

**Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
September 15th, 2020
Event Center and Zoom**

1. Call to Order

The September 15th meeting of the Chaska Park Board was called to order by Chair Dave Roan at 7:00 pm at the Chaska Event Center and via Zoom.

2. Roll Call

Present at Event Center: Dave Roan, Jason Branch, Matt Udermann, Dave Downs, Georgiann Keyport, Zac Saueressig

Via Zoom: Josh Ives, Elizabeth Wyveen, Cindy Anderson-Arts Consortium

Absent: Ernesto Ruiz Gutierrez

Staff: Marshall Grange, Mary Monteith, Erin Link, Kevin Wright (assisted with IS needs)

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Udermann, second by Keyport to adopt the September 15th, 2020 meeting agenda. Roll call for approval of agenda.

4. Visitor Presentation

None in attendance

5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Downs, second by Branch to approve the Chaska Park Board meeting minutes of August 10th, 2020. Motion carried. Roll call for approval of agenda.

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

6A July 20th Council Meeting Minutes

Branch mention that Council had quite a bit of talk on the Harvest Development as far as playground and connector trails. He asked if we would be talking on any of that tonight. Chair Roan responded that all discussions are still very preliminary, it will be a bit before we get to a timeframe to start neighborhood meetings and discussions for that site.

6B August 3rd Council Meeting Minutes

6C Planning July 8th Meeting Minutes

Roll call for receiving Council and Planning meeting minutes.

7. New Business

7A Art Consortium of Carver County (ACCC)

Grange, I am excited to announce this opportunity, he introduced ACCC President Cindy Anderson (via Zoom) who will speak shortly. Grange went on to explain how tonight is just an introduction to this concept and the potential benefits of this partnership. We are simply seeking your initial reaction. He stated that this gives all an opportunity to ask any questions or voice any concerns. Ideally, he would like to bring this back to you in October with a recommendation for council to approve a partnership agreement. The main goal of this is there would be dedicated space for the Arts Consortium to exhibit, as well as a place to operate a gift shop to display local area arts and crafts for sale. The vending area would be cleared out and be replaced with their retail space. The area would provide great visibility for them and already has security measures in place to lock up.

The 2nd part of this is the idea of our program staff partnering with the Consortium on a wide variety of programming. It also could allow for us the opportunity to bring arts to a wide variety of ages, and all abilities. We are excited about this partnership, as to what we can explore and do. The benefits are numerous. There still are lots of logistics to figure out, however, we have staff working on this, as well as Cindy. There are incentives for both sides.

Anderson came on and shared a PowerPoint with the group. She shared their mission of “strengthening our community through the arts”. We bring people to the arts and arts to the people. Carver County has many very talented artists, and there was very little communication means of connecting them to the people of Carver County. We have been around since 2009, in 2012 we officially became a 501 C3 Corporation. 100% volunteer run. Over the last few years, we were seeing large growth and gaining big momentum. We had exhibits across Carver County, we initiated Art Wanderer, as well as many other great events. 2020 we started out strong, had events booked for the year and then Covid hit. Many of our events were canceled. Basically now, volunteers are working hard with creating the first ACCC virtual gallery and shop for artists. This is a means to continue to lift the arts and support our artists, by featuring their work on-line that is for sale. We will be going live very soon.

The question was asked, why the move and why the Community Center? The location in Victoria, is in the lower level of a building, it is very hard to see us from the street. The lease is also up. The Community Center has a variety of space that we could have access to that would allow for us to better social distance, as well as expand on our offerings. We would have access to many partnership opportunities within this building, two schools, the Lodge, the programming that is currently, all great opportunities that could help us expand our mission. Downs asked, what about the protocols surrounding Covid and currently only open to non-members? Grange, we are seeing more activity here, the timing could be consistent for the CCC to open up more areas as well. The earliest we could move forward

with bringing this to council, would be mid-October/early November. Grange mention that we have talked with Cindy on preparing a Covid plan for the gift shop and gallery areas. We have also discussed people coming in during block times, similar to the registration system the CCC is currently using. We also are talking on only being open during peak CCC times. They would have volunteers here during those times to watch the numbers. Grange expressed this could be a great opportunity, could be good for all. Staff on both sides are talking through a lot of these questions. Keyport asked about the size comparison, Andersen, similar footprint, but oddly patterned. As for artists in the gallery, we have featured some of the same artists work overtime so can help build off that. This is a unique opportunity, we can have showings with monthly themes and multiple artists can show their work at the same time, and we can add additional programming. There also is a potential for a school partnership with Breakaway. Artists would love to work in an art class with the students. Udermann asked about the gathering spaces that would be lost, like the area to watch kiddos swim, is there a plan to replace those? MG, it is a bit of a tradeoff, cannot gather much now anyway but we do have the lobby/rotunda area that we could change up as well. Wyveen asked about rent for use of space, as it is taking away from other uses. MG talked on lease agreement or a revenue share idea of some sort. He will look to you all for input and what you would like. He likes the revenue share as feels both have skin in the game to make it a success. More to come.

8. Discussion Items

8A Nick Mason Scholarship Fund-Erin Link, Recreation Manager

Link talked through the progress that has occurred over the last few months working with Grange and Anna Mason. Link referenced a page that will go live soon on the new city website. Interested families can access program information, including eligibility criteria on the website.

She talked through how the foundation has been established and how we got to today. The criteria was worked through by a committee of local people who work with underserved populations in the area. Current eligibility requires that the applicant be a city of Chaska resident. Once we have a better feel on growth and funding, and sustainability, we may grow this into other communities. Link shared information from the website:

Eligibility Criteria Participants must be a resident of Chaska

Participant must meet one of the following criteria:

Option 1:

Participate in at least one of the following programs (must provide documentation):

- County financial assistance, such as SNAP, Medical Assistance and MFIP
- Social Security Disability

Option 2:

If you have a financial hardship due to at least one of the following reasons, please provide a brief description of this hardship.

- An unexpected circumstance such as medical expenses or loss of job
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- Additional expenses related to supporting someone with special needs (ex. staffing costs, therapy costs, specialized equipment)

Eligibility Benefit Eligibility allows for 50% off program fees. The remaining 50% of the program fee must be paid at the time of registration. Max: \$100 per person; \$300 per family (per year)

Examples of Eligible Programs: Skate and swim lessons, youth sports and art classes.

Exclusions Special Events

School Age Childcare/Preschool

Program less than \$10

Birthday Parties

Facility or Park Shelter Rentals

Adult League Registrations

Trips/Travel

Private Lessons or Training

Daily Fees

Memberships

Basically, the financial assistance is for a household who has had an unexpected circumstance which has resulted in a financial hardship or for supporting someone with special needs. The funds would help support the family with access to some programming at the Community Center. The committee will review and approve applications based on the eligibility criteria. Link researched other communities who had similar type of foundations to learn some do's and don'ts. This helped the committee define the guidelines.

Grange and Mason worked with the Community Giving group to get this fund set up, it now falls under the Carver County Community Foundation, as one of the funds to donate to.

Staff have also had discussions on ideas for sustaining this fund-we added donation language to our registration program, we added language to our sponsorship program forms, and we will have information at our community events as well.

She shared the information that is on the City website as well:

Apply for Scholarship

[Online Application for Scholarship](#)

[Application for Scholarship \(PDF\)](#)

Once an application has been received, the Parks and Recreation Department will contact you to register for programs. Call 952-448-3176 for more information.

Donate to the Nick Mason Fund

Make a tax-deductible [donation online](#).

Funds

Funding for this scholarship program is provided by individual, community, and corporate donations. In the event that the scholarship fund is depleted, scholarships may not be available until additional funds are received.

For now, Link will be the primary contact. If request were to come through that were unique, she would talk more again with the committee. She is excited to report she had the first donation come through already from a Bell Bank donation of \$1,000. The current balance is at \$8,000.

Questions-

Downs-marketing campaign to solicit donations. Yes, we included in our most recent programming piece. Will we do some on-going pieces throughout the year. Also, \$8,000, what is optimum amount of funding? Link, no idea, will see how many requests come in. Downs, I think it will do pretty good, we will get testimonials from those who have been assisted, that will help with a feel good. Share the story.

MG, Nick's wife Anna, wants to seek some grant opportunities to help. We will get creative!

Udermann-will it be marketed to those who need it? Pave the way for others for memorials. At a certain point, staff time and admin would come into play.

Saueressig-why wasn't membership considered? Link, consistent with how others set theirs up. Plus, the on-going cost of membership is higher than our target amount of assistance. Initial thought process was around programming, be restrictive at first to see how fast applications come in.

Downs, thinks that most that apply will be nonmembers anyway.

8B Lake Grace Trail

MG-Touched on update from last month. Site conditions make things a bit difficult. Most of the townhome patios are right up to the trail. Concept review was a larger grand plan, as we went out and got guesstimate, costs came in way higher, almost \$1 million. So, with that, staff, are going back and looking at what we can accomplish, mindful of the primary goal of connecting to the underpass. We need a bridge of some sort. We need tree removal; the trails need repair and safety concerns would be addressed.

So, we maybe go with a 2 Phase approach. Then after some time, we get feedback and decide what next steps are and budget impact. Staff from PW can perform some of the

work which will help minimize the costs as well. Saueressig, neighbors were really pumped on what they saw on the drawings. Grange, more to come.

8C-Community Center Operations Update

Progress overall, things are still slower. Now families are focusing on end of summer vacations and school. It also is still good weather to get outside. We started out restrictive. We added Open Skate, opened the daycare and track was added. Things are slowly picking up, remember, there are lots of areas still not open to usage.

Staff recently did a survey to our members, we asked about our cleaning procedures, safety questions and the online registration process. Many Agreed and Strongly Agreed on the various areas. So was good news from those who are coming in.

We are expanding the hours on Oct. 1, we will be open, 5am-9pm, M-F, 6am-4pm, on Saturdays, closed Sundays. We are trying to be mindful of costs to be open and expenses on Sundays. We also are looking into personal training. Starting to try some additional programming as well at the CCC.

Averaging 400-500 per day. Scan in's for August was 5,000. In the past, it would be around 25,000. We are still around 25% capacity. This is taking time, the Covid impact is not going away, it could be on-going for another year. We will continue to watch the trends, with school starting and as weather changes, we will be watching.

Keyport-The Lodge, thoughts on opening? We are taking a close look at that. We are offering specific times for driver safety classes. Not getting back to how things were though. Opening the doors and all coming in, will not happen.

8D-Curling

The summer leagues just finishing up. We had no issues. Member practices are showing a big increase, as well as the high-performance practices. We had 188 registered for the Winter 1 session, but that will continue to increase. They are coming back. Crooked Pint will also benefit. Staff from US Curling was on site to video for a film on getting back to curling. They showcase our building, great PR for us. The Minnetonka HS Vantage program is coming back next week as well, that is a great partnership and kids have a blast.

Event Center

Seeing some additional activity as well. 12 of the next 15 days there have rentals. Calls are coming in for 2021, May-August all Saturdays are booked. Good news!

8E Bicycle Friendly Community Update-Grange shared that he just set up the next meeting, Oct 8th. Excited to revisit this and to bring back discussion. Covid definitely has brought out many via bikes for modes of transportation. Many advocated that bike shops were an essential business as a means of transportation, so they were allowed to be open. Many places of business have been out of their bike inventory!

Trail Projects-Public Works has been busy with finishing up some of the trail work through Chaska.

Grange recently participated in a meeting with the Eastern Carver Trails committee, along with Roan. Lots of discussion on the Century Blvd trail and connecting into the Arboretum wetland area.

Keyport-Asked some signage questions, will there be more long-term signage? Grange shared information on the Pilot study that was done with Carver County, as a result, signage was created for the Orange loop, and Green line. This was intended as a way to get some feedback from the community on the actual signage as we think of a whole system wide program. We will be able to develop a pedestrian friendly plan with funding from Carver County. People would explore more if they had the comfort of knowing where they are going.

8F Cycle Chaska

Staff are planning this event for the end of the month, Sept. 26. MG gave details of the event. Registration is required.

9. Other Business

9A. Board Roundtable-

Ives-Attest to the popularity of biking, Michaels Bikes shop was backed up 4/6 weeks on tune ups. He shared that they were unable to provide inventory!

Wyveen-Received the Neighbors of Chaska magazine, MG's article highlighted neighborhood parks vs. city parks. He also referenced the inventory link on the city website and there also a great story on disc golf featuring Jason Branch.

Downs-Request for a project-pump bike park, huge in Cottage Grove-Woodbury, there seems to be room at Lions Park, wish list.

Matt-Naming of parks, legacy, and teachers' parks, keep those in mind. Honor teachers and farmers. When I got here tonight, I noticed, 12 cars in the parking lot from 12 different states, crazy! This place is so popular! Par 30 usage, Town Course, and the park plans for them, was an educational piece for me. Hawks Ridge, it was tough. A nice addition, Kids/Adults happy to be there. Good job on this.

Keyport-Enjoy coming to these meetings. So much gets done, it is exciting to see. I enjoy the trails and working out at the CCC. She is excited by the Arts partnerships.

Saueressig-I frequently get questions on trails as well. Got a lot today out of this meeting. Archery, great fun. Open ended question-Halloween, how are people are going to be celebrating. MG shared potential event at Community Park-time slots would require them to pre-register. Use the trails around the ball fields. Walk around it, interactive things at some of the spots. This will be an example of where P/R can come up with a good solution outdoors, spread out in a controlled way. Currently 100 + are registered. Creative solution

to be excited about. If we can put on event where we are spread out, moving, etc, it is about safe as we can be.

Roan-Excited about the possibilities that could come of the partnership with the Arts Consortium.

10. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn, Udermann, 2nd by Branch.

10A. Next Meeting October 12th
