

**Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
December 14th, 2020
Zoom**

1. Call to Order

The December 14th meeting of the Chaska Park Board was called to order by Chair Dave Roan at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

2. Roll Call

Zoom attendance: Dave Roan, Jason Branch, David Downs, Matt Udermann, Liz Wyveen, Georgiann Keyport, Zac Saueressig

Absent: Joshua Ives, Ernesto Ruiz Gutierrez

Staff: Marshall Grange, Mary Monteith, Mike Tudor-IS assistance

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Udermann, second by Keyport to adopt the December 14th, 2020 meeting agenda.

Roll call for approval, Motion Carried

4. Visitor Presentation

None in attendance

5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

5A. Motion by Downs, second by Udermann to approve the Chaska Park Board meeting minutes of November 9th, 2020.

Roll call for approval, Motion Carried

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

6A. Council Minutes November 2nd

6B. Council Minutes November 13th

6C. Council Minutes November 16th

No Planning Commission Minutes

7. Action Items

Grange recognized those finishing their terms of office.

Matt Udermann will now be representing residents of Carver County District 3 as their new County Commissioner. Congratulations Matt.

Josh Ives was recognized for finishing up his nine-year term on the Park Board. Grange mentioned that Ives was very welcoming to him when he first came on at Parks and Recreation. Thank you for your years of service.

Jason Branch is finishing his first 3-year term as well as Dave Downs finishing his 6th year term, both are up for reappointment with the Council in January.

Board Chair Dave Roan is finishing up to at least 20 years serving on the Park Board. An incredible amount of service to Chaska. We enjoyed meeting with Dave last week and going down memory lane on the various partnerships and projects he was a part of. Thank you, Dave, for your commitment to the Park Board.

The City Council will be recognizing these individuals for their commitments at a Council meeting in February. We will let you know that date once established.

We also tonight need to make a recommendation to the Council for both the 2021 Park Board Chair position as well as the Vice Chair position.

7A. Nomination for 2021 Park Board Chair

Roan asked for nominations for the 2021 Park Board Chair

Branch made a motion to nominate David Downs for the 2021 Chair position.
A second was made by Udermann. Downs Accepted.

Roll Call for approval-Motion Carried

7B. Nomination for 2021 Park Board Vice Chair

Roan asked for nominations for the 2021 Park Board Vice Chair

Roan made a motion to nominate Jason Branch for the 2021 Vice Chair position.
A second was made by Downs. Branch Accepted.

Roll Call for approval-Motion Carried

These board nominations will go before the Council for approval at their December 21st meeting.

8. Discussion Items

8A. Arts Consortium of Carver County (ACCC) Update

Grange updated the Board on where things are at. The Council approved the Letter of Intent at their November 16th meeting. Staff have been working on the details of the lease specific to the use of the cafeteria/storage areas, as well as the art gallery space. Also addressed was additional use of the P/R conference room for monthly ACCC board meetings. The lease also recognizes that the City reserves up to 12 weeks per year of gallery use.

The Memorandum of Understanding has been submitted to the City attorney for review, as well the ACCC board, if no issues, it will go to the Council for final approval on Monday, the 21st. Then we would start the lease agreement Jan 1st, 2021.

Roan asked if the retail shop has been open, and what the hours are. Currently they are open M-F, 11am-6 pm and Saturdays 11am-4pm. Grange encouraged the board to stop by and shop.

Downs, I was there last week, I was impressed, they have some very nice things. Are they open to the public? Yes, they are. Downs was concerned maybe people think they are closed since the CCC is not open. Grange, we have been talking with them on some marketing ideas to help get the word out, we inquired about a video walk through of the store. More foot traffic in the building would be good!

8B. Facilities and Operations Update

Grange gave an update on where things are at with the Community Center. Shortly after our last board meeting, we were required by the Governor's Order to close the facility again. We paused our memberships and furloughed most of our part time staff, we still have need for some evening/weekend staff. This Wednesday the Governor is to have an update on things. All FT staff have been doing facility training during this time, as once we re-open, FT staff will be working some of the facility operations. With not offering the typical programming, and mindful of where the budget is at, we need to offset some of our operating costs. We will maintain a couple fitness instructors and lifeguards. Saueressig, any indication of what the message is going to be from Walz? Grange, not really. I have heard a couple different thoughts, 1) Re-Open on the 19th, 2) Open on January 4th, 3) Open Jan. 18th. Not sure on this one. Saueressig shared the school district will stay with distance learning moving into mid-January. Grange, we really have learned to be flexible around here!

The Community Center and Curling and Event Center budgets were reviewed at Council work sessions these last couple months. They will now be on the Council's agenda for formal approval at this Monday's meeting, I encourage you if you have time, to watch the meeting.

An update to 2021 CCC membership rates, with your feedback at last month's meeting, staff discussion, and shutting down the facility once again, we ended up recommending to Council to not raise 2021 rates. The information I shared last month was part of a 5-year plan that normally we would have followed. After further talk, we recognized it is just not the right time to be raising rates on our members. We plan to hold tight for the year.

Staff talked quite a bit with Council on the upcoming Community Center 30-year anniversary. It was recognized what a primary asset the CCC has been to the City as well as the value it brings to the community. Discussion was also had on identifying a masterplan for moving us forward to ensure that we keep the Community Center as sustainable long-term as we can. More to come as things are better defined, we will be seeking community engagement and creating a task force as well. We are excited for the process. Saueressig, questions on timing, and how many people for the task force? Grange, we still need to define all of that yet. Will discuss in January or February. We will look for a representative from our membership base, District 112, the business community, various sports association as well as a park board representative. There will be plenty of opportunities to help shape things within this plan.

Grange shared that we have had to address a couple capital improvement projects that we were not expecting, one is a new ice resurfacers. The current one has surpassed its life expectancy; we need something more reliable. We are working with our electric department on an opportunity that may be available via a rebate program for an electric Zamboni. This potentially could help fund it. Staff are working through the details on that.

The second issue is the pool, when we painted the bottom of the pool this past spring/summer, we did not resurface the interior lining of the pool due to the budget. Since then, it has become evident that the current underlining (Diamond Brite) is chipping down to the concrete, and that has created algae growth, which is a health concern. We will address this while we are shut down, staff have already started this week with draining the pool. Disinfection of the pool will occur, as well as relining again of the pool with Diamond Brite. At the same time, we will be converting back to chlorine. Chlorine kills germs better and is more cost effective than Bromine. It also will help with the water clarity. With newer technology on filters, they can knock down that chlorine smell and irritation. The pool should be open again mid-January.

Udermann, questions on the Zamboni, can you do some sort of sponsorship program with the boards to help bring in some revenue? Yes, staff are already looking into this.

The Curling and Event Center has also had to close per the Governors ordinance. We were in the middle of Winter 1 leagues. Upon closing, we surveyed the members and got good feedback on moving forward. We will probably forgo W1 and start W2 as scheduled. We do still have our USA high-performance athletes practicing.

8C. Recreation Programming Update

Recreation Programming-this has been so difficult to plan with all the uncertainty. We currently are doing one month at a time as things change so quickly. There is some optimism with the vaccine, so thinking we can plan further out, to maybe spring. For now, we have continued with smaller programming ideas. I have challenged staff to start thinking ahead to Fire and Ice and what more we can offer with that event. People are going to want to be out next summer having fun!

Grange shared some of the recent events that have been happening: A virtual fitness challenge, a winter walking program, the introduction of Snowflake the elf, who is making his way around the building and sharing his location via social media. Staff held a Gingerbread decorating

contest, and last week we hosted a drive through holiday party for AOA's. Santa came and helped hand out gift bags to AOA's as they came through the parking lot, a super festive mood. There also is currently a New Year's Eve party pack available for families, which includes games and crafts. Staff have gotten real creative with ideas to help provide area families with some fun!

This staff will also be a part of assisting at the front desk of the Community Center upon reopen.

8D. Lake Grace Trail Update

Grange shared an update on the trail connection to the Highway 41 underpass. The bid opening for the bridge component was this past week. Per the city engineer, 8/9 bids came in, the lowest one came in at \$300,000, which is where we were estimating. Staff will take information to Council for approval next week and then award the bid. It will be about an 8-to-10-week project, we are hoping work will take place over the next couple months, weather and road restriction dependent. We are looking for a June completion. Brian Jung from Public Works has been working with a contractor on property access to move forward with tree removal. Things seem to be coming along.

8E. Chaska Cares Update

Grange recognized some of the great things the group has been doing throughout the pandemic. The group consists of Erin Link, Joan Seedorf, Julie Janke, Kevin Wright, Sarah Anderson, and Grange. The goal has been to attempt to reach out and help those who are the most vulnerable in the community and to lift spirits. Recently, various staff on Thanksgiving Day partnered with St. John's Lutheran church and delivered 200 meals to seniors living in Chaska. We also assisted with a winter clothing drive, which had a great response for families in need. The Toys for Tots drive also was a huge success working with Santa and the VFW, which was set up as a store for parents to come and shop.

Last weekend, Chaska PD and Target held their annual Heroes and Helpers event. Officers shopped with list in hand for 29 families and multiple volunteers helped with the wrapping.

This Thursday is another food distribution event at Gedney. Staff will again be on hand to deliver food to Chaska homebound seniors who have signed up ahead of time.

285 goody bags will also be handed out to AOA's at a senior parade in front of the Lodge this week. We currently are looking for puzzles, books, hot coco, etc. for the bags.

The holiday season will be capped off this year with a Santa parade happening on Dec. 23rd, this will be like the Easter and graduation parade held last spring. The parade will start at 4:30 on the 23rd and will make its way throughout Chaska with Santa in the lead, and police and fire following. Hoping for good weather! There will be a trackable GPS on social media so you can check where Santa is.

9. Other Business

9A. Board Reports

Wyveen-I just want to say to Marshall and his team, great job on planning for the future, and coming up with events, I commend all the planning. I would also like to encourage residents to get out to the downtown Chaska stores. Right now, there is a fun program going on, 5 for \$25, there are lots of fun things to see and great gift ideas, as well as a Santa and Frosty picture opportunity at the Gazebo.

Downs-I want to thank Dave Roan for his service as board chair, I appreciate all you have done. I look forward to doing this job, glad you have the confidence in me. I am looking forward to the Arts Consortium partnership and helping to make it successful.

Branch-Dave, thank you for everything. Your service is admirable and inspiring, thanks to Marshall and Mary and staff for everything you continue to do. I have no doubt Chaska Parks and the Community Center are going to come out of this like a fireball.

Keyport-I also would like to encourage people to go downtown to see all the beautiful lights, we recently walked around Firemen's Park, where we saw the big tree, there also are several trees decorated, a great opportunity to get out and enjoy the beautiful downtown that we have. I am volunteering Thursday at the food drive; I am looking forward to that, as have not done before. Thank you, Dave, for your remarkable service to our community. We really do appreciate it.

Udermann-I frequently ask, who does it well? Chaska gets it right a lot. He mentioned the many things Parks and Recreation have accomplished the past couple years. These are the many reasons to get involved. This is one of the most diverse boards I have served on. The benefits of Parks and Recreation are more than just a place to go work out, but they are also about the mental health and community connections. It is the people, a lot of the types of things Dave and Marshall have been a part of, even some of the things when Tom was here. Thanks for believing in me as I move on.

Saueressig-I am impressed with Dave's leadership and ability to run well conducted meetings. I am bummed to not be able to work with you anymore. To Marshall, great job getting through this year, being inventive and creative. A crazy year, I am really excited about what next year brings.

Roan-Start with my final sendoff, an advertisement, I encourage all you out there to apply for this commission or any of the other commissions out there. It is a very rewarding experience. Just do it! Thanks to everybody I have worked with, that is current and former leadership of the Parks department, with their can-do attitude and capabilities, it made things easy. We would dream, they made it happen, including the park staff. This has been a pleasure for me, the friendships I have formed. I will miss the monthly planning meetings with Marshall and Mary. I also will be staying on the bike friendly community commission. Lastly, one of the greatest pleasures when serving on this commission, is that we get to dream, we have our conversation by starting out with, "wouldn't it be nice if Chaska had this". I am comforted by the fact that I can hand the gravel over to Dave Downs and Jason Branch, they know with which the spirit in which this commission needs to operate. Continue to dream and never forget, dreams area free.

Grange-In light of all we have gone through this year, and it is the holiday season, I threw out to staff the challenge of coming up with a holiday song parody. Erin Link took the challenge on with her family. We had a full-on rally of the entire department. With the help of Mike Tudor, from communications, we were able to put this together. Here is a sneak peek of our song.

10. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn the December meeting by Udermann, Second by Saueressig.

Roll Call by Roan-Motion Carried