

Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2021
Council Chambers and Via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The August 10th 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, Jason Branch, Elizabeth Wynveen, Georgiann Keyport, Zach Saueressig, Donelle Heieie, Karli Cich, Thomas Massey, Jalen Destin.

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

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Keyport, second by Heieie to approve the August 10th meeting Agenda.

Motion Carried

4. Visitor Presentation

None Present

5. Approve Previous Park Board Meeting Minutes from July 13th, 2021

Motion by Heieie, second by Wynveen.

Motion Carried

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

6A. Council Minutes June 21st

Wynveen noticed there was discussion at the June 21st meeting on vandalism done at Firemen's Park and City Square, she asked if that has been cleaned up or fixed. Grange explained the situation at Firemen's Park, we are working with the contractor to get it fixed. The police were involved and determined it was youth that threw a rock at the monument, breaking it. Parents were notified and will work on cost of the damage. We are not aware of damage done at City Square, we will need to look into that and report back.

We are partnering with the police department to have a presence in the park over the summer. They have implemented a bike patrol program this summer where officers are riding throughout town on bikes, so hoping with a more visible presence, this will help to minimize some of the of the things happening in and around Firemen's Park.

6B. Council Minutes July 12th

6C. Planning Minutes June 9th

7. New Business

7A. Partnership with SouthWest Transit

Grange shared that we have another partnership opportunity to consider. It stemmed from a conversation with Council member Huang in talking with Len Simich, from SouthWest Transit. Essentially it would be exploring the idea of using their upper-level parking ramp here in Chaska for recreation use. Grange thought it was an intriguing idea, so set up a meeting with Len. It sounds like the impact of Covid has been hard on the transportation industry with more and more working from home. The upper-level space has been vacant for a while. It offers a nice benefit for us with some programming, and a unique experience to our community. The benefit for SouthWest Transit would be making use of their facility during a time like this and providing awareness and marketing of their facility. Really just being good partners.

So initially we are thinking of offering pickleball. When you come up to the upper level, this would be the westerly end of the ramp. Pickleball being a growing sport, many mornings people are waiting to get on the courts. We already have portable nets to put up there, there is lighting and the

convenience of parking. There also are restrooms available during the day, will need to talk more on after hours.

Where it stands right now, we have a draft agreement for review. I wanted to put this before you for feedback, questions, or concerns, and then ultimately, we would bring it back in September for approval. Questions were answered by Grange on balls going over the top of the ramp, access to the location, and security/lighting. Downs stated If we have people waiting on pickleball courts, this is a good option. Grange, there really isn't any obstacle to this. Consensus was "sounds" cool. Branch asked about space for other things up there, like roller blading. Grange said initially the contract will address pickleball. We will see how things go, and continually evaluate.

8. Discussion Items

8A. Update on Naming Rights and Sponsorship Request For Proposals

Building off our meeting last month, the RFP was sent out to 6 firms July 12th. The deadline was July 30th. We received 3 proposals back from the following, Great Plains Sponsorship, Front Burner Sports, and the Superlative group. Grange followed up with each to let them know we received their proposal and to make them aware of next steps. At that time, he got a response back from Great Plains Sponsorship, that they were no longer interested in the process, and they removed their proposal from consideration. So, there are now two proposals to consider. My recommendation is to conduct interviews with the two firms, and my thought in the process is to include two park board members to participate in those interviews with me. They can help represent the board and help determine which consulting firm to bring back for recommendation. My goal would be to try and line up these interviews in the next 2/3 weeks and come back to the September park board meeting with a recommendation based on consent of the interview group, to the park board and then on to council for final approval.

Downs talked with board and asked who would be interested in participating in the interviews. This is a good way for us to be a part of the process, Downs is personally interested as is Branch. Downs asked If any of you would have the talent to be a part of this, I'll open it up for discussion. Keyport asked what kind of experience would be helpful. Downs talk about his business and sales background, felt that is the kind of experience needed for this. Business, finance, marketing. Massey expressed interest, asked about when the interviews would be held, Grange thought more than likely during business hours. Downs, yes, agree, not open to offering Zoom, this is too important, they would need to be here in person. Downs also talked about importance of meeting prior and spending time talking on the process as well as questions to be asked. What do we want to get out of this? We will need justification on who we are

recommending and will need to help Marshall prepare the decision to bring back to the park board and council. Massey is interested, he has a finance background and could make the interview times work with advanced notice. Branch declined based on Massey's experience. Downs and Massey will do the interviews with Grange. Grange will send out the consultant proposals for them for review and look at calendar dates to meet.

By the next board meeting, we will have had the interviews and will bring back recommendations to the board and talk more about it.

8B. Update on Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

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

We had a steering committee meeting a couple weeks ago. We talked about the success of the pop-up event at River City Days. Around 200 people stopped by the booth and gave further comments and ideas on walking and biking. The Steering committee is still going over all comments. We are planning 3 listening session in the community for youth in the area, as well as underserved populations.

The committee is also working to assess the current programming we have around the city specific to walking and biking. Such as biking rules, choosing to bike on the road vs. a path etc. Quite a bit of work still ahead but making progress.

Grange, yes in the middle of this plan, a lot of work going into this. The input others are providing as part of the process is great. I connected this week with Pat Steig from Carver County Health, as he ultimately supported our SHIP grant for this project. The grant cycle is October 2020-October 2021. The projects approved need to be completed at that time. Antonio as the consultant agreed to that, and it was clearly defined in the RFP. I think we can meet that target, but just wanted on his behalf to reach out to Steig and see if generally there is any flexibility on extending that final report date. Steig was agreeable to that and agreed to setting it for the end of the year. Those couple of months will be really beneficial for Antonio to complete a quality final document for us. Grange explained part of the reason he wanted to do this is because we've gotten so much community engagement, which is great, however, it also means more work for the consultant to factor that all in. So, we are needing a bit more time to have those listening sessions as well as account for all the feedback we've gotten.

Branch asked how that impacts the contract, and fees. It still falls within the same contract. He could meet the deadline, with have had the opportunity for more data, it was my idea to ask for the extra time.

Downs asked if once the plan is done, is Antonio responsible to help us implement the plan or is his role done? It really will be on us to move this forward, using the community feedback and Antonio's recommendations for us to look at the implementation of things.

8C. Department Happenings

Grange shared some things coming up in our department:

The new recreation activity guide is out! We moved to bring this inhouse, this is the first one. Excited how it has turned out, thanks to Krista and Jaime, they did a great job and using this new platform called LucidPress. We also have moved to an on-line only format, no longer mailing out. We do have some printed versions at the front desk of the community center. We'll continue to see if we get feedback.

Public Works is seeking bids on replacing the hockey boards at Clover Ridge. They also are spending a lot of time over at Athletic Park gearing up for the State Amateur Baseball tournament. It is the 98th annual tournament. The dates are August 20th-September 6th. Our own Chaska Cubs are in the tournament! Go to WCH2021.com for more information.

Cortina Woods neighborhood park improvement project, the one we worked on earlier in the year, is still in the works, no concrete timeline yet.

Chaska Curing Center hosted the USA Curling junior camp, it brought in about 100 kids from all over.

This week we are hosting the U21 National Championship. Attendees are competing for their chance to compete at the upcoming World Championships. This is a great chance to go check out some great curling.

Staff will be shutting down the beach at Firemen's starting August 31st. There will be modified hours at the concessions stand as well. Staff are heading back to school.

Next Thursday the Chaska Cares team will be back out at the food distribution event again at Gedney.

August 19th is also Touch A Truck! 5-7:30pm, one of the biggest and best events we put on at the Community Center.

The Art Consortium of Carver County Song Writers and Musicians CD Release concert will be August 22nd from 5-8pm at Firemen's Park, along with some art vendors as well.

On Aug. 26th, staff are hosting a movie in the park starting at dusk at Firemen's Park, featuring R1 and the Last Dragon.

Back to School Bash, Aug. 29th at City Square Park. From 5-8pm featuring District 112 Garage Bands and a Genesis and Phil Collins tribute band, "And Then There Were Eight".

The Arts Consortium has a new honoring cultures exhibit called "We All Belong". A neat photography display with different themes, resulting from a 6-week workshop series last spring. Features photos from different cultures, come check it out.

Update on the state of the Lennar development, the Wagner property, there still working on their preliminary plan and the traffic analysis. The thought is it could be another 2/3 months before we see another updated plan presented.

Covid-new Delta Variant is causing some concern. Grange shared that our EOC team has reconvened and is meeting weekly again. We are stay on top of things, the community impact, what the recommendations are, etc. Currently those are recommendations to wear masks indoors, not enforcing anything currently.

Grange shared that he is attending a meeting in Crosby, MN Thursday with County Commissioner Matt Udermann, to meet with the individuals responsible for the development of the Cuyuna mountain bike trails. This is an opportunity to learn about how they came up with the idea, what the challenges/obstacles were and the benefits that have come out of it. Several leaders from the area are invited to see what take aways we could learn and apply here.

9. Other Business

9A. Round Table

Destin watched the Minnesota gymnast and the men's basketball team win the gold medals at the Olympics, was pretty cool.

Heieie mentioned the fall activity guide flyer, was super helpful. Shared she read through a lot of the Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan, was fun to read some of the comments. I learned some new things about Chaska.

Cich shared that the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Wacipi is next weekend, featuring local native culture, art, and food trucks. It is very relevant to our history. I'd encourage you to check it out. Free 3-day event.

Keyport commented on the drought, be cognizant of water use right now. Does the city maintain the parks in a different way through this? Grange will check with public works.

Branch, River City days was great. Awesome to see the dance floor packed, and people having a great time.

Wynveen attended the classic car show at City Square last weekend, was neat. The Taste of Chaska is coming up, as is Touch a Truck and the Carver County Fair. Go out and check some things out.

Saueressig, school starts in 4 weeks, all in person, there is an on-line option and masks are optional. He was over by the Degler farm off Audubon recently, their future development, lots going on over there, curious with what they are doing? Wynveen thought it was mostly commercial, but Grange will look into. He shared he recently had his daughter in swim lessons, was great, the lifeguards were also great. I also used the on-line registration system, was easy. A dream thing I have, an outdoor water park

would be great to have in our community. We recently had so much fun at the St. Louis Park one. Also, a sledding hill, maybe we partner to help Jonathan do more with the one off Bavaria. I am just planting the seed.

Downs, currently the staff is strapped. However, one of the things we have done in the past at the end of each year is look at the priorities that we have. Make a list and every year, ask, what do we want at the top of the list. We should do that again this year.

Massey, watering around Walden Park, it looks like it is getting watered every day. I'm excited about this pickleball opportunity, I just got back from a vacation where I played it. I also recently did the Tour de Tonka, got me thinking, what about a local one.

Downs, I thought the fall activity guide was excellent, well done. Went to River City days, and saw the Minnesota Valley band, was really good. I'd echo earlier, the Cricket Club, it would be good to help market and share information on when they are playing or teaching the game. Grange, I want to make sure the school district is aware of this cricket field as well as they could help introduce it and promote it in the schools.

10. Adjourn

10A. Next Meeting September 14th

Motion by Saueressig, second by Wynveen to adjourn the August 10th Park Board meeting.