

Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2021
Council Chambers and Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The July 13th meeting of the Chaska Park Board was called to order by Chair David Downs at 7 pm in the Council Chambers.

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: Jason Branch

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

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Wynveen, second by Cich to approve the July 13th meeting Agenda.

Motion Carried

4. Visitor Presentation

None Present

5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

5A. Park Board June 8th, 2021

Motion by Heieie, second by Wynveen.

Motion Carried

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

6A. Council Minutes May 17th

6B. Council Minutes June 7th

6C. Planning Minutes May 12th

7. Discussion Items

7A. Update on Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

Commissioner Wynveen gave an update on happenings since the last meeting.

The walking and biking survey and Wikimap results are posted on the project website, walkbikechaska.org. Check them out. Also, a calendar item, a pop-up event will be held at River City days, July 23, 4-8 pm, and July 24th, 10am-6pm, look for the booth next to the City of Chaska tent. Antonio Rosell (consultant) as well as some of the steering committee members will be present, there will be an opportunity for the community to ask questions, voice comments, and look at the maps. Also, a chance for those who had a hard time figuring out the Wikimap to get help with accessing that. For those who have not done the survey, this is your chance to throw in your thoughts and ideas!

There also will be some upcoming listening sessions out in the community, where we are hoping to target underrepresented populations and income levels. We will do this by meeting with the Carver County CDA, as well as engaging with some of our area youth, such as the mountain bike team. By reaching out this way, we are ensuring that there is not a huge disparity in the survey results.

Wynveen shared that she continues to be impressed with Antonio. There were concerns voiced in the survey, he wants to hear more from those people. He has stressed the importance of reaching out and talking with people who may *want* to walk or bike in our community but have various concerns with doing so. What are their concerns, why won't they bike or walk on the trails? Those people were 60% of who took the survey. People who are interested but have reservations. Maybe there is something we could do to address those concerns and help increase walking and biking in Chaska. Antonio is not just saying if you put a beacon light at this intersection, then statistically it will be safe. He wants things to **be** safe. But he also wants people to both be safe and *feel* safe at the same time. I appreciate all that he is doing. Destin, shared a comment they are really into what they do, and he really cares on what people think, I appreciate that.

Downs asked about something going out to the public to let them know there will be a booth at River City days and to stop by. Grange mentioned that we will be next to the city booth, so there will be good foot traffic. Downs also asked if Antonio was happy with the survey results, Wynveen, I think so, as the goal was 1,000 and we were slightly over that. Plus, with having this event at River City days, we can access the vast majority of who was not able to previously take the survey or look at the maps. Grange thanked the steering committee for their input and passion on this, next they will focus on and help with the vision and goals for the plan. Looking forward to that.

7B. Update on Naming Rights and Sponsorship

Grange, if you recall we kicked off this agenda item in May with a work session. We learned a bit about what opportunity there could be with naming rights and sponsorship revenue on our facilities. We also heard from a consultant in the industry, Chris Potenza with Front Burner Sports. Through that work session with the park board and then again with the city council, the feedback was the desire to pursue this further and see what the potential is.

Grange mentioned back in June he was working on the RFP, that is now complete and was sent out to 6 firms yesterday, as well as emailed out to all of you. We also will place a link on our website where the community can review it. The deadline is the end of July. From there, staff will review the proposals and come back to the park board with a recommendation in August or September. Everything submitted will be open to the public. Depending on how many responses we get in, and the complexity of those, will determine if we want to do interviews, and what the process will be going forward. Ultimately, the park board will make their recommendation to the city council for final approval.

Downs had a few questions on the RFP specific to the “in facility” promotions at the Community Center vs. Curling Center as well as asking the consultants about their estimate of expectations and potential revenue on the buildings. Grange discussed and talked through various questions and comments. He also talked on the different phases proposed in the RFP, walking the facility with the consultants, and then putting it all together. There definitely will be more questions for them as we talk through things. We will see what they come back with as well and go from there.

Saueressig, I look forward to what they bring us. Heieie asked how many ideally, we could get back, Grange stated we would prefer to get in at least two proposals, but it’s a nitch industry, there is not a lot of them around here, some are more national. Grange did put in a provision that if we got just one back, we do still have the ability to move forward if we are comfortable with things.

Downs-so we will see results the end of July. Grange, yes, we’ll see responses at the August meeting. Keyport, the 3 phases of this, how long do you expect it will take to get through those? Grange, up to a year. Heieie, when do we open it up for public comment? Grange, we will be doing that throughout the whole process. No agreements get signed without Council approval. If there isn’t a comfort level, we aren’t obligated to move forward. The key thing here is, feeling comfortable on this. Even if we hire someone, if there isn’t comfort with things, we are not obligated to move forward.

7C. Update on Capital Improvement Projects

Grange pulled up a visual of some of the recent projects being worked on or completed. He shared pictures of the completion of the Lake Grace trail and bridge. This completed the connection to the Hwy 41 underpass. It was quite a spectacle with the crane on 41 lifting the bridge down to the water area onto the footings. A great project, it’s an important link to getting people from the east to the west side safely under 41. It will be exciting to see kids riding their bikes to school this fall. There has been a lot of positive feedback on it.

Wynveen asked if there was any neighborhood feedback? We haven't heard from neighbors directly, per Brian and crews, everyone was happy. Downs, it looks great from 41. Saueressig, the slop down where they took that big cottonwood out, it allows you now to see the pavilion and the bridge. He asked about the painting of the bridge, it's rusted. Is it supposed to look that way? Grange responded that he thinks it is supposed to look that way, he doesn't think that it is to be painted. Saueressig then asked about the access point where the work crews went from East Lake Drive access area, will that be taken care of again? Cich, also wondered on that access point, what the restoration of things would be. Grange thought it would go back to what it was before, but he will look into. Cich to email her thoughts to him and he will forward to Brian/Public Works. Saueressig thinks it may be private property, but not certain.

Destin asked on the timing of this project and if this was an urgent request. Did people want this to be built? Grange, yes. The intent was always to do this connector for safety reasons. The project got delayed as well as design changes a couple times, things were too costly. After additional review and discussion, they came up with another good option that was more fiscally responsible.

Next was the Chaska Town Course where public works did an overlay on the tennis courts and basketball courts. They were due, lots of cracks. They look really nice.

Cricket Pitch-was finished the latter half of June. Our public works guys self-performed the subsurface work. This is another great collaboration with a segment of the community who didn't have access to field space to play their sport. Big thanks again to our public works crew for their help with getting this project done, on top of everything else they have been working on. Grange drove by there before this meeting, there were almost 30 kids out there with coaches. This Saturday morning, they are having an informal match and series, the community can come check it out and try it. Next month, we'll do a work session out there and we can learn more and try it as well! Will send out more information as we get closer.

Thanks again to the Public Works crew for all their work on these projects.

7D. Other Department Happenings

Work continues on the financial analysis of the Community Center with Baker Tilly. We got a recent progress update from them at a meeting right before July 4th. Now we will focus on the RFP for the Community Center Master Plan, with the hope to have that ready this fall.

June saw the Carver County Arts Consortium recognize the 5-year passing of Prince with various events through the month. Their exhibit currently is titled, "Purple Rein". Events are extended throughout all of Carver County. On June 17th, they held an event in the gallery and theater areas, where they made Prince an honorary member of the arts consortium and presented a plaque to his family. It was a great event.

This month, they are hosting a Micro Mystery tour, small things up close, July 7th - August 7th. Their artist reception will be held on July 22nd 6:30-8:30.

June 22nd, we held a Pride Picnic event at City Square, it was a great event, really well attended. This will definitely become an annual event in partnership with Eastern Carver County schools. We offered a lot of fun activities; it was nice to see youth at this event.

A new bean bag league will be starting off tonight in the city of Carver, full with 16 teams.

Thursday is another food distribution event at Gedney. We do still need volunteers, if interested in helping let Grange know.

This coming Friday, *Noche Latina* event is happening, things start at 5:45 with a free Zumba event and then at 7 pm *Salsa del Soul* will be playing. This is a new event; staff are excited about it.

The Curling Center had new ice put in over the last couple weeks, just in time for next week's U.S. junior curling camp. 100 kids are registered from all over. The week wraps up with a bonspiel over the weekend.

Oct. 15th-17th is our Fire and Ice event at Firemen's Park, the bonspiel event filled in like 30 seconds with 48 teams registered. We weren't sure how this would go, as usually it's held in July, but looks like it will be a hit again. Lots of planning for this event is underway. Friday's band is 4onthefloor and Saturday is Johnny Holm. This year we will be partnering with the fire department as they are celebrating their 150th anniversary!

Firemen's beach and concessions is going strong. The Lodge is reopened and quite busy, it's great to see those individuals coming back. The CCC also continues to get busier each week.

Our new fall Activity Guide is in the final stages and will be on-line early August. We sent out postcards to Chaska residents that it was coming soon. We will also have a couple of them at the front desk for viewing. We will evaluate on going, requests for mailing. This was a cost saving measure we decided to take.

8. Other Business

8A. Round Table

Massey-I was in New Ulm recently, their park had outdoor exercise stations, was very cool. Do we have those? Grange, no, we currently do not have, it's on our radar though, we will look forward to that in our new park developments. He also asked about park sculptures, having more in the new parks, how is the artist chosen? Grange, we could partner with the Arts Consortium, have them help us develop a process based on opportunities. Is there a map of the sculptures? No, but we could incorporate that into our on-line park inventory. We will look into.

Keyport-We continue to enjoy the CCC, Covid must be under control as the water fountains in the building are open! We also enjoyed the 4th of July fireworks with friends, they were great.

Saueressig-Referenced the artwork at Paisley Park tunnel off Hwy 5, in honor of Prince. He recommends you check it out. It's organic art and has become like its own art exhibit.

Also, I really enjoyed the meeting last month, seeing those sites we have been talking about, it helped personally with understanding things better, plus, I got to know you all better.

The school dome, I'm curious if there is any opportunity for us to partner on winter activities? Seems like we are missing an opportunity for space there. Can we look into that? Grange, the community can use it when open at certain times. As for programming, Grange will look into it, but I'm told it's pretty busy with sports practices. The other thing is it's a school district building for all other district communities use, so may need to be mindful of time allowed. Now with their new director, Shaun Walsh onboard, it could be a good time to connect, get to know her as well as talk on scheduling. Saueressig, this is a great time for collaboration between municipalities, when everyone is dealing with coming out of Covid and limited budgets. He also shared that the school district voted at their last meeting, they will be seeking an operating levy this fall.

Questions on the bean bag league, asked about partnering more with the city of Carver, Grange shared that we have a contract with Carver on programming in place, Carver does not have a park and rec department. Carver gets reciprocity on the Community Center rates. We have many programs to offer them, both here and in Carver.

Do we have an App for things that we offer? Like programming, events, etc. A great opportunity there vs. it being online. Maybe we look into? Cich has looked into creating Apps at her work, it's very costly. Saueressig thinks it is worth exploring.

Heieie- tried to sign up her son for soccer, had a hard time navigating things. Grange, hopefully the new platform we are using helps that. Lucidpress, the new program links to the registration side, which is a different module. Heieie, super impressed with the programming that you guys are doing. Really fun to be out and engage in these programs.

One safety comment, when are we addressing the bike path across Engler before Bavaria. My family has been almost hit on occasion there, it's very treacherous. Grange, it would be helpful if you email me your experience, the details and will send on to the city engineer to review.

Wynveen- The library has a take and make craft kit available, it's super fun. You pick up a bag with all the supplies in it to do the craft. It corresponds to the book of the week. They also are offering a reading program over the summer; you can get prizes and a free book. Check out their website.

The Town Course has the MN State Open, today through Thursday. They welcome spectators, so come check it out, and have fun.

Again, River City Days is coming up, July 23-25. Tons of fun events. Then last, the happiest day in Chaska, Touch A Truck, is Aug. 18. However, no hot dogs this year!

Cich- I am participating in a Tri Fit class. It is a month-long fitness challenge, it encourages you to try different things, and you get a t-shirt at the end. Check out the Chaska Farmers Market, they have good stuff, it is local people. Every Wednesday 3-6pm. Also, I've been hiking along the trails, finding lots of restoration opportunities for better natural ideas along the trails and parks. Will share more.

Destin- July 4th fireworks were good, he was working at Dairy Queen and saw them. Lots of traffic after I got done with work. Shout out to Paige Bueckers from Hopkins, now playing for UCONN,

she had a great acceptance speech at the ESPY Awards. She gave a shout out to black women and recognized female black basketball players.

Downs- Impressed with the tour at last month's work session, was great to talk more with all. Really fun. We have the van, what would we like to see as far as excursions. If there are other ideas, let us know.

9. Adjourn

9A. Next Meeting August 10th

Motion by Saueressig, second by Keyport to adjourn the July 13th Park Board meeting.