth sports complex, we could build something similar at Tball 3, which is near the softball and soccer areas, the biggest concern with using that space is having children going back and forth in the parking lot, parents having line of sight on children, and future expansion opportunities with Tball 2 field.

### Why build a wiffle ball field:

The idea of a wiffle ball field in this park falls in line with the current park design and youth sports complex offerings. The area would provide a safe space for families while using the park or youth sports complex. The field would enhance Stemmermann Park. The field could be used for other things than wiffle ball, such as kick ball, soccer, and short infield work. Especially if the infield or full area is turf, the area would be used for many things. This area will also be attractive to out-of-town teams and families as they visit Blair and our youth sports complex. During the day we have people using the tball fields daily. We have younger kids to teenagers often playing wiffle ball during the day on the tball fields. We also have a group of senior age athletes that work a couple of times a week to hit ground balls and play catch on the tball fields.

### What safety precautions would be necessary:

We would need to build at minimum a backstop around the home plate area of the wiffle ball field to help protect from foul balls on Wederquist Field. We likely would need to add an extension netting to Wederquist Field to reduce foul balls in that direction. Little League is working with insurance to get a new light pole approved for Wederquist. We could add lighting off the back of the new pole to light the wiffle ball area when the Wederquist lights are on for a night game. Since the Little League pays 100% of their electrical bill, that light could only be on during game times to maintain minimum amount of cost to the Little League for electricity. If the field is turf, the area would be very safe for anyone to use.

#### General cost:

We had the area bid for a wiffle ball field this winter. The numbers are most likely a maximum number to build everything out. In the estimate, the contractor bid for a fully turfed wiffle ball field with approximately 95'-110' fence distances from home plate. The cost for the turf work is approximately 144k. They also estimated fencing a backstop and fully around the field area for another 27k price. For an all in cost of 181k.

#### Why Turf:

A turf field would have a high initial cost, but would have a very low maintenance cost during the turf's lifespan. Turf would eliminate the need for consistent sprinklers running in the area. Turf would eliminate any mowing/weeding, field draggiwing, field chalking, and general field maintenance. Turf would provide a safer space for children to play with less fall risks. Turf would allow disabled users to have a safer space to play.

#### Potential cost savings:

- Realistically, the 95'-110' outfield fence distance could be shortened. A distance of 80'-100' would be sufficient, when compared to other wiffle ball fields.
- We also could likely have the fence work done with donated labor.
- We could shrink the turf area to infield only or dirt areas only; I believe it is important to at least have the dirt areas turfed. We would have kids running bikes/scooters on the dirt and digging in the dirt if it was not turf. We would also have a lot more maintenance on the area if it had a dirt/grass infield. If the area is not turfed, we would need to potentially address sprinkler system's needs, as well as mowing and field maintenance responsibilities.

### Little League Use:

Little League is not planning on using this wiffle ball field for any programming currently. The idea would be more for a park amenity for families and the community. If space in the future was available and the Little League ever needed space, the field could work for the Tball age. Little League International also has a Challenger Division, which is aimed at individuals with disabilities to have a safe and accessible space. This space would fit the younger ages of the Challenger League if ever pursued. The wiffle ball space on site also gives Blair Little League a similar setup to our biggest competitor for hosting the State Tournament, as Kearney Little League has a full 125' Challenger Turf Field at their complex. Little League is not planning on using this wiffle ball field for programming.

### Life Span of a Turf Field:

There is an 8-year warranty on the turf work and installation. The realistic life expectancy of the turf is 12-15 years with a maximum of 20 years.

### Potential Funding Options:

- Private donations
- Non-profit state and federal facility grants
- WCCF and local grant funding
- Naming rights to the field
- Banner sales of outfield for continued maintenance