

Chelsea Parks and Recreation Commission
Chelsea City Council Chambers
Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 9:00 AM

Minutes

Present: Personke, Angus, Muldoon, Merkel, Thomson, Mehuron (City Council liaison), Bollinger (Staff), Colburn (City Manager)

Guests: Joe Ziolkowski (MSPA) Dan Kaminsky (Community Garden), Jeff Hardcastle (HWPI)

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda with amended item after #3: "Introduce Mr. Colburn" Angus moved: Muldoon second: Unanimous.
3. Approval of August 2023 Minutes. Angus moved; Muldoon second: Unanimous.
- 3a. Introducing Martin Colburn, City Manager. Mr. Colburn gave his professional background and affirmed he is looking forward to working with the Parks and Recreation Commission.
4. Call to Public
5. Presentation: Dan Kaminsky, Community Garden. The cost of a water hookup for the garden is \$6k. 5 Healthy Towns offered \$3k to help cover the cost. Community Garden members started fundraising and have come up with the rest. Bollinger: water and utilities are scheduled to be installed at the beginning of October.
6. Old Business
 - A. Main Street Park updates – Joe Ziolkowski. MSPA has sampled the water at the site in 50 spots. A decision is pending on whether tanks dug up on the site should be removed. Both buildings on the site will be torn down. The estimated cost to transform the old Federal Screw Works property into Main Street Park is \$6 million dollars. The combination of money raised so far, along with grants received total approximately \$4.3 million dollars. MSPA will submit a Response Activity Plan to EGLE later in the month. Biridis (Kalamazoo) is selected, after the June RFP went out with receipt of 4 submitted proposals. The design process will be 10 months with construction documents produced by next July. Community engagement will be part of the design process.
 - B. Timbertown/Trailhead Updates-Jeff Hardcastle.
 1. Trailhead naming. Parks Commission will work with Chamber of Commerce run the trail naming contest. Probably timed with January fundraising kickoff.
 2. T-shirts. Chamber member is a Tshirt company. Have TT logo. Minor fundraiser. Set for November.
 3. Fundraising: this winter with scaled levels showing what can be done at each level.
 4. Pathway to Renewal: Personke. Bill Darwin has started work on refurbishing the big pieces. The PTR working group will meet in January.
 5. Pickleball courts. Planning Commission has approved the preliminary site plan, including the design of a 6-court facility. Doan Construction and Chelsea Lumber will probably lead construction subsequent to future review by the City Council. Colburn: There will be an October installation of the pickleball pads. Fundraising for \$200k is successful. Commission members Angus, Castle, and Thomson volunteered to form a subcommittee to develop policies, procedures, and rules for the courts, and for staff oversight. Maintenance costs could be assisted by tournament fundraising.

7. Play structure update. The City is working with the Play by Design firm to determine what they can afford when it comes to rebuilding the playground structure. Gestamp will install and build the roofs. Chelsea State Bank has joined as a partner in the project. The site plan review for upgrades of the parking lot, water fountains, and plumbing will be out on bids soon. Gestamp will provide gated parking for events such as Pickleball tournaments, coordinated with the City.

C. Timbertown Community Garden water update (see above presentation)

D. Pierce Park

1. Volunteers – (Angus). No update.
2. Path from Twisters (Merkel). No update.

E. Vet's Park

1. Drinking fountain. Bollinger: This is still under consideration. Will have to look at the expense as part of the overall 2023-24 budget.

F. Dog Park key system.

Colburn: City staff has been working with a sub-committee of the Parks & Recreation Board to allow a signup system using a phone app to allow entry into the dog park. This is necessary to have access control to ensure that animals going into the enclosed area have their required shots. This makes the play area safer for both dogs and humans. The new system will become active on November 1, 2023. New users must fill out a registration form and current users can contact the city to receive the information on the Dog Park Access App. Once all paperwork is filed and registered, and the app uploaded on their phone, users can access the park.

Registrations are good for one year from Dec. 31, 2023 through Dec. 31 2024. There is a \$25.00 annual user fee for city citizens and \$35.00 for others. There will be a celebration event at the dog park on Saturday, October 21, 2023 from 10:00 am till noon. Commission members Muldoon and Angus and Personke will help plan the celebration event with the City staff.

1. Eagle project. Bollinger: There has been constant communication. They are gathering supplies; Home Depot is donating materials. A tentative schedule is in process. They will need park closure while installing over weekends.

G. Community Center Planning Group (Angus). 5 Healthy Towns grant application is focused on social programming at Wellness Center. City Council approved the Mayor's endorsement letter for the grant. The Pilot Program in August for teens has started a partnership between 5HT and schools.

8. Freer/Trinkle property: Angus suggested Commissioners should form a subcommittee to propose options for it.

9. Purple Rose side lot update (Merkel). Merkel met with Colburn to review the property. They will consult with the DDA and Purple Rose to get their perspective.

10. New Business

A. First look at the 2023-24 Budget. Personke met with Colburn and Bollinger. Colburn has contacted a risk management firm to do an evaluation for parks' accessibility.

11. Commissioner and Staff Reports & Announcements. Mehuron suggested that the parks need a recycling plan. Muldoon added that the plan should include at least the disposal of bottles and cans. Colburn: The Dog Park will get accessible bathrooms this fall/winter which will not cut into the Parks \$68k budget.

12. Next meeting: October 3, 2023

13. Adjournment. Muldoon moved, Angus second: Unanimous.