

Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
January 14th, 2019

1. Call to Order

The January meeting of the Chaska Park Board was called to order by Chairman Roan at 7:02 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

2. Roll Call

Present: Roan, Gutierrez, Wittrock, Branch, Flaherty-Wilcox, Olsen.

Absent: Downs, Mihajlov, Ives

Staff Present: Marshall Grange and Mary Monteith

3. Adopt the Agenda

Motion by Olsen, second by Wittrock, to approve the January 14th, 2019 meeting agenda. Motion carried.

4. Visitor Presentation

Nate Damro, 1492 Sherwood Way, Eagan, was present to share his knowledge of and passion for ParkRun. Damro had reached out to Parks Director Grange, on the idea of creating a ParkRun in Chaska. Damro spoke of his history with the Eagan ParkRun and what it took to get it started there. Damro talked about what it would take to get one going here and answered questions from the board.

Nick Mason, 1888 White Oak Dr. Chaska, a past park board member, was present to recommend naming the dog park after Lyle Merdan. Mason shared the history of serving on the board with Merdan, and how he championed the idea of a dog park at that time. Mason shared that had Merdan not brought the idea forward, it may not have been a board priority to get it done now. He asked that the Park Board put this on another meeting agenda. Roan agreed that Merdan was a big advocate for getting a dog park in Chaska. Roan suggested further discussion amongst the board, Grange suggested a work session to look at and discuss what other communities have, as far as park naming process. Mason thanked the board for their willingness to consider.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion by Flaherty-Wilcox, second by Gutierrez, to approve the Chaska Park Board meeting minutes of December 10th, 2018. Motion carried.

6. New Business

6A 2019 Commissioners

Grange thanked past board chair, Jonathan Grau for his years of service to the Park Board. He wished him well as he moves to the council. Grange also shared that the council had approved

the recommendation for Dave Roan for 2019 Park Board chair as well as Jason Branch for 2019 Park Board vice chair effective this current meeting. He also explained that the two open board commission interviews with council were pushed back to February. One of the vacant positions would be Gutierrez's spot as he is up for re-appointment and the other one would be a spot for a youth representative, which we did get an application for. Interviews will be complete February 25th.

6B Department Staffing

Grange talked about the hiring of 3 key positions within the last month. This will complete the last of the re org as defined in 2017. The new Event Center Supervisor, Krista Tolstedt came onboard this past November. The new Chaska Community Center Manager, Kelsi McNutt, will be coming on board on the 23rd. And interviews for the new Recreation Program Manager will start next week.

7. Old Business

A.) Monteith updated the board on progress at Lion's Park Off-Leash Dog Area. Public Works staff has been busy with removing the old bridge, the new bridge is to be installed within the next couple weeks. On-going work continues with clearing out brush from the back wooded area. The fence posts are also in, fencing, will be installed as weather allows. Lots of doggy traffic continues!

B.) Monteith mentioned the park dedication at Veterans Park was amazing. Close to 200 people were in attendance on a very cold day. The community gathering at the VFW was also well attended. We will continue to collect challenge coins over the winter months and then install them in the display case next spring. We also are promoting a holiday push on the sale of the Veterans Park inaugural coin. The coins will be available for sale at Parks and Recreation, the Chaska History Center, the Chaska Legion and Chaska VFW.

C.) Monteith mentioned that the 2040 Comprehensive Plan was recently approved by the council and now sent out for a 6-month review process to Carver County, various surrounding cities, District 112, and the Met Council. The plan is also on-line for public viewing on the city website. After the 6-month review, the plan will come back to council for discussion and final approval.

D.) Monteith gave an update on how the informational meeting with MN Bike Alliance went last month. There was a good turn out and good discussion at both the stakeholder meeting as well as the community gathering that evening. Some of the stakeholders, along with Grange, went on a trail ride tour to assess trail conditions, wayfinding and location. A report of findings will be put together by staff from MN Bike Alliance. They will report back after the new year with findings and recommendations as far as next steps to take for applying for the Bicycle Friendly Community designation.

8. Other Business

A.) Monteith covered many of the recreational events happening throughout Chaska this month. Lots of holiday fun! Also, provided information on the gallery artists featured these last two months at the CCC.

B.) Board Roundtable

- Branch-Veterans Park dedication really was amazing.
- Ives mentioned how great it is to have the dog park open; has his dog there 3/4 times a week. In visiting with other users, feedback has all been positive. He did mention the need to keep up with re- stocking the dog doo bags.
- Roan-Shared information on attending the recent Eastern Carver County Linking Trails He found it to be a very interesting, informative meeting. They talked about the area along the MN bluff that washed out and the challenges to fund repairs. Look to hear more as time goes on.

Board members gave thanks and good wishes to outgoing Chair Jonathan Grau, as this is the last meeting prior to the move to his councilmen position. Grau reflected on the various accomplishments over the years the board has been a part of. He also responded with a push for community members to consider applying to the park board commission.

9. Next Meeting-February 11th

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the December meeting by Grau, second by Roan. Motion Carried.