

Chelsea Parks and Recreation Commission
Chelsea City Council Chambers
Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 9:00 AM

Minutes

Present: Personke, Angus, Muldoon, Castle, Mehuron (City Council Liaison), Elke Doom (City Manager), Adrianna Jordan (Community Development Director), Derik Bollinger by zoom (staff).

Guest: Meg Gower, Joe Ziolkowski (MSPA), Jeff Hardcastle (HWPI)

1. Call to Order
2. Angus moved to amend the agenda to include Dog Park proposals, Castle second: Unanimous.
3. Approval of May 2023 Minutes as amended. Castle moved, Muldoon second: Unanimous.
4. Call to Public
6. Old Business
 - A. Main Street Park updates. Jordan reported her visit to the Washtenaw County Brownfield Agency Board. Ziolkowski reported on MSPA's progress in pursuing a County brownfield grant to remediate by removing 24 inches of soil and replacing it with new topsoil. Ziolkowski reported that EGLE has provided a letter in support of the \$650k low interest loan, with no interest rate for the first five years following brownfield remediation. This support is an encouraging sign for EGLE's final approval of the loan. The loan would also offer 3rd party administration from EGLE.
 - B. Timbertown/Trailhead Update. Hardcastle share his overview with the presentation distributed in hard copy. A schema of the preliminary site plan was passed around. This presentation will be shared at the upcoming City Council meeting and to the Planning Commission in August. Gestamp has offered the east end of their parking lot (approx. 200 parking spots) with future signage for the use of TT pickleball courts and other TT events. There will be a gate at the west entrance, closed except for when events are scheduled with signage. The projected cost of TT infrastructure improvements is \$450k. The approval process is reliant on bids in September with 12 months for project completion. The City will improve electrical infrastructure this fall.
 1. Pathway to Renewal Subcommittee report. Personke reported that the subcommittee met in May and fine-tuned the costs. The budget includes a themed play piece for children that is contemplative. Pavilion and play element, if supported by fundraising, will be included. Rainwater dispersal is shown to be managed in the site plan.
 2. Pickleball. Hardcastle reported the cost as approximately \$175k; fund-raising will work to accommodate in-kind contributions, e.g., by corporate supporters. Private fundraising will start after City Council review in June. It is hoped that installation can be completed this fall.
 3. Play structure: Subcommittee Report/Recommendation. Hardcastle reported alumni of the vendor first used in 1996 are committed to working with Playgrounds by Design, installing several improvements per year. The core timbers are in great shape: 26 years old, with quality that we can't find anymore. The vision of improvement to the 5-12-year-old play area incorporates the idea that by doing a more comprehensive re-do of both the areas of the structure, we get a playground that will last another 10 years vs 2-4 years. Fundraising goals are phased at \$150k - \$200k - \$250k, outcomes will indicate what improvements are possible. Play by Design will lay out

multiple options and community input will be facilitated. Two community captains are designated and will lead the community workbee organization.

4. Mulch and maintenance will be done this summer.
5. Trailhead naming. Personke encouraged that we consider the Palmer Commons process in which citizens submitted names and bios, and City Council selected the top three, and the community to vote on those 3. Personke will reach out to the Chamber to see if they would like to spearhead the process.
6. Site plan. Jordan will review the provisional site plan in July, to submit to the August Planning Commission meeting. Personke and Hardcastle will present provisional site plan to Council on June 12.

Muldoon moved to send the provisional site plan to the Planning Commission for review at its August meeting, Castle second; Unanimous.

C. 2022-23 Other Budgeted Park Improvements

a. Pierce Park. Personke reported that the improvements are mostly complete for 2022/23. The bike rack installation is scheduled with the support of a \$500 sponsorship from 5 Healthy Towns and the cement pad is laid.

b. Scout troop at Pierce Park perennial project. Meg Gower, the original designer and installer, noted that deer are a problem for the perennials that her Girl Scout troop volunteered to plant. They spent \$750 but deer ate all the geraniums and other plants. After consultation with City staff, she acquired repellent and sprayed. Sprinklers for the beds are not professionally set up. Bollinger answered questions by zoom, on speaker. He will seek bids for a professional to assess the current situation for improvements.

Meg: proposed a Friends of Pierce Park group to be formed, as volunteers to take care of the park. For now, Angus volunteered to be a Parks and Recreation Commission liaison with Meg Gower to keep Pierce Park's immediate needs on the agenda. Castle volunteered to assist.

2. Veterans Park. The bike rack installation is scheduled; the cement pad is laid.

3. Dog Park.

i. The key fob and pad is estimated at \$4500. Bollinger stated this is within budget and will proceed.

Muldoon moved to approve key fob installation, Angus seconded: Unanimous.

ii. Fencing/gate to create a separate dog area. The cost is \$10000 and is within budget.

a. Muldoon stated that most other parks have a small dog area fenced off. He spoke with a dog behaviorist who affirmed that a space containing 3-5 dogs under 25 lbs. is appropriate.

Recommended, unenforceable times for use of this area could raise awareness.

c. Agility course. An Eagle Scout troupe proposed a project to improve it. They will meet with Muldoon and Personke, possibly bring the proposal to the Commission in July.

Mehuron motioned to approve small dog area installation, Muldoon second: Unanimous.

iii. Dog Park Rules sign design is completed with the cost estimated at \$550. Bids from vendors are in process.

7. Community Center Planning Group (on hold for fall discussions).

8. DDA green space sledding hill (on hold for fall discussions)

9. Freer/Trinkle property update (on hold for fall discussions)

10.. Update on B2B route through town (on hold for fall discussions)

11.. ADA planning (on hold for 2023/24). Jordan noted that this planning is budgeted for the upcoming year.

12. New Business. None.

13. Commissioner and Staff Reports & Announcements. None.
15. Next meeting July 11, 2023 (rescheduled from July 4)
15. Adjournment at 10:14 pm. Castle moved to adjourn, Muldoon second: Unanimous.