

LEGISLATIVE BILL 559

Approved by the Governor March 16, 1971

Introduced by William F. Swanson, 27th District

AN ACT to amend section 16-696, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, relating to cities of the first class; to provide for larger boards of park commissioners; to designate terms of office for appointees; to provide for voting; to provide procedures for filling vacancies; and to repeal the original section.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. That section 16-696, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, be amended to read as follows:

16-696. In each such city, which acquires land for a park or parks, there may be a board of park commissioners, who shall have charge of all the parks belonging to the city, with power to establish rules for the management, care, and use of the same. The board of park commissioners shall be composed of not less than three members, but the total number shall be evenly divisible by three, who shall be resident freeholders of such city. A tie vote of such board shall be broken by the mayor. They shall be appointed by the mayor and council at their first regular meeting in January each year except for the original board which may be appointed anytime. At the time of the first appointment, one-commissioner one-third of the number to be appointed shall be appointed for a term of one year, one one-third for a term of two years, one and the rest shall be appointed for a term of three years, which term shall be computed from the first meeting in the preceding January. ~~and-after~~ After the appointment of ~~such-three-members~~ the original board it shall be the duty of the mayor and council to appoint or reappoint one-member one-third of the board each year for a term of three years to commence at the time of appointment at the first meeting in January. Each member shall serve until his successor is appointed and qualified. A vacancy occurring on such board by death, resignation or disqualification of a member shall be filled for the remainder of such term at the next regular meeting of the city council. A majority of all the members of the board of park commissioners shall constitute a quorum. It shall be the duty of the board of park commissioners to lay out, improve, and beautify all grounds ~~new~~ owned

or hereafter acquired for public parks, and employ helpers and laborers as may be necessary for the proper care and maintenance of such parks, and the improvement and beautifying beautification thereof, to the extent that funds may be provided for such purposes. The members of the board, at its first meeting in each year, shall elect one of their own members as chairman of said such board. Before entering upon his duties each member of the board shall take an oath, to be filed with the city clerk, that he will faithfully perform the duties of his office and will not in any manner be actuated or influenced therein by personal or political motives.

The board of park commissioners may also be constituted by the mayor and council as an ex officio recreation board. When so constituted, such recreation board shall have the duty and authority to promote, manage, supervise and control all recreation activities supported financially by such city to the extent funds are available.

At its first meeting in January, 1970, or any year thereafter, the mayor and council of such city may abolish the board of park commissioners, if one has been appointed as above provided for in this section, and may establish a board of park and recreation commissioners, who shall have charge of all parks belonging to the city and all recreational activities supported financially by the city, with power to establish rules for the management, care, supervision and use of the--same such parks. The board of park and recreation commissioners shall consist of such number of members, not less than three, and have such terms of office as determined by the mayor and council;--They shall be appointed by the mayor and council at its first meeting in January--each year a vacancy is to be filled; be appointed to such terms of office and in such numbers as provided in this section for appointment of a board of park commissioners. It shall be the duty of the board of park and recreation commissioners to lay out, improve, beautify, and design all grounds, bodies of water, and buildings now owned or hereafter acquired for public parks and recreational facilities, and employ such persons as may be necessary for the proper direction, care, maintenance, improvement and beautifying beautification thereof, and for program planning and leadership of recreational activities, to the extent that funds may be provided for such purposes. The board shall also have the duty of continued study and promotion of the needs of the such city for additional park and recreational facilities. Members of the board of park and recreation commissioners at its first

meeting in each year shall elect one of its own members as chairman of the board. Before entering upon his duties each member of the board shall take an oath, to be filed with the city clerk, that he will faithfully perform the duties of his office and will not in any manner be actuated or influenced therein by personal or political motives.

Sec. 2. That original section 16-696, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, 1943, is repealed.