

Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021
Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The April 13th meeting of the Chaska Parks Board was called to order by Chair David Downs at 7 pm via Zoom.

2. Roll Call

Attendance via Zoom:

David Downs, Jalen Destin, Jason Branch, Thomas Massey, Donelle Heieie, Karli Cich, Elizabeth Wynveen, Georgiann Keyport, Zach Saueressig

Absent: Ernesto Ruiz Gutierrez

Staff: Marshall Grange, Mary Monteith, Kevin Wright, Communications Manager

3. Adopt Agenda

Downs asked Monteith to do Roll Call to Adopt the April 13th, 2021 Meeting Agenda.

4. Visitor Presentation

None Present

5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

5A. Park Board March 9th, 2021

All in Favor-Aye Accept

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

6A. Council Minutes February 22nd

6B. Council Minutes March 15th

6C. Planning Minutes January 13th

7. New Business

7A. Introduction of Newly Appointed Park Board Members

New members Thomas Massey, Karli Cich and Donelle Heieie each shared a bit about themselves with the board.

Welcome new members.

8. Action items

8A Approve Installation of Cricket Pitch at McKnight Park

Grange shared that the club reached out to the city, letting him know about their existence, and their desire to grow the sport in Chaska. Currently, he and the others who are active in the sport, have been driving almost 30-45 minutes into the metro area to play. Grange has been learning lots about the sport these last couple months. It has become very popular; it is the 2nd most spectated sport in the world. The momentum is there and believes we will start to see more and more activity in the U.S., more organized competitions, and larger stadiums built throughout the country. It is unique to support it here in Chaska and will be a good opportunity for our youth to learn about it as well.

The challenge we have had, was where do we have some open green space to use. After staff review, it was decided the best spot was at McKnight Park. While currently used for soccer and football, there is space to build a cricket pitch between the soccer fields. The public works department would construct the concrete pitch needed for roughly \$3,500 and provide the labor to do so within the CIP budget. The Cricket club has been fundraising to get the dollars necessary to buy the turf required to cover the pitch.

Anoop Kumar was present to talk through their desire to grow the program here. He shared the history of the sport with a fun fact, the first cricket game played here was in 1844 in NY. There is a growing popularity here in the states now. Florida is home to a U.S. team, where it has become a mainstem sport. In the metro area, there are various leagues throughout, the largest, is the Minnesota Cricket Association (MCA.) There is play around the Twin Cities for both youth and adults. We have wanted to start our own team and league for years. So here we are. With support from parks and recreation, and the city, it is happening. We are coaching our youth and passing it on to them. We also are conducting cricket programming for others to learn the sport. Kumar shared what a cricket field looks like. Funds for the turf have now been secured as well. The Chaska Cricket team is established as a non-profit.

The goal is to have McKnight ready by June. We will start coaching programs then through the summer and then wrap up for the season with a yearend tournament. Downs asked when a season is? Weather permitting, we can start early May till September. Downs, McKnight, both practices and games? The goal is to do recreational games there for now, just to come and play. We are sharing the field so do not think there will be tournaments there yet. Downs, a match or two for folks to come watch and learn would be great fun.

Kumar, many of us have been playing for a long time, anyone can join us to learn and try it. Massey, turf overlay questions, the maintenance and storing of it? It is a turf specific to cricket. There is a synthetic turf made in Chanhassen that we use. We glue it and nail it to the concrete. It lasts about 18 years. The Cricket Club is responsible for wear and tear. As for storage, we will not need storage for turf, but may need a shed at McKnight for equipment storage at some time.

We would love for many to come out and try it. There is a very large community out there, upwards to 1,000 who play in the Twin Cities. Kumar, there is definitely an opportunity for the city to make revenue with tournaments here. Downs, would McKnight be suitable for tournaments? Are the dimensions, right? Kumar stated that McKnight would be the best in the Twin Cities right now. The park is mowed regularly, which helps with field conditions. It would be above par. Questions on park amenities. Downs, how will scheduling of events go? Zack Johnson from the parks department gets the field requests and balances them out to provide access to the various groups. Tuesdays and Thursdays 5-8pm is when Cricket would play, as well as some Saturday/Sunday times.

Destin asked how often there are practices/games? Games and practices are once/twice a week. For the games, usually play once a week, games are usually 2-3 hours long.

Kumar shared a video of an actual cricket game for the board to see.

Grange recognized and thanked Jung and his staff at public works for their help as well as Zach Johnson again, who is working closely with the Cricket club on the youth programing.

Downs asked for a motion to recommend to City Council the installation of the cricket pitch at McKnight Park.

Motion by Massey, second by Saueressig.

Roll Call by Monteith

Grange shared this will go to Council this Monday.

Board looking forward to playing a game!

9. Discussion Items

9A. Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

Grange mentioned the work session earlier tonight held with the board, the Bike Friendly Steering committee, and Antonio Rosell from Community Design Group (CDG). Commissioners Wynveen and Destin provided an update to the rest of the board. We want to keep the public informed on this as well as the park board. Wynveen, we had the kickoff meeting tonight with Rosell. We feel he is the right choice to help us get this plan done. He has got such passion for what he does, as well as experience in and around Minnesota, as well as others states and internationally. I am impressed with his background. The plan he presented aligns with the 6 E's

and that aligns with the bike friendly criteria we will be applying for next year. He also was complementary of our community and some of what we have done already at this point. We want to get everyone enthusiastic about this project and become a community accessible for all. The community engagement is super important to the success of this, even with a pandemic going on. A link will come out soon with a public survey and an interactive wikimap for the residents to use. You can add your comments, suggest routes, test areas for trails, etc. We are hoping for 1,000 responses! We also will at a later point have community engagement opportunities in person at various community events. For now, we are starting with the online stuff. Hoping that residents pass these on-line materials on to others to complete. Our homework that was assigned tonight was to review the online stuff and provide feedback prior to it going out to the public.

Destin liked the presentation. Rosell seems really excited about it, always makes it easier to like. He learned a lot; it is totally new to him. The equity part stood out and making sure the trails and bikes are all available to everyone in the community. Important that everyone is aware of this and can be helpful for many.

Downs, leave this on our monthly meeting agenda for updates from Wynveen and Destin to update us. We will invite Rosell back in the fall to present the full master plan. Keyport, liked the interactive map to provide feedback, as it is a fun type of activity, it will help to get the 1,000 people to do the survey hopefully. That is a big goal.

9B. Cortina Woods Park Update

Grange updated the board on the neighborhood park set for remodel this year. We had sent out a neighborhood survey about 2 months ago for neighbors to provide park feedback either electronically, via mail or CCC drop off. 57 households responded, 200 people in those households. We shared initial data last month to the board. We now have met with public works and talked through current trends and the survey feedback. The common themes will be provided to the two playground contractors to draw up concepts and provide costs. Staff would select contractor based on cost and park design.

We are set to have a neighborhood meeting May 5th at the park to showcase the design. We will send out an invite to the park board as well as neighbors. They can come out to that meeting to see the concepts that have been chosen based on their feedback. According to Jung, looking at a fall timeframe for installation of new park amenities and completion. There will be ongoing agenda updates on this as we move forward as well.

Downs commented on the neighborhood meetings for the new board members who have not done one, join us at the meeting, help contribute to the park input.

9C. Carver County Arts Consortium

Downs, this topic also should be on our monthly agenda for short updates.

Grange, a significant update recently, they just had their annual board meeting and have new board representation. The new president is Mary Williamson. We are looking to set up a meeting to meet her and discuss on-going goals. Cindy Anderson will continue to be a key player and partner with us as well.

They currently have a new exhibit out in the gallery, "A Sense of Place". Check it out.

We are hearing more about an upcoming event for Prince in June. They will celebrate his 5-year anniversary of death. They are planning a county wide event with lots of things happening in June. They will be using the theater and exhibit areas.

Staff are also working with them on an event on Sunday, Aug. 22, music, and art in the park at Firemen's Park. They will have their annual CD release party. In the park will also be arts programs for youth. With this launch, we are hopeful this will become an annual event.

Grange shared with the new board members the history of how the Arts Consortium moved here into the Community Center last November from Victoria. Their lease was up, and their board felt an opportunity to look elsewhere. We had some conversations, and felt it was a great match. We needed to figure out a space for their gift shop though, where their artists can display their work for purchase. We relocated them into our old "cafeteria" space. Grange also explained the two agreements that are in place with them. One is a lease agreement for the cafeteria space, where we get a monthly base rent, if they generate sales above and beyond that base rent, the city could also get paid a share of that revenue. The 2nd agreement is a MOU for partnering with them on arts programming. Staff work with them on events throughout the year.

Downs, it is nice to bring Arts back into our focus again.

9D. Summer Recreation Program Update

Staff are hard at work planning for the summer. Programming has been a challenge throughout Covid, as we have not been able to plan too far out in advance. Now we are putting out more of a 3-month program guide. Staff are putting that together and will go out sometime this week. Swim lessons and other youth and adult activity information will also be in there soon as well.

May 22 we will have the annual Cycle Chaska. There will be a variety of bike routes to pick from. Watch for more information to come out soon. We also are excited to start back up our summer outdoor concert series in June at both City Square and Firemen's Park.

July 16th there will be a Latino band at Firemen Parks and soccer leagues starting at Riverview Terrace. We are trying to engage people in the community, both youth and adult to get out and experience the fun activities in the parks.

10. Other Business

10A. Board Reports

Branch-Get out and check out the parks! Excited about the music starting again at Firemen's.

Keyport-Recently involved with the "Stuff the Bus" campaign, the event was held at Coopers. We were tasked with seeking food donations from grocery shoppers. I was pleasantly surprised with amount of the folks who donated and donated a lot. Very successful, I enjoyed doing that.

Saueressig-loving what is going on at the CCC, with adding some new things back, and seeing the staff. Welcome to the new members.

Wynveen-Welcome to the new members, excited to have them. Congrats to the Chaska girls' basketball team, State Champs! Get out to the golf courses, they are open! In the Neighbors of Chaska piece in March, there was an ad on The Loop in Chaska, it is scheduled for a 2022 opening. Check it out, a lot of dirt being moved around there. Cycle Chaska, May 22nd, come out to bike, and check out the trails.

Donelle-Carver Cycles opened in Watertown a couple weeks ago.

Karli-I took a hike around Lake Grace and saw lots of flowers popping up in the woods!

Destin-Congrats also to the girls' basketball team. Woman's sports sometimes are looked down upon, and not respected as much as they should be. Congratulations.

Downs, I watched the girl's game, was amazed how well they played. They were awesome. Thanks to the new members for coming on. I have a request for Georgianne, could you give us a tutorial on community gardens at next months meeting? What works and what does not. Thoughts on the idea of having them in the neighborhood parks. Keyport agreed to present next month.

Grange, thank you and welcome to new members. If you want more information on projects or have questions, feel free to contact me.

11. Adjourn

Next meeting is 7pm May 11. We are looking to have another work session on naming rights and sponsorship. We would bring information to the board and talk through. Then it would go to a work session with the Council.

Motion to Adjourn by Saueressig, second by Wynveen.