

Chaska Park Board
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2018

1. Call to Order

The June meeting of the Chaska Park Board was called to order by Chairman Grau at 7pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

2. Roll Call

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

Absent: Mason, Downs, Ives

Staff Present: Marshall Grange, Mary Monteith

3. Adopt the Agenda

Grange asked that Item 8.C. (May 9th planning commission minutes) be removed from agenda as not currently available.

Motion by Wittrock, second by Mihajlov to accept the June meeting agenda, excluding the May 9th planning commission minutes. Motion carried.

4. Visitor Presentation

None

5. Approve Meeting Minutes

Motion by Olsen, second by Flaherty-Wilcox to approve the Chaska Park Board minutes of May 14th, 2018. Motion carried.

6. New Business

A.) Grange shared with the board some early concept drawings of Harvest West development in the Big Woods area that will come on in 2019. Once houses start to sell, there will be more focus on park concepts and engaging with the homeowners at that time. Discussion on park naming came up as well.

B.) Grange shared with the board the 20/40 plan and the process. The Community Development department has taken the lead on the document; however, each department then has a section to plan and project out specific to their areas. Parks and Recreation plan will start now specific to existing parks and trails as well as any new coming on. This will also involve park board discussion as well as community participation. Looking to have the plan completed by October. Grange asked that a work session be set for 5:30 p.m., July 9th, prior to the regular scheduled board meeting.

7. Old Business

A.) Grange provided the board with the public feedback collected at the May 30th Community Engagement meeting on the dog park. Staff compiled the specifics of the survey, as well as comments and feedback from the open house. Surveys were also collected the following week at the Community Center as well as via Survey Monkey. There were over 1,600 hits on Facebook alone! 95% of the data collected was positive and people want the dog park. Those that were not in favor, were all very cordial and respectful. Their comments were ones we have been aware of and been talking through, i.e. pet owners not cleaning up after their dog, the smell, upkeep, barking, and traffic concerns.

After board discussion, Grau stated there really is not anything holding this back and directed staff to hone in on concept plans, actual costs and park amenities for the July meeting, with the intent to take a recommendation to the council in next couple months. Grau also reiterated the importance of sharing the positive survey results and findings with the public as well as with those that took the survey.

B.) In Nick Masons absence, Chair Grau shared revised concept plans and updates specific to the City Square West redevelopment. One plan had the library in the layout, one did not.

The two most important results since the last meeting were that the commission consensus was to *not* include the library on this site. County Library Director, Heidi Hoks, is part of this committee, and was present. She also felt there were other better options in the downtown area to re-locate the library. Secondly, the hotel study came back reflecting that the area market is saturated, and unfortunately, the economics would not support one in Chaska.

Next committee meeting date is set for June 27th. Chair Grau reiterated again the importance of city representatives staying in close communications with the current businesses residing there. They are an integral part of our downtown community.

8. Other Business

A.) Grange reviewed with the board the various Parks and Recreation department happenings. He shared the big announcement of securing “2018 Curling Night in America” filming at the curling center. The details of what is all required are being worked out now. We will need to fill the bleachers throughout all times of filming. Branch asked about volunteer opportunities for the public. Grange will communicate back any areas of need.

Grange also brought the board up to date on the proposed expansion of the boys and girls hockey locker rooms in the CCC arena. Meetings have occurred with city finance staff, District 112 staff and are now looking for council to approve going out to bid.

Grange updated the board on the progress made to date with the Chaska Chan Mountain Bike Team. They have filed the required papers with the State of Minnesota for a 501 c (3) status and are still working on the insurance piece. They also have asked about revisiting the BMX bike area at Lion’s Park (near proposed off leash dog area) for current training for kids in their program. Public Works is willing to bring in the dirt to help build up the site and the bike team will work on the jumps.

B.) Receive City Council meeting minutes from April 30th.

*Roan noted in the minutes that Ridgeview was donating money to the new Veteran's Park redevelopment.

9. Roundtable

Olsen asked for an update on Veteran's Park construction progress-Grange mentioned that things are moving forward and that the next day was the start of weekly construction meetings. He will bring back updates each month.

Olsen also mentioned that staff did a great job organizing and communicating out to parents with kids in the Friday evening youth baseball program.

Flaherty-Wilcox asked staff to follow up on the mountain bike project to keep it moving forward. Grange mentioned that without the permit in place, we are limited on doing that. It is now on them to provide the insurance.

Flaherty-Wilcox also mentioned that he attended the Chaska Par 30 council work session. He said there was a great presentation on it. He was impressed with the ideas of making it more accessible and inclusive for those with special needs.

Wittrock shared with the Board that she went to the Council work session last week on Wayfinding and thought it was very informative as well as important to Parks and Recreation trails, parks, etc.

9. Adjourn

Motion by Mihajlo to adjourn the June 11th, 2018 meeting of the Chaska Park Board, second by Branch. Motion Carried.