

Chaska  
Parks and Recreation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
July 12, 2022

**1. Call to Order**

The July 12, 2022 meeting of the Chaska Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair Downs at 7:00 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Attendance: Chair David Downs, Vice Chair Jason Branch, Donelle Heieie, Georgiann Keyport, Elizabeth Wynveen, Karli Cich, Terry Schwerm and Michael Heuer, Zach Saueressig

Absent: Roda Hassan

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Marshall Grange and Assistant to the Director Mary Monteith, IS Assistance - Michelle Blasko.

**3. Adopt Agenda**

Motion by Keyport, second by Schwerm, to adopt the July 12, 2022 meeting Agenda.

Roll Call for Approval

**4. Visitor Presentation**

None in attendance

**5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

5A. Motion by Heieie, second by Heuer, to approve the Chaska Parks Board meeting minutes of May 10, 2022.

Roll Call for Approval

**6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes**

6A. Council Minutes May 5, 2022

6B. Council Minutes May 16, 2022

Wynveen asked about the City Council discussion at this meeting on the preliminary plat for Chaska Gallery apartments. Council Member Hubbard addressed the plat and noted that there isn't a playground on there. There were comments that this type of residency typically doesn't have a tot lot or playground area based on demographics. It was noted by the planning commission at their recent meeting, that rental housing is hard to find. The demographics of renters over the last few years has changed, there is more need. Chair Downs agreed and shared

in Council Member Hubbard's statement that all kids should have access to a safe place to play, that was her reasoning to have one there.

The Commission asked for staff to look into it and see if there is park access close by. Grange stated there should be a playground within a half mile radius of a residential area per the City's Comprehensive Plan. There was discussion with the developer about this and if they are currently factoring in a tot lot on-site. Chair Downs questioned who will maintain it. Grange stated it would be maintained by the developer. Cich questioned if playgrounds or tot lots are decided by distance or by density. Grange stated there are many variables that occur, and density can change, distance has always been the determining factor and most cities try to be within a 10-minute walk or half a mile of the nearest park, that is best practice. Overall, Chaska has done a good job with placement of the parks systems.

6C. Council Minutes June 6, 2022

6D. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of May 11, 2022

## **7. Discussion Items**

7A. Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

Grange stated more time has been needed to go through the elements of the plan with the consultant, Community Design Group and WSB. WSB was involved on the front end with some current conditions analysis, but really hadn't been involved since. They have reviewed and had some recommendations for Antonio to factor in. Grange stated it was good to get another perspective and to receive good recommendations. Grange noted he has meetings this week to further discuss internally a deep dive into some of the areas of concern. Identifying and prioritizing some of the gaps in the trail system, future expansion of the trail system, and addressing the intersections of concern. It will be good, coming together with other staff and agreeing on what that project list is and prioritizing it, to then adding it to the implementation section of the plan. It then becomes a good guiding document for us to key in on moving forward and positioning the city on funding sources, such as grants that could become available. It always helps a bit to be able to identify that more specifically in the plan. So that is a little extra work we still need to do. We also need to talk through the idea of the reduction in speed in downtown, as Antonio has that recommendation in there, there is a lot of implications that come with that, that we need to again, talk about internally. What does that look like, is it something we want to put out to the community or not and go from there. The other area, is the downtown, it presents some challenges. There is the idea of funding sources, and protected bicycle lanes. After these meetings, he will have a more concise, prioritized project list.

Heieie questioned if location of protected bicycle lanes will affect parking, Grange stated likely yes, the purpose of the protected bike lane would be an all age and ability lane to increase safety. Keyport inquired about a protected paseo. Grange clarified paseos are intended for walking and biking. The defining work of the bicycle lane would be a separate lane even from pedestrians. Grange also noted the idea of a larger secured bike parking facility as this may provide a good starting point to seeing if people will ride downtown to try it.

#### 7B. Community Center Master Plan

Heieie summarized programming recommendations from residents and was hoping to gain more feedback from the 18–25-year-old population. Chair Downs inquired about the next step in the process. Heieie stated there will be another meeting the last Wednesday in July and hinted that implementation could begin in the near future. Grange will continue community engagement with Fire and Ice coming up this weekend, QR code with project information, presence at the River City Community Event, and focus group meetings.

Grange shared the website and provided a summary from the Community Events page. Vice Chair Branch thanked Grange for getting the community out and their input.

#### 7C. Harvest West Neighborhood Park

Grange stated a kick-off neighborhood meeting was held June 14<sup>th</sup> and introduced the project, discussed a timeline, and did a walk-through of the general layout. An online survey was made available during mid-June and the responses showed most residents in half mile service radius had at least one child in the house and ranked a “modern playground” along with paved trails as their top choice for the space.

Heieie inquired about maintenance of the future park and trails because it belongs to an HOA. Schwerm added the Villa residents and housing residents have different maintenance guidelines. Trail maintenance is currently not a part of the HOA contract. Saueressig also commented currently paved trails are not maintained by the city.

Grange stated there was strong interest to install a shelter to provide shade.

Chair Downs clarified the trail would lay between the pond and the current backyard of homes but inquired about the possibility of the trail on the inside of the pond instead. Schwerm added a key access point would be lost but there would be 3 other access points.

Cich noted the paved trails will not negatively impact the trees surrounding the trail. Chair Downs suggested having another meeting to address these and other concerns or questions. Cich also noted most homes in Chaska have sidewalks in the back of their yard not like most other cities who have them in the front. This is simply the way Chaska does it and also noted the native grasses would grow and form a natural barrier between the trail and the homes’ backyards.

Grange noted the next neighborhood meeting will be mid-August and will keep the Parks Board updated.

#### 7D. Chaska Miracle Field

Grange stated this concept was mentioned during the new Chaska Community Park discussion when the city acquired that land. The concept was to create a miracle field and play area for children with and without disabilities. The fundraising efforts have been resurrected and continued. Keyport added the kick-off meeting was held June 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss the field’s purpose

and the on-going fundraising effort. Schwerm echoed the comments of other Parks Board members and noted the proximity to the school and wondered if that would cause any conflict.

Chair Downs inquired about the goal for fundraising. Grange stated the next step is to establish cost and the Rotary will lead the fundraising effort. A smaller group will be made to create design layouts and will bring information back to the larger group. Grange also suggested a tour of the manufacturing plan to get a better understanding of the landscape structures.

Wyveen questioned how much of the community park will the miracle field and adaptive playground occupy. Grange noted there will be a good amount of land/property for other amenities if desired down the road. Schwerm stated the field will be less than 10% of the overall property. Saueressig requested an arial photo of the property to be sent out after the meeting. Grange will send out a general site plan and added the school will be in the southwest corner of the lot.

Heieie wanted clarification on where the structures will be located. Grange provided a general location of homes, structures and roads.

Chair Downs inquired about the progress of City Square West. Grange stated administration decided on a developer and have had meetings over the past year but is not sure when ground breaking will occur. Grange also stated the plaza will be owned by the city and discussed the idea of Art Space as part of the housing mix on that site.

#### 7E. Department Happenings

Grange updated the Parks Board on the collaboration with Parks and Recreation and Community Education. The purpose was to discuss how both departments can collaborate and maximize resources. The discussion was followed up with joint staff meeting a few weeks ago to review staff roles and what this collaboration would look like. Both parties will meet again and discuss further.

Grange noted the project at the curling arena is completed with new flooring and a new coat of paint.

The city is currently participating in a project called Growth through Opportunity which provides young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience some public service jobs, social interactions and learn new job skills. This is an 8-week program where 2 individuals will spend a week in 8 different departments within the city. The individuals will report back to City Council on August 15, 2022.

Grange reminded everyone the water safety day camp programs dates are July 15, 22, 29 with the 29, 2022 at Fireman's Park for water safety in the lake as well as appropriately sized life jackets and a gift bag.

Grange mentioned the four park parties in each of the City's wards. These parties will have Park staff available to watch kids while adults learn about facility renovations. Bark in the Park will have a new 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Chaska Pet Parade.

Grange also noted the city hired a new marketing manager for Parks and Recreation and will be starting Monday July 18, 2022.

Fire and Ice Bonspiel Festival happens this weekend with music and family entertainment on Saturday.

## **8. Other Business**

### **8A. Round Table**

Cich took a tour with water resource engineer, Brent Alcott and looked at a lot of water restoration areas. Cich stated she would like to work with Brent in the future. Grange commented on the hard work that Brent does and suggested having him come once a year and provide the Parks Board with a review.

Heieie noticed there is still signage up for Chaska Par 30. Grange will look into that. She also noted children are being stung by hornets and wasps when they use the megaphones at the playgrounds.

Wyveen stated it will be spring of 2023 for golf course completion and noted Farmer's Market is each Wednesday from 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Saueressig commented on the small and cramped workout room and suggested tours again for current and future projects.

Keyport had nothing to report.

Heuer noted the Taste of Chaska was great and had a wide variety of food. He also congratulated the Public Works department for their work on the new Ice Arena.

Chair Downs suggested offering more golf lessons in the community because the one at Olive Green fills up the first day.

## **9. Adjourn**

Motion by Saueressig, second by Wyveen, to adjourn the July 12, 2022 meeting.

Roll Call to Adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

Next meeting: August 14, 2022