

RIBBON CUTTING – OPTIMIST PARK

September 14, 2023

In Attendance:

Members Present: Mayor Janet Winkler, Mayor Pro Tem, Rick Shew, **Commissioners:** Larry Chapman, Jim Engelman, Jeff Link and Ann Smith

Members Absent: Commissioners Barry Mitchell

Others Present: Town Manager, Jonathan Greer, Police Chief, Richard Blevins, Assist. Town Manager, Shana Guy, Recreation Director, Chuck Raby, Town Clerk, Tammy Swanson, Recreation Dept. – Charlie Downs and Frank Rice, Police Dept.- Scott Lovins, Benji Manning and Brandon Nelson

Call to Order and Welcome:

Janet Winkler welcomed everyone to the Ribbon Cutting for the Hudson Optimist Park. Janet stated that with this ceremony, the Town wanted to thank all the donors for the Optimist Park Project. She commented that the project could not have been completed without the funding from the PARTF Grant, and the kindness and generosity of the donors.

Presentation of the Features of the Project:

Chuck Raby thanked PARTF, and all the donors who generously gave to the project. He briefly highlighted the main features of the Park. Chuck mentioned that some of the donations were made in memory of someone or for a special purpose. Chuck invited everyone to look at the pictures he had on display from the 1963 Optimist Club, when the park was initially opened. He commented that because of the grant funding and generous donations, children/youth will be able to enjoy the park for years to come.

Comments from Donors/Commissioners:

Bob McCreary, one of the donors to the project, commented that he continued to be amazed by the hard work of the people of the Town of Hudson. He commented that he grew up nearby, and was fortunate enough to reap the benefits of the good athletic programs and schools of Hudson. He congratulated Hudson on the success of this project, and he commented that this park is something Hudson deserved.

Jeff Link stated that both as a Town Commissioners, and as Athletic Director for Caldwell Community College, he was excited to have Optimist Park be the home field for the College's Softball Team. He commented that although Lenoir's field had been good for them, Hudson is where the school is located, and Hudson is home for the team. He thanked everyone that had contributed to the project.

Ribbon Cutting:

Project donors, members of the Town Board of Commissioners and members of the audience joined in cutting the ribbon for the park.

Tamra T. Swanson, Town Clerk