

**Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
October 12th, 2020
Event Center and Zoom**

1. Call to Order

The October 12th 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, Matt Udermann, Dave Downs, Zac Saueressig

Via Zoom: Elizabeth Wyveen, Jason Branch, Georgiann Keyport

Absent: Ernesto Ruiz Gutierrez, Josh Ives

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

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Udermann, second by Downs to adopt the October 12th, 2020 meeting agenda. Roll call for approval of Agenda.

4. Visitor Presentation

None in attendance

5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Udermann, second by Keyport to approve the Chaska Park Board meeting minutes of September 15th, 2020. Motion carried. Roll call for approval of agenda.

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

6A. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

Downs mentioned that he noticed in the meeting minutes from the Aug. 17 council meeting, there seemed to be quite a bit of discussion surrounding the planning commissions idea of a tot lot in the new Pioneer Vista/Lennar development. The area is south of Pioneer and Clover Ridge, about one mile from Kelzer Park. Wyveen said she also saw this in the minutes and that there was talk on using Kelzer Park, as this will not be the type of neighborhood with a lot of kids. Grange responded that if it is determined there is no need for a park, the developer would pay the city park dedication fee. MG will loop back with the planning department and report back to board at next meeting.

6B. Planning Minutes Aug 12th, no comments from Board

Roan did roll call for receiving Council and Planning minutes

7. Action Items

7A. Lake Grace Trail Recommendation

Grange shared a screen of an area map, showing the trail improvement project along the south western corner of Pioneer Trail. The primary goal with this project is to connect this trail to the underpass that was installed under Hwy 41 in 2018, this will provide a much safer way of getting from one side to the other. Users could come down through the underpass heading to the Lake Grace trail completely avoiding the 41/Pioneer intersection altogether.

Components of this project will consist of significant tree removal, the repair/resurfacing of some of the trail, and installation of the bridge. We initially talked about expanding the trail width to 8 feet, however, there is not an easy way to do this as space is tight along the existing trail. Bids came back much higher than initially planned, budget wise would be difficult to do. \$500,000 was the targeted budget amount, discussions were had by staff on scaling back and reevaluating the project. With Public Works doing some of the work, we can hold down some of the costs and come in around that \$500,000.

Grange shared that the neighborhood meeting was held on October 8th. Approximately 30-40 neighbors were there, a good turnout. We also had 3 park board members present. Things went well. Brian Jung/PW did a great job explaining things. Generally, residents were OK with the existing 6-foot-wide trail, the main concern was not wanting fencing between their home and the water. Staff is looking into safety concerns along the trail with the League of MN Cities to see what they may require. We will talk more with the residents as we learn more. Any park board feedback? Roan, Jung did great, felt things were well received by neighbors. Saueressig, most of those residents just want things to get connected. One resident approached Grange and expressed her wanting the project to move forward as her kids cross over Hwy 41 to the high school, so for her, it is a safety concern.

Udermann, for best practices, you would have a champion lead the project to help keep those residents in the loop, especially those who could not make the meeting. That would help make sure all are aware of things vs. one or two coming in at the last minute with complaints. How do we find that person? Roan, yes, making that a standard practice for projects like this on-going is a good idea.

Downs-Yes, how do we keep those people in the loop? Grange, staff create a communications page on the city website for this project and we have contact information on those that were in attendance that can help share the message as well.

Wyveen, concerns on that trail not being cleared during the winter, feels like it is not a viable, safe trail for kids to walk on. Roan, maybe that is something Jonathan can partner on to plow that trail.

Downs, next steps? Grange explained, tonight we seek recommendation to take to council to authorize staff to go ahead with bidding. Bids could go out in October, hopefully award by November meeting, and work start after that. Tree removal could start this fall yet. In the spring, trail overlay work and landscape work could start. With this moving forward over the winter months, we could regroup in the spring and see where things are at as far as trail connection to the bridge.

Motion for recommendation that City Council authorize staff to move forward with the project to connect to the Hwy 41 underpass and to go out to bid on the improvements needed.

Motion by Udermann, second by Saueressig.

Roan did roll call of Board Members

7B. Moving Park Board Meetings to Tuesdays in 2021

Grange explained how it came to be with looking to the 2021 meetings. There have been a couple issues with scheduling conflicts when council meetings. Out of courtesy for Council we should notify them if we move forward with this. Thoughts on this? Any conflicts? Start date would be January 2021. No issues, however staff please connect with Gutierrez to discuss with him.

Motion by Udermann, second by Downs, if no conflict with Gutierrez.

Roan did roll call of Board Members

8. Discussion Items

8A. Arts Consortium Update

Grange, gave a recap of the history, staff continue to have conversations and are working on agreements, there are 2 of them, one for dedicated retail space/gallery, the other would be for the partnership of other areas and the programming side of things. We are trying to keep things moving as we continue to work on and finalize the lease.

Last weeks "oops" article the Herald, did create some public confusion. Their board member was very excited about the partnership and shared things with the reporter who then ran the article prior to contacting city staff to discuss/confirm. We need to take this yet to the council; we want to follow the process of getting their approval before we move forward. They kind of jumped the gun but was all due to their excitement.

Discussions pursued on business hours/staff/marketing.

Keyport asked for timing of things. Grange, trying to come up with a short-term solution for the holiday market, but yes, we are hoping to try for an opening in November. Saueressig asked about the vending machines and what would happen to them, Grange shared they have already been relocated throughout the building.

Roan hoping for a good lease agreement to come to the board next month.

8B. Bike Friendly Community

The group reconvened last week, was good to touch base. It was last February that we last met. Generally, that was the primary goal, to connect and share some things that have happened over the last few months. Grange shared the opening of Hawks Trail, the free bike fix it station we received from the new Scheels store in Eden Prairie, along with the police department and Chaska Cares giving out 60 bikes for free to residents in Chaska. Cycle Chaska also occurred in June. Some great things happening regardless of COVID-19. Carver County Health still is willing to fund a master community bike plan via their SHIP program funding. For a city of this size, that normally would cost around \$30,000, so a great opportunity for us to take advantage of. This funding would help cover the costs of us working with an experienced consultant, staff research and community engagement, all of which we would incorporate into a guide to use over the years. We will also provide more program content on our web page ongoing. It was good to get our momentum back up and going again.

Udermann asked if this document could be shared with other cities, aligning with Carver County as a whole? We are off to a good start with that already, as we have representation from District 112 Community Ed, 112 schools as well as SW Transit.

Grange mentioned the new City website recently kicked off. The Chaska Parks and Recreation/Community Center site was merged into the City of Chaska site. We will house there a webpage for updates with this project as well. Questions on when applying for the bike friendly designation, yet to be determined.

8C. Trail of Fun

The event is Friday, Oct 23rd. Very different from our previous annual Halloween events. Will be held at Community Park; people must reserve time blocks. Families come through one at a time and follow the trail, social distancing throughout. Estimated time for a family to get through is 30/40 minutes. We are sold out already! So great that we are outside utilizing our parks and trails still. We are hoping for good weather!

8D. 2021 Park Board Chair

At the end of this year, Dave Roan will have fulfilled his term. The usual annual process will require a new vote for the Chair/Vice Chair positions. Heads up that this is coming at the December meeting, then you would make a recommendation to the council in January, 2021.

9. Other Business

9a. Board Reports

Wyveen-I attended Cycle Chaska with my family, was a great event. Weather was OK, but was impressed with the trails we were on, was very enjoyable.

Udermann-Nice to see Cub Scout out. Kids playing flag football at Moers Park, a parent asked him about the timing of various park replacements. He learned there is a plan in place that defines which parks are up for replacement and when. Discussion on having Brian Jung from Public Work at a future meeting to share and explain that more.

Keyport-I did the 20-mile route with my husband at the Cycle Chaska event, was an enjoyable event.

Roan-thanks to Erin Link and staff on a great Cycle Chaska event. He road with Grange, Bob Lincoln, and Keyport for a bit.

10. Adjourn

Motion by Saueressig, second by Keyport to adjourn.

Roll Call of Board Members