

Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
December 9th, 2019

1. Call to Order

The December meeting of the Chaska Park Board was called to order by Chairman Roan at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

2. Roll Call

Present: Roan, Downs, Ives, Wittrock, Olsen, Branch, Udermann, Wayveen

Absent: Gutierrez, Mihajlov, Kim

Staff Present: Marshall Grange, Mary Monteith

3. Adopt the Agenda

Motion by Udermann, second by Wittrock to adopt the December 9th, 2019 meeting agenda. Motion carried.

4. Visitor Presentation

None in attendance.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion by Olsen, second by Branch to approve the Chaska Park Board meeting minutes of October 14th, 2019. Motion carried.

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

- 6A. Received Council Meeting Minutes from October 7th
- 6B. Received Council Meeting Minutes from October 21st
- 6C. Received Council Meeting Minutes from November 4th
- 6D. Received Council Meeting Minutes from November 19th
- 6E. Received Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from September 11th
- 6F. Received Planning Commission Meeting Minutes from October 9th

7. New Business

7A Recognition of Maintenance Superintendent Ron Pieper's Retirement

Director Grange recognized Ron Pieper's 30-years with the Parks and Recreation department. Ron was the first maintenance guy hired upon opening of the Community Center. Over the years, Ron has done a fabulous job maintaining the Community Center as well as the Curling and Event Center, he basically can fix anything! He will be missed, but at the same time we are excited for him!

With Ron announcing his retirement back in 2018, a decision was made to do a facility-wide gaps analysis study. The study showed areas of staffing needs at public works and the community center. It also recognized remodel needs across most of the city buildings. This led to the decision of creating a new public works maintenance division where over the course of the next couple years, multiple maintenance positions will be filled. The community center will be posting for 2 newly created position this month, a facility supervisor to help oversee the CCC maintenance staff and an ice arena coordinator. Both positions will report to the community center manager, Kelsi McNutt. Daytime maintenance staff will be moving to overnight to better accommodate the deep cleaning needs of the building. Internal candidates have been encouraged to apply for the new upcoming positions as well.

7B Park Board Commissioner Updates

7Bi Grange also recognized commissioners, Pat Wittrock and Sean Olsen for their commitments to being on the Park Board over the last nine-years. Both have reached their term limits. The average hours of service over the years is 109 for each one. Thank you for your service and dedication!

7Bii Grange mentioned that for the 2020 commissioner appointments, Lauren Mihajlov and Vincent Kim will need to re-apply if still interested. The January park board meeting will also have the nominations for the 2020 board chair and vice chair.

7C Park Rx

Grange shared he was invited to sit in on a meeting with other community partners to discuss the idea of Park RX coming to Carver County. The Park Rx concept is the idea of positioning the medical field with parks and trails in our communities, as a means to enhance a person's overall health and well-being. Participants include: Carver and Scott County Public Health, Three Rivers park staff, the DNR and the U of M Arboretum.

The goal of Park Rx is to develop a program for health care professionals to formally prescribe time out in nature to their patients, whether it be a programmed event or simply out walking and socializing. While the patient is outside as the doctor prescribed, they can then report into an app showing location of where they are at as well as what activity they are doing. This holds the patient accountable to what the doctor prescribed. Discussions will occur over the next couple months with area health care providers, such as Ridgeview and St. Francis, to help gain momentum on bringing this concept to Carver County.

8. Old Business

8A Trail Wayfinding Pilot Project

Pat Stieg with Carver County Public Health was in attendance to share the results of the Trail Wayfinding Pilot Project recently done by WSB. The survey was specific to the signage recently put in place along the trails this past summer. The results were specific to signage done on trails located in Chaska and Victoria. WSB staff conducted various interviews along the local trails, at the local farmers market, as well as at The Lodge to engage with AOA's (active

older adults). An on-line survey was also put out on social media for the general public to participate. 163 people in total completed the survey.

Users were asked what they liked and/or disliked about the trails and the signage. WSB was able to reach out to many diverse populations on the trails. They reached out to walkers, runners, bikers, and moms; as well as visited The Lodge at the Chaska Community Center. Discussions were held on color and design of the signs, as well as visibility and location.

While many overall users were supportive of the trail system, many reported they haven't been comfortable using the trails in the past as they were afraid of getting lost. Concerns were also expressed as far as location markers. Users asked if there could be a notation on the signs as to how far away one is from a trailhead/map, public bathrooms and restaurant/business location. A common theme expressed was the importance of the design content on the sign and installation of the signs on the trails. That should be thoughtfully considered as to be useful to all users. Signs design should be catchy.

Survey findings were sent out to both counties, as well as cities that participated. It will be on them individually to create and pay for the signs and installation of them along their trail system.

8B Mountain Bike Trail Project

Grange gave a project update on the progress over the last month and explained the recent discussions held specific to the need for a land conveyance in the right of way area of about 10 feet. Once that is finalized, the memorandum of understanding will go before the Chanhassen City Council. Grange is still hopeful there will be a spring start to building out of the trail.

8C Bike Friendly Community Project

Last month was the first official meeting of the group. Discussions surrounding why this group is critical to the successful submission of the application, as well as what it will take to move forward were held. The 5-E groups broke out into brainstorming sessions and will report back in January with recommendations on the various 5-E areas and how they tie into the application. Lots of great ideas and good energy at the meeting!

8D Off Leash Dog Area

With the one-year mark of the Lions Park OLDA, the park board recently had a work session on looking back and discussing how things have gone over the past year and where we are at now. Scott Selken, from public works was in attendance as well to give a report on things from their perspective. The newly created area of the park has been greatly improved with the addition of the new amenities as well as meeting the long-term goal of having a dog park in Chaska.

Looking back, we opened the front dog area sooner than was anticipated. Once fencing was put up, many started using it throughout the winter. Periodic conversations were had throughout the year with both public works and the Chaska PD as far as any concerns or issue. There really have been none. There have been no reported dog fights or bites. While there was feedback

from the public on separating areas for small dog/large dog, the board directed staff to come up with some ideas to better market that larger area in the back, with the hope for more usage. Signage was added at the park directing dog owners to that area. Additional marketing pieces will be put out on the spring as well.

Discussion was held on opening up the sight line of the back area for a better public visual. More noticeable. It also could help create a better air flow which could help dry out the land in the spring as well as help address mosquitos. Public works will also be reaching out to the DNR to see if spraying the area could be a viable option as well.

All agreed it has been a great addition to our community. Board members appreciated the feedback from public works department, as well as encouraged all to provide feedback. The goal with the area is that all have a good experience with their pet.

Udermann asked Selken about the crosswalk area off Park Ridge Drive as far as better lighting for the patrons parking across the street at the middle school. Selken will investigate and see what options could be viable and will report back.

9. Other Business

9A Department Happenings-Grange shared that the winter brochure just went out to residents. He spoke of the many various happenings and programming going on with the Parks and Recreation department this winter.

9B Park Board Roundtable

- Downs-Asked about the visit with the city of Carver. Annually the 2 cities re-evaluate on programming offered as well as efficiency and cost. Things are currently working well.
- Wyveen-Made note of all the recent fun holiday events the city has had going on, as well as the great holiday decorations in downtown Chaska. Attended Marnita's Table, and thought it was a great event, good food and conversation.
- Ives-Bummed I missed the Toy Story showing in the theater! Recognized Sean and Pat on their years of service.
- Olsen-Gave feedback on Marnita's Table as well. Inquired on the proposed changes to the ages for youth to be in the work out areas. Gave a thank you to all who do so much for the city, Parks and Recreation staff, public works, the public for always providing feedback and ideas. He encouraged the public to consider serving on a commission and getting involved in the community.
- Branch-Thanked Olsen and Wittrock for their commitment to the park board.
- Downs-He seconded what Branch said regarding Olsen and Wittrock. Pleasant to work with them.
- Wittrock-Reflected on the great projects she has been a part of; Firemen's Park, Veterans Park, and the dog park. She also encouraged all to get on a board or commission.
- Udermann-Attended a recent birthday party in The Lodge for a 95-year-old, what a great space that area is for events. He also recognized Zac Johnson for his great efforts with pee wee basketball, Udermann is coaching for the first time his daughters' team.

He also talked about the 100 Club and the great new holiday decor they purchased for City Square this year. Also attended Marnita's Table, a great event. He recognized John Lenzen for his contribution of the awesome Christmas tree at Firemen's Park. Gave a shout out to the Chaska Hawks Football State Champs and suggested for those needing gift ideas for Christmas that a membership to the CCC would be a great stocking stuffer!

- Roan-Thanked Olsen and Wittrock for there service on the park board. Stated it's been a real pleasure working with them over the years and they will be hard to replace.

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the December Park Board meeting by Olsen, second by Wittrock. Motion Carried.