

Chaska
Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2023

1. Call to Order

The June 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, Donelle Heieie, Zach Saueressig, Elizabeth Wynveen, Michael Heuer, Terrence Schwerm, and Samsam Hassan.

Absent: Georgiann Keyport, and Karli Wittner

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

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Heuer, second by Heieie, to adopt the June 13, 2023, Meeting Agenda.

Roll Call for Approval

4. Visitor Presentation

None in attendance

5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

5A. Motion by Heieie, second by Schwerm, to approve the Chaska Park Board meeting minutes of February 13, 2023.

Roll Call for Approval

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

6A. City Council Meeting Minutes 2/6/2023, 2/27/2023, 3/6/2023, 3/20/2023, 4/3/2023, 4/17/2023, 5/1/2023, 5/15/2023

6B. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes 1/11/2023, 2/8/2023, 4/12/2023

(Planning Minutes 5/10/2023 were not completed)

Intro of commissioners to Samsam Hassan, new student representative

7. Discussion Items

7A. Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Update

Grange gave an update on the City of Chaska Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. Grange shared this was started a while ago during Covid as a means for the City of Chaska to become a designated Bike Friendly Community and to promote more walking and biking. This project was developed and funded with a grant from Carver County. The plan takes a 6E approach: Evaluation, Engineering, Enforcement, Equity, Education, and Encouragement. Staff recently reviewed the plan and provided feedback to the consultant on revisions. Once revisions are back from the consultant, we will send out to the Project Steering Committee and make them available to the community for a 30-day review. We will also put out on social media, on our website where residents can comment, as well as intercepting people at our community events.

There also will be a joint work session with the council to give an overview and provide comments. Then we will formally bring it back for final approval.

The plan really is a vision that could be updated every 10 years along with the city comp plan. The plan provides recommendations that require further evaluation, community engagement and funding. Those will also require approval by council. There are however things we can do right away that are so called “lower hanging fruit”, such as education, enforcement, and evaluation.

As part of the 41-re-construction project, the focus will be on the design of the trail that will be part of the Carver County Regional trail underpass, going east and west, following along the Minnesota River Bluffs trail to Carver. The funding is there, now it is about the design.

Also as shared before, the city was successful in helping secure a grant for Safe Routes to School to be put in on Engler Blvd as did Clover Ridge Elementary School, that plan will start in the fall.

Heieie asked where the regional trail will connect. Grange shared the trail will connect along Audubon by the creek area.

Saueressig asked for more details about the Clover Ridge Elementary School grant. Grange stated the grant was awarded through MNDOT. There will be parent surveys and on-sight surveying. After that, there will be recommendations for programmatic and infrastructure improvements.

7B. Facility Naming Rights Update

Grange stated staff have been working with The Superlative Group as they started phase 2 of our professional services agreement to determine the level of interest in a naming rights partnership with businesses for the Curling and Events Center. Staff reviewed a prospective business list from Superlative, we also met with Chair Downs and Commissioner Saueressig to get their thoughts. Grange then shared the list with the city administrator, the assistant city administrator, and the director of community development. There was good feedback on businesses to add and some to remove. The city administrator then shared the list with the city council for review. The council reviewed it and gave feedback; they were supportive of every business on there and all approved the list. The list has been shared with Superlative, the next

steps are to contact the businesses to let them know of this opportunity and request a meeting with them.

7C. Community Center Master Plan Update

Another major project going on. This is a big building; Grange stated the last citizens task force meeting took place in April. At this meeting, city staff presented concept plans to showcase plans for the future of the building and address parking. Working inside an existing large building and trying to make it all fit together and flow, has been a challenge.

Staff considered all the public feedback received, and provided various options to address those areas, including parking, a plan for deferred maintenance, safety and access into the building, more fitness and exercise space, better aquatic space, improving the ice arena space and remodeling the theater space to increase usage.

Grange also shared some objectives that the task force had identified early on, a couple of them were to maximize existing space before we add on to the building. Create more multipurpose space, and connecting the building to nature, to capture views of the River Valley.

We went through that meeting and shared thoughts and component of the building in terms of renovation and re-programming, what that could look like. There also were the 3 options for parking which we landed on a preferred option that night. In addition, there were a couple other options for expansion on the table, more of a phase 2, that was expansion of the pool, more fitness space on lower area, as well as an option for a 3rd gym on the main level. There was discussion on whether one or both expansions should be included as phase 1 or should we be looking at as a phased approach all together. We didn't get to consensus as it was getting late, so Grange followed up that week with a quick survey to the task force, and asked was what we showed of the overall building plan meeting the mark, the answer was 100%, then we asked if we should include the gym/fitness area in phase 1 and 11 out of the 12 said yes. Then we asked about the aquatics area, only 3 replied include in phase 1.

Grange reached out to the consultant after the meeting to talk through revising the exhibits and modifying expenses to reflect the changes.

We also spent time on the financing options. The option on the sales tax was talked about at great length, is that a strategy we want to consider. At the most recent legislative session all 31 submitted were approved. However, after that session, with the current influx, legislation now has put a moratorium on increased local taxes going forward to better evaluate. Staff will keep an eye on this at the state level.

Grange stated the goal is to share the master plan with the community at the open house on August 9th. There will be stations throughout the facility so citizens can view the drawings and see throughout the building spaces. We also will use the larger community events this summer to help get the word out. Now it is closing the loop, asking if we missed anything. If not, we wrap up the plan and start moving towards the approval processes.

7D. Parks Updates

City Square Park is scheduled to be updated this year. Normally we would like to conduct community engagement. If you recall, we had a joint work session in April, with various groups to review initial plans and thoughts. But as we learned there are restrictions with the updates because it is part of the State Historical Registry and has Native American burial grounds there. Brian Jung has been working with HKGi on plans that would work to restore what exists today and meet ADA Guidelines. That may be all we can do. The plans were sent to these various agencies on May 12 to receive feedback and any concerns. There will be a meeting with these agencies tomorrow to talk further and hear any concerns they may have and better understand how to proceed with planning.

The Lions Park update is complete. The updates include a new park shelter, a new bathroom facility and a cool Lion Fountain. We already had an event there as well! The playground will get done in a couple years.

The Savanna Oaks Park update is nearly complete. They will plant fifty trees in the next week or so, complete the pavement, install benches and the sign. There is a rough-cut of the trail implemented as well. This fall, they will sub cut the trail and put in rock. There is no update on the goats, as the grant was not approved.

Schworm stated the trails and playground have been used often in the last couple of weeks. He asked about garbage cans and dog waste stations. Grange stated he would follow up on the garbage cans. The city does not provide dog waste stations. Some residents have requested additional tree planting.

Heieie asked when the northern side of the city would be connected to Creek Road and other paths. Grange could not remember details about land ownership for this space. He was unsure of the Savanna Oaks trail connection as well.

Grange shared the most recent rendering of the future SW Chaska Community Park. There will be a community engagement process later this summer or early fall. They submitted a grant for the inclusive/universal playground, with the potential to receive \$350,000 towards this project. The Chaska Rotary is fundraising for the baseball field.

Downs asked for the timeline if we receive the grant for the universal playground. The universal playground would have to be completed early 2025. The grant would not cover the full cost of the universal playground. Grange estimated the cost for the field and playground to be approximately \$2.5 million.

Heuer asked if there would be a school built at the site. Grange shared the location of where the school would be on the southwest corner of the site. Saueressig asked if the school district was a part of this meeting. Grange stated this would be a part of the masterplan process, but the discussions need to still happen. Heieie asked if there was land for them to purchase for the parking lot and playground for the school. Grange stated this would be a cost-sharing opportunity.

The Crooked Pint Patio experienced concrete heaving. The public works team worked on better drainage under the concrete pad. This project is coming along nicely.

Grange shared additional updates. The Concert in the Park series starts on Wednesday. The Farmer's Market at Fireman's Park starts on June 21st from 5-8 PM. Saturday, June 17th, there is a Pride Picnic with ice cream and dancing.

Grange stated youth camps and swim lessons started this week. There are also Yoga and PiYo exercise classes for free at Fireman's Park. The Fire and Ice Community Festival is on July 14 and 15. Teams will come from all over the country to curl. Grange stated they hope different sections on Highway 41 will open in early July prior to this event.

Heieie asked if there were concerns from the Del Web community about the Fireworks. Grange stated he was not aware of any concerns.

8. Other Business

8A. Round Table

Heieie stated she and her husband have taken advantage of the Parents Night Out put on by the Community Center. She's enjoying the programming, It's a gift.

Saueressig asked about the construction of the Loop at the golf course. Downs stated the building completion projection was Labor Day. Saueressig shared he is DJ'ing at the Pride Picnic.

Branch welcomed the new Youth Commissioner Samsam and thanked her for serving.

Wynveen asked what programming is put on for youth golf opportunities, especially with the Loop opening. Grange stated there might be opportunities for Adaptive Programming for Youth Golf. Downs stated there was meant to be opportunities and classes for children at the Loop but was unsure who organized the lessons previously. Grange stated he would look into golf program opportunities. Wynveen encouraged staff to explore this programming opportunity since there are no local options currently available.

Heuer asked about the email sent based on the tire swing. A community member had their child fall through and slip on the tire.

Samsam stated teens would attend movies at the CCC or elsewhere in Chaska if they were good movies. This is all dependent on what movies would be offered. She stated many teens would go see Superhero movies if they were Chaska. Then they wouldn't have to drive out of town.

9. Adjourn Meeting

Motion to Adjourn the June 13, 2023, meeting by Wynveen, second by Branch.

Roll Call to Adjourn at 8:19 p.m.

Next meeting: July 11, 2023