

1. Call to Order

The August meeting of the Chaska Park Board was called to order by Chairman Roan at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

2. Roll Call

Present: Roan, Downs, Ives, Wittrock, Olsen, Kim, Udermann, Wynveen

Absent: Gutierrez, Mihajlo, Branch

Staff Present: Marshall Grange, Mary Monteith

3. Adopt the Agenda

Motion by Wittrock, second by Udermann, to adopt the August 12th, 2019 meeting agenda. Motion carried.

4. Visitor Presentation

None in attendance.

5. Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion by Olsen, second by Downs to approve the Chaska Park Board meeting minutes of July 8th, 2019. Motion carried.

6. Action Item

6a. Park Naming Process

Parks and Recreation Director Grange shared the history of the process thus far. With the naming of Sunset Park in early 2018, it was recommended by the Park Board, that staff research what is out there as far as policies with other Parks and Recreation departments to help guide the process moving forward. Staff researched other various agencies and took away from a few of them. The goal was to structure guidelines with some flexibility, without boxing the City in. After multiple work sessions with the Park Board, staff was able to bring back this proposal for final approval for recommendation to the City Council.

Grange felt the opening paragraph of the proposed policy really sets the tone, “to engage the community as such participation is an integral part of shaping the public parks system within Chaska”. With a couple new parks coming on-line out in the Big Woods development, the timing of this is beneficial. Having this document can only help make future park naming decisions easier. Downs asked about the process to Council, Grange shared it would be on the agenda next week.

Udermann asked about the recording and documenting of *all* parks. Written documentation would help to better understand the historic significance over the years of city parks. The location and why the parks were named the way they are. Udermann suggest looking into assistance from the Chaska Historical Society with this.

Roan asked the board for a recommendation to the City Council to adopt the Chaska Park Naming Policy. Motion by Wittrock, second by Ives. Motion Carried.

7. Old Business

7A. Bike Friendly Community Updates

Grange thanked the various Park Board members that came to the Aug. 5th council work session. Approximately 25 people were in attendance. Dorien Grilley, Executive Director of Bike Alliance of Minnesota, was in attendance to present and talk about the Bicycle Friendly Community Assessment Report. The goal of this assessment is to “guide efforts to make bicycling the easy, safe and fun choice for making trips around Chaska.” The assessment recommends some ways that improve local bike infrastructure and programs that might increase local ridership for residents, students, and visitors alike.

The recently created Transportation Committee will be meeting towards the end of September and will brainstorm on how to help move forward with addressing some of the tasks necessary for consideration of the Bicycle Friendly Community designation.

Grange also brought the board up to date on the mountain bike trails. A recent meeting with MnDOT resulted in good discussion, they talked through a list of things to keep moving forward. The LUP is still needing approval from a couple other departments. There also is a small piece of land in a right of way area close to the trail, that may need to be addressed.

There has been recent progress with the cities of Victoria, Carver, Chaska and Carver County on wayfinding. Layout for a loop trail (orange) has been identified, as well as a linear trail (green). Signage for those areas throughout will be done by Carver County. The County also has partnered with a research company that will put a survey together for trail users to help gauge usage, as well as likes and dislikes.

September 29th, Parks and Recreation will hold a family bike ride. This ride will depart from Athletic Park going on to finish at Lion’s Park.

7B. Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA) Update

Grange gave an update on the OLDA to the board. We’ve been working on getting out more awareness of the wooded area in the back. There is now a big sign at the front entrance pointing out the larger area. We also have added document holders at both main gates that have informational sheets in them for pet owners on licensing, dog etiquette and things to be more aware of in your dog’s behavior when visiting the dog park. Our communications department has also been visiting the park and posting some short videos of doggies having fun. Staff will keep an eye on the pulse of the two areas and as we get to the one-year timeframe, we’ll reach out and survey users of the park on how things are going.

8. Receive Council Meeting Minutes

8A. Received Council Meeting Minutes from June 17th

8B. Received Council Meeting Minutes from July 1st

9. Staff Reports

9A. Department Happenings-Grange spoke of the many various happenings and programming going on with the Parks and Recreation department.

Grange shared with the board the newly completed Chaska Parks and Trails inventory and interactive map done by Susan Marek and intern Rebecca Gleason. It is now live out on the City website. A ton of time and effort put into this user-friendly program that will be beneficial to all who enjoy Chaska's parks and trails!

Round Table:

- Barth-Check out the activities guide that just came out for fall!
- Ives-Was at the CCC today to work out today.
- Olsen-Asked about the youth age restriction in the work out area. Look for changes to that policy around the first of the year, will allow a 12-year-old in that area with an adult!
- Kim-Excited for fall sports to start (soccer). Appreciated hearing update on the dog park.
- Downs-Kudo's to staff and the department, busy and lots going on during the summer.
- Wittrock-Asked if we'd consider adding bocce ball to programming. Will pass along to athletics programmer, Zac Johnson.
- Udermann-The City of Chaska recently hosted some great events at City Square Gazebo; River City Days, as well as the Flags and Honor Car show for Veterans. Having a great time with Brooklyn as we try and get out to all Chaska Parks. Here's what we've learned so far:
 - Sunsets at Sunset Park are indeed great!
 - Susan Marek did an awesome job on the interactive Parks Map
 - Recent Cubs game at Athletic Park-Lenzen Night, hosted close to 1,000 people with free food, prizes and fun!
 - Touch A Truck-one of the best gatherings in town!
- Roan-This Thursday is the **Happiest** day ever for kids in Chaska, with free hot dogs, free ice cream, and climbing all over very cool vehicles!
 - Also wanted to give another shout out to Susan and Rebecca for the hard work put into this parks and trail map.

10. Other Business

10A. Next Meeting-Conflict with Council meeting on Sept. 9th, so look for information to come out on a work session.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the August Park Board meeting by Udermann, second by Olsen. Motion Carried.