

Chaska
Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023

1. Call to Order

The February 13, 2023, meeting of the Chaska Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order by Chair David Downs, at 7:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Attendance: Chair David Downs, Vice Chair Jason Branch, Georgiann Keyport, Zach Saueressig, Elizabeth Wynveen, Karli Cich, Michael Heuer, and Terrence Schwerm

Absent: Donelle Heieie

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Marshall Grange, Assistant to the Director Mary Monteith and Michelle Blasko, IS

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Heuer, second by Saueressig, to adopt the February 13, 2023, meeting Agenda.

Roll Call for Approval

4. Visitor Presentation

None in attendance

5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

5A. Motion by Keyport, second by Wynveen, to approve the Chaska Parks and Recreation meeting minutes of December 13, 2022.

Roll Call for Approval

6. Action Items

6A. Recommendation to Council to Proceed with Phase II of Professional Services Agreement for Facility Naming Rights and Sponsorship

Downs shared that Grange provided a good write up and a succinct summary. Downs asked if there were any comments, questions, or additions regarding doing more or less with the presentation to council. Keyport asked if there is a written policy or procedure in process, there is less risk of forgetting important information or steps during the execution. She asked for clarity when a policy would be written, when that step would be. Grange shared one of the next steps is for staff to have a better understanding of the objective of what the policy is, and have further discussion on that. Downs commented, as part of Phase II, the who, what and rules of the road would be discussed.

Grange shared that this item will now go to council on February 27th. Saueressig asked about follow up questions from the council work session. Grange mentioned there really wasn't any, there was just good discussion, the comfort level seems to be there. Downs mentioned the good attendance and discussion that was held.

Motion by Saueressig, second by Heuer, to recommend that City Council authorize staff to enter into Phase II of the Professional Services Agreement for Facility Naming Rights.

Roll Call for Approval

7. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

7A. City Council Minutes 11/21/22, 12/19/22, 1/9/23, 1/23/23

7B. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes 11/9/22, 1/11/23

8. Discussion Items

8A. Appointment of Parks & Recreation Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Downs shared that he would continue serving as commission chair, while Branch will also continue serving as vice chair as approved by council at the February 6th meeting. Grange mentioned that Keyport and Saueressig were also renewed as well and that this will be Downs final year serving with the Parks & Recreation Commission after 9 years of service.

8B. Community Center Master Plan

Grange shared that he communicated to the citizen's task force today to provide a recap and update on things. There was a task force meeting in December that was related to the concept design options of the eastern half of the community center, which includes the "pay to play" services provided with membership. Grange shared there was a desire stemming from the community engagement as well as from the task force, that this area, aquatics, and fitness, were priority and the desire was for expansion of both. We really wanted to focus on those two areas. One current idea discussed is to raise the lower gym to be level with the current upper-level gym. This would provide additional space below for fitness. Grange felt the task force was in favor of the concepts and that we were moving in the right direction. Now the focus is on the western half of the building, again looking at the community feedback received to then move to concept design prior to the next task force meeting. There we will show what the whole building could look like. Grange is also working on getting preliminary cost estimates from RJM and reviewing them, to be certain they are as accurate as possible. Staff are continually having discussions with the school district and the county regarding the impact on Engler and the parking areas of the school and the community center. Discussions were on making the car circulation flow as safely as possible, especially in the area east of the school. The school has been open to meeting with us on parking, staff will meet again this week to continue the discussion. We also have had conversations with Baker Tilley on the different financing strategies for us to consider, so at the next task force meeting we would have concepts, cost estimates and ideas on how we are going to implement these improvements. It sounds like it

will take Baker Tilly about 4-6 weeks to put that plan together. The next steps for us would be to plan and host another open house at the community center as well as virtually.

Downs asked if the financing piece would need a referendum, would that need council approval to move things forward? Grange stated there are multiple approaches being considered, including a general use sales tax that would need legislative approval to do, then residents would vote on the referendum. Another approach is to increase taxes through the levy or allocating revenues through property taxes. Schwerm stated city-issued bonds are an option as well. He stated the best options are the bonds or sales tax referendum since many of the improvements are deferred maintenance. Saueressig asked about the differences in the options presented, is one better than another. Schwerm stated the sales taxes would broaden out the base beyond Chaska residents to people who visit here as well as use the community center which makes sense.

Saueressig asked if the complete community task force has remained in-tact. Grange shared they are intact; however, some have not attended some recent meetings, his hope is to reach out and get them back to continue to get their feedback. There is still a good community perspective. Saueressig also asked if the county has their plan for the Engler Blvd. project on-line, Grange shared that they do, he will send out to all. Scherm asked if it would be about April that we will see the concept plans for the western side of the building, Grange agreed and mentioned a commission work session to share those concepts and the possibility of a walking tour.

8C. Department Happenings

Grange reported staff recently hosted the annual mixed bonspiel at the curling and event center. He shared that the USCA National Curling Championship was recently held in Denver, Colorado. In January, the U18 Juniors National Championships also happened in Colorado. Two teams with kids from Chaska and the St. Paul Curling Club won gold and bronze and will now compete in the U21 championship in April in Boston. The Sub-Zero Junior club team just started a few years ago and these kids are already competing at the national level. The upcoming Brick City Open bonspiel will take place March 10th through the 12th at the curling center.

President's Day weekend, the community center will host an annual membership sale.

There is a Valentine's party for active older adults at the Lodge

There will be a Little Tot's Sweetheart dance at the events center on February 17th.

9. **Other Business**

9A. Round Table

Schwerm shared that he saw Apple Valley is completing an inclusive playground with funding from a bonding bill. This might be something to consider doing with the Miracle Field and the inclusive playground in the future. Grange will look into this.

Cich shared information from Eden Prairie on their policies for memorial benches and trees. She will send the information to staff. Grange and staff will do research and provide a more formal recommendation to the commission and city council.

Saueressig asked when a park will go in at Autumn Woods. Grange shared this process will start in the late summer or fall and the park will possibly be in place in 2024. Saueressig gave Rebecca at the front desk of the community center a shout out, she is friendly and active.

Wynveen shared there will be a spring carnival March 17th from 5:30 to 7:30. This will be a lot of fun and there will be many activities for kids.

Keyport is on the Carver County Extension Advisory Board. The board is creating programming for students and adults with disabilities. Family Financial Group and regional educators from the University of Minnesota have a lot of ideas and many resources to share. There is good synergy around this, could this be an opportunity for the city to partner. Grange stated yes, we can connect with our resources and offered to help promote.

10. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to Adjourn the February 13th, 2023, meeting by Wynveen, second by Heuer.

Roll Call to Adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

Next meeting: March 14, 2023