

Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
September 14th, 2021
Council Chambers and via Zoom

1. Call to Order

The September 14th 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, Donelle Heieie, Karli Cich, Thomas Massey.

Absent: Zach Saueressig, Jalen Destin

Staff Present: Marshall Grange, Mary Monteith

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Keyport, second by Wynveen to adopt the agenda of the September 14th meeting.

Motion Carried.

4. Visitor Presentation

None

5. Approve Previous Park Board Meeting Minutes from August 10th, 2021

Motion by Massey, second by Heieie

Motion Carried.

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

6A. Council Minutes July 19th

6B. Council Minutes August 2nd

6C. Planning Minutes July 14th

7. Action Items

7A. Recommendation to City Council to Approve the SouthWest Transit Facility Use Agreement

Grange explained the action item spoke of at last month's meeting. A unique opportunity at hand to work with SW Transit on programming their underutilized space on the upper level of their parking ramp here in Chaska. Covid has been hard on the transit industry, with many people still working from home. Staff have met with Len Simich from SouthWest Transit, the opportunity came to us to look at a Facility Use Agreement, it is pretty straight forward. In exchange for the Cities use of that space, they have asked for a hold harmless indemnification on any claims that may occur, as well as adding them as an additional insured on the City's insurance policy.

With recommendation for approval to the City Council next week, we then will look at starting out with pickleball as an option on the upper level. Staff have been planning in prep of the approval, the hope would be to try to get some temporary courts in yet this fall to see what the response is and then plan for next spring, summer, and fall as to what other programming options there may be in coordination with Simich.

Downs, he's reviewed the contract, nicely done. He asked if this would go to council next week for final approval? Grange, yes, then we would set up the nets, paint the courts, and build off that. Concerns on the wind factor up there, so will be a bit of a trial and error in the beginning. Discussions on security, water pooling and a suggestion for using the ramp for a "trunk and treat" event.

Massey motion to recommend to City Council approval of the SouthWest Transit Facility Use Agreement, second by Branch.

Motion Carried.

8. Discussion Items

8A. Update on Naming Rights and Sponsorship Proposals

Grange, this has been an ongoing item from last spring. If you recall, we had a work session with you and the council to talk through the idea of sponsorship and naming rights on some of our facilities.

We moved forward in July with an RFP that led to reviewing proposals from two consulting firms in August, Front Burner Sports and Entertainment, a local firm and Superlative Group, a firm out of Cleveland, Ohio. If you recall at our last park board meeting, we talked about conducting interviews and appointing a couple park board members as part of that process. Resulting in Dave Downs and Zach Saueressig being a part of the interviews. We met and reviewed the proposals and put together our game plan, along with questions. We then had the interviews on Sept. 7th. We met with Chris Potenza, President of Front Burner Sports and Kyle Canter, Chief Operating Officer from Superlative.

Both interviews went very well, we learned a lot, and had great discussion. We reconvened last week to debrief and determined we need to take some additional time to look into things, references as well as ask some follow up questions of the consultants. There was so much information and content, we want to take our time and do this right. Then our plan would be to bring back our recommendation to you at the October park board meeting.

Downs, thought they were very interesting interviews. Some good discussion, some similarities, some differences. Nice to have two opportunities in front of us. It is going to take a bit of work to determine which one to recommend. Both are very capable; it will be which one can do the best for our community.

8B. Update on Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan

Wynveen updated the board on the last steering committee meeting held Aug. 17th, Antonio has been working on putting forth the recommendations for the city plan. At the same time, the steering committee has been working on evaluations of what the city already has in place for infrastructure and has facilitated on-going conversation surrounding the 6 E's.

Antonio has shared his report will come outlined with priority, along with price tag. Wynveen, all of us can appreciate that if there is a recommendation surrounding infrastructure, which can be quite costly, that Antonio also has focused on programming options as well, as often times you can do as much with programming at a lot less cost as one does with infrastructure. Example, a crossing guard vs. reconfiguring an intersection. The hope is we focus on programming for the city which will help keep down the costs, but it will probably be more of a marrying of the two, with what the city already has in place and what the survey feedback from residents is, some of which is that the city may be lacking.

We also are in the process of lining up 3 listening sessions. We are looking to have one with the Chaska Mountain bike team, a Latino group at Riverview mobile home park, and one with a group from the Carver County CDA.

Wynveen, at the last steering committee meeting, Antonio mentioned that people at River City days were very engaged, we received a high level of thought from the community. The amount of public comments we received is way more than even other larger communities have gotten. People were also very interested in learning more about the maps and wanting one. Grange, it is a testament to Chaska residents; they want to be involved with this plan. Wynveen, be proud of what we are doing here, we are spending the resources to make it better for everyone in the community. Grange also reiterated that.

Behind the scenes, Antione is working to put the overall draft and chapters together, it should be complete in a couple weeks. It then will be available to review via: walkbikechaska.org. We will promote that, as well as the community opportunity to review the draft. Staff also are planning multiple open houses. City staff will also be reviewing the draft at that time as well.

Grange met recently with Pat Stieg, from Carver County Public Health, Stieg was key in getting the SHIP dollars for this plan. We met to discuss the timeframe of spending these dollars as well as in anticipation of some of the recommendations that may come from the plan, and what those costs will look like. Some general thoughts, as for evaluation, helping to fund digital trail counters to see how many use the trails, as well as map funding, (a frequent request) and funds for grant writers for some of the other more costly recommendations that may be identified. We have a great partnership with Pat and Carver County, they are committed to this plan as well.

Downs, will the draft have recommendations/priorities to it right away? Or will that be talked about in some of those sessions? Grange, there will be a start to those conversations but will be a couple more months before those recommendations are complete.

Branch, the ratings for the Bike Friendly Community designation, what is the ranking system for that? Grange explained it is bronze, silver, gold, and platinum. He asked if we would have a decent chance of getting the designation because of this plan? Grange, once we go through this plan and evaluations are made, we would know what else we need to do to secure the designation. Grange, by having a master plan in place, it helps secure a level of bike friendly. Keyport asked about maps and making them more available, Grange shared that would be part of the next steps, the SHIP funding could help with that cost.

C. Department Happenings

Grange shared upcoming events in the community:

This Thursday is another food distribution event at Gedney, they are still looking for volunteers to help, Chaska Cares will be there as well.

This Saturday is our first official parkrun event. This was an item from a couple years ago, where we partnered with Eagan to move this forward here in Chaska. It is a completely volunteer run event, it takes time to find people to step up. A race director was secured, (Trevor Luyt) along with necessary volunteers to run the program. Our trailhead is at the corner of Beech and East Second St., by the Carver County Government building. This is a free, timed, out/back walk/run. They keep stats on how many runs a person has done, the times, etc. People can participate to the level they want and gather socially after. Registration is at: [parkrun.us](https://www.parkrun.us). A great thing for our community.

This Saturday is Christmas in May, in September! A great opportunity to help others. Volunteers help with painting, landscaping, decks, etc. Show up at GA gym at 7am for registration, a continental breakfast, and a kick-off program. Volunteers can choose from 3 houses to help at this year.

Plans for Fire/Ice are still happening in preparation of the event coming up on Oct. 15th-16th. Typically, this is in July, we pushed it back to fall for better timing of things with Covid. A lot of planning by the staff. This year we also will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Chaska Fire department. The Bonspiel will be starting Thursday evening; the rest of the events start Friday at 6pm. This is a great family friendly event in the park, there will be games for kids, face

painting, a bean bag tournament, fire department water fights, food trucks, beer, and lots of great bands! FUN for all!

Capital improvements projects:

Clover Ridge outdoor hockey rink boards are down, the install of the new ones is thought to be the end of October.

Public Works staff are spending a lot of time at the Chaska Loop site putting in the trails and paving the cart paths.

The start of the demolishing of the Cortina Woods playground equipment is set to happen soon, then install to occur towards mid-October.

Grange shared a thank you to the many involved with hosting the State Amateur baseball tournament at Athletic Park. Congratulations on the success of event.

9. Other Business

9A. Round Table

Cich-fall is a great time to get outdoors, I'm noticing a lot of buckthorn along the trails, take note of it, maybe we can get rid of some day. Resources are out there to learn more, at EDD Maps. It traces where people find it. Keyport, the U of M has good information out there as well. Start with education, pull a subgroup together to get the information out there and attempt a community project. Public Works is tracking where most of it is. Grange, could be a great community initiative to start up and help manage it.

Heieie-Oak Ridge Conference Center land has been sold. Highway 41 improvements are in discussion, now would be the time to talk sidewalks/trails. We want to be involved with how the land and trails around Costco is developed.

Keyport-questions on the Del Web development, she toured some models. She asked about parks there, as well as access in off 41 and out via the neighborhood. Residents will have their own clubhouse there, with a pool. There is a park in the adjacent neighborhood, so no need for another on. She shared she will be helping at Christmas in May next week, lots of landscaping to be done. She was at the state fair recently and noticed information on green step cities. Carver County, and the cities of Shakopee and Carver have the designation. A program to assist cities with building sustainability and life goals for the city. She asked if the city ever looked into that. Cich, also saw that at the fair, an interesting opportunity for Chaska. Grange commented that it is similar to the Bike Friendly initiative, we will look for more information, seems like it would require involvement from other city departments as well as discussions with the city administrator. Bares again, the conversation of what are our priorities looking ahead, what are our goals. Will look to the end of the year to discuss more at a work session.

Wynveen-Shared an upcoming park and rec opportunity, informational sessions to discuss ideas for after school programming for teens. Staff are looking for ideas and feedback from the community. These will be held Monday the 20th, and Thurs. the 23rd, 6-7pm, at the Lodge.

Grange, with proximity to the 2 middle schools, it seems like a good fit. How do we become more accommodating to the kids in those schools? They need their own space. We could possibly host events in the Lodge. The Lodge programming typically is done in the morning till 3pm. We want to get from parent's ideas on what that could look like. Maybe we can even get them interested and involved with volunteering opportunities and being a part of something more in the community.

Massey-I want to apologize for volunteering for the RFP interviews recently. I could not be a part of them at that time, as I was interviewing myself for a promotion and got the position. As part of that, it is taking me to North Carolina. So next month will be my last time meeting here. Congratulations from all.

10. Adjourn Meeting

Motion by Wynveen to adjourn the meeting, second by Heieie.

Motion Carried.