

Chelsea Parks and Recreation Commission
Chelsea City Office Meeting Room
Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:00 AM

Minutes

Present: Personke, Angus, Kaminsky, Merkel, Manager Colburn

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
 - Merkel moved to approve agenda, Angus seconded. Motion passed.
3. Approval of Dec 4th and Dec 19th Minutes
 - Angus moved to approve minutes, Merkel seconded. Motion passed.
4. Welcome and Introduction to new Commissioner Dan Kaminsky
 - Personke welcomed new commissioner Dan Kaminsky to the Parks and Recreation Commission, and he was officially sworn in.
5. Call to Public
 - No public input
6. Old Business
 - a. Main Street Park Update: Manager Colburn gave an update on the meeting held on Jan. 12th with Viridis Design Group, where three different concepts of the park were submitted, reviewed, and critiqued. There will now be a future meeting with two designs for public input. Angus said it was an impressive meeting, and Merkel agreed. It was appreciated by all that the design group has taken public input into account with their designs.
 - b. Timbertown/Trailhead Update: Castle met with Derek Bollinger with DPW and completed the purchase of (3) picnic tables, (6) bike racks, and (3) benches. Personke also gave an update on the Steering Committee and its related subcommittees. The subcommittees are Fundraising, Communication, and Construction. There have been several meetings for each committee. The fundraising committee is fine tuning its process, and the communication committee is discussing how to promote it. There was also a meeting with Play By Design, who gave a walk-through of their current design/layout for the park. Personke stated that the current design is hard to understand visually, so Emily Taylor and Nicole Bell are creating a layout of the new park design that is easier for the public to understand and more exciting. The fundraising committee is planning on having a kickoff event in the coming weeks. The Pathway to Renewal also has two different options for the mosaic at the park. One option would be to repair the current mosaic, and the second would be to create a new mosaic, with the longevity of the art being a priority. This project also could also qualify for a grant up to \$30,000 which would be applied for in June, and possibly awarded in September.
 - c. Other Park Conversations: The city is spending a lot of time coaching the public on the use of the new phone app used to gain entrance into the park. The problem is that the

lock using Bluetooth technology needs to be synched with the user's smartphone. Personke will get something posted on the Bark Park Facebook page.

- d. Community Center Planning Group: Manager Colburn discussed the possibility of two jobs/roles in the community for a mental health professional, one through the city and one that would be through Trinity Health at Chelsea Hospital. There is a need for this position after school hours that currently isn't being met. Manager Colburn also discussed his plan for deputizing Chelsea police officers through the Sheriff's department to be able to serve the Chelsea School District area in support of the mentioned health professional. Commissioners wondered how these new positions are tied into the Community Center concepts that have been discussed at earlier Parks meetings, including the idea that instead of a new Community Center building, existing resources and partners that provide recreational activities and spaces are organized and led by recreation partners such as the school district or the 5 Healthy Towns Foundation.
- e. Freer/Tinkle Property Update: Manager Colburn stated that the City is planning on taking down the outbuildings on the property, which are a safety hazard, sometime this winter or spring.
- f. 2023/2024 Budget Recommendations: Manager Colburn stated that the City will work with the Parks Commissions on the submitted priority list from the committee. There should also be clarification on the budget priorities after the City Council Visioning Session that is taking place at Silver Maples on Jan 31st at 5:30 p.m. Merkel stated that the City infrastructure should be a high priority for the city going forward, like sidewalks for example.
- g. 2024/2025: Manager Colburn will come back to the Commission with recommendations.

7. New Business

- Merkel stated that the DDA could use a project to work on, and that because the DDA already owns the vacant Park St lot, this would be a good project for them to focus on.

8. Commissioner and Staff Reports and Announcements

- Angus stated that Chelsea Area Friends for Recreation will be planning events for 2024. The Parks Commission has previously sponsored/paid for one of the events.
- Kaminsky stated that he thought the commission shouldn't sit on the dais in the council chambers. A possible compromise of using the chambers but having tables in front of dais was discussed.

9. Next Meeting: Feb 6th, 2024.

10. Adjournment: Merkel motioned to adjourn, Angus seconded. Motion passed.