

Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
June 8th, 2021
Council Chambers
And Zoom

1. Call to Order

The June 8th meeting of the Chaska Parks Board was called to order by Chair David Downs at 6:00 pm in person and via Zoom.

2. Roll Call

Attendance:

David Downs, Jason Branch, Thomas Massey, Donelle Heieie, Karli Cich, Georgiann Keyport, Zach Saueressig

Absent: Jalen Destin, Elizabeth Wynveen (missed meeting, attended bus park tour)

Staff: Marshall Grange, Mary Monteith, Kevin Wright, Communications Manager

3. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Keyport, second by Saueressig to adopt the June 8th, 2021, meeting Agenda.

Motion Carried

4. Visitor Presentation

None Present

5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Massey, second by Keyport, to approve the Park Board minutes from May 11th, 2021

Motion Carried

6. Receive Council and Planning Meeting Minutes

6A. Council Minutes May 3rd

6B. Planning Minutes April 14th

7. Action Item

7A. Recommendation to City Council for Termination of Commissioner Term

Downs, the action item we have tonight is for the termination of Commissioner Gutierrez. He has not been able to attend these meetings, so we need to move forward with asking city council to approve his termination and to expedite getting another member to the board.

Downs asked for a motion for recommendation to city council to terminate Ernest Gutierrez appointment as commissioner on the Chaska Park Board and to seek replacement for his vacancy.

Motion by Massy, second by Heieie. Motion Carried.

8. New Business

8A. Naming Rights and Sponsorship

Grange-This item before you is on the sponsorship and naming rights revenue potential, a follow up to last month's work session. If you recall last month, we spent some time on this, outlining the various types of sponsorships and naming rights opportunities out there. I shared some recent examples of other local municipalities and counties that also have pursued such revenue agreements. We heard from a local consult on his insight on what is happening out in this area. We brought the same presentation then to a council work session on May 17th, where there was again good discussion, and we actually ran out of time.

As a follow up, I then reached out both to you and the council and laid out some questions for you to give some thought to and respond back on. What we gleaned from the feedback was overall support to further explore this. There were no glaring red flags preventing us from exploring it and looking into what opportunities there may be. There was also overall agreement that the City should contract with a consult vs. staff taking this on.

The biggest concern that stood out, was the fear of loss of identity, the Chaska Pride came through, which I appreciate. Our existing facilities have created a lot of memories and a lot of meaning in the community over the years. The name "Chaska" means something, that is good to hear. There are ways we can move forward and work with a consultant to figure out how that could look going forward. We are not locked into anything at this point, any agreements that would come back would go through an approval process. Today, based on the feedback, we will incorporate it all and put it together with an RFQ, and then send out to consultants to respond. Ideally, we get 2/3 back to consider, staff review and bring back for recommendation to the park board and council. If we were to feel comfortable hiring a consultant, we would start the process. The consultant would meet and talk with staff and council, as well as engage the various user groups in the various facilities to get a good understanding on how to approach things.

Grange, initially a focus will be on the curling and event center, as it was a bit more favorable in the feedback. It has a more regional reach potential for naming rights, and it has always been intended to bring people into downtown Chaska vs. the Community Center being more of a sense of maintaining the identity and more attractive to a local business to partner on. Should we consider it for naming rights and sponsorship, it really needs to be a part of the conversation when we do the Master Plan process and glean information from a citizen taskforce. The Consultant can also put the Community Center idea out there at the same time as the curl discussion to gauge interest. Grange the next step will be to put the RFQ together, depending on timing, bring it back to next month's meeting for your review, and recommendation to council. With the likely hood of getting in only a couple responses, maybe we can bring them in for interviews with the park board.

Downs, a good plan, and good opportunity for us. Hopefully, they will look at the advertising opportunities in the ice arena, seems like a slam dunk that could bring in some contributions rather than renaming. Grange, yes, this is a good opportunity as we are starting with a blank slate. The consultant could create different tiers of opportunity. If there is not a comfort with the overall naming rights opportunity, then we just focus on in the building sponsorship and advertisement. It would be nice to work with a professional who can lay it all out and have it make sense, do it in a professional way as well as tying it all together with the timing of the community center master plan and when renovations are done. It is to our advantage as well as a business's advantage as to what the future vision is/could look like.

9. Other Business

9A. Board Member Reports

Massey-It sure is hot out, I have been out enjoying the trails though. A hot but good summer.

Keyport-Recently participated in Bike Day, I did the adult 20-mile drive, 95% of the other bikers had E-Bikes, which was interesting. Had a delightful day, with good weather.

Saueressig-Still enjoying the freedoms of the community center; no masks, no reservations. Great to see people on the trails. Looking forward to the rest of the summer.

Heieie-We walked over to where the Lake Grace bridge work is being done, wondering if the trail connector will be widened? Grange, the trail will not be widened, there is some slop there. The initial design was to cut into that to widen it, but too costly and the homeowners on that trail were not very favorable to changing that. Another factor was winter maintenance, PW cannot get equipment on that trail to, so Jonathan Association has agreed to plow the trail. The bridge work is scheduled for Thursday of next week, which will be a great viewing opportunity, as bringing in a crane. Also commented on

how much good work the public works guys have been doing on the trails, it has been fantastic to see, thanks.

Cich-I tried the Chaska to Carver trail and thought of some opportunities for the berm. Also did some free Pio in the park, which was intense but cool to be outside working out for free.

Downs-Thanks again for your attendance last week at the long meeting. I would encourage you to watch the council meeting that was after ours, it was almost 5 hours long, was good.

Grange-With Liz and Jalen not here I can share an update on the Pedestrian/Bicycle plan:

As of this last weekend we closed the engagement for community feedback. We were striving for 1,000 comments. Per Antonio, we had 619 online surveys, 307 partial surveys completed, 117 wiki map comments. 736 responses, great! We can now establish a base line for the community with the data to glean what voices we did not hear from. We will hold 2 listening sessions for others to provide feedback, one at Riverview Terrace mobile home park and the other with the local mountain bike team. We also will have two other pop-up community events, one being River City Days. Once those are complete, we will draft a report back out for all to review.

10. Adjourn-Next meeting is July 13th

Motion by Saueressig, second by Heieie to adjourn the June 8th meeting of the Chaska Park Board.

Bus tour followed.