

Minutes

Present: Muldoon, Personke, Merkel, Castle, Angus, Thomson, Mehuron (City Council liaison)

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda: Castle motioned; Muldoon second: Unanimous.
3. Approval of September 2023 Minutes: Muldoon motioned; Angus second: Unanimous.
4. Call to Public
5. Old Business

A. Main Street Park update. Personke suggest that we have a Parks commissioner on MSP design team ensure that the Parks Plan vision - particularly the unmet needs and wants – is incorporated.

B. Timbertown/Trailhead Updates. Personke shared that the Parks TT subcommittee met with the Play by Design firm at Timbertown where they discussed a tiered option approach to reimagining and funding Timbertown improvements. With a goal of retaining the community essence of Timbertown, the subcommittee will be looking at three options at different cost levels to take to the community for input.

1. Trailhead naming and fundraising. The Chamber of Commerce will lead the naming nominations process. Naming the trailhead and fundraising will probably kick off in January 2024. Personke hopes to have a booth during Chelsea's **Wine, Woman, and Shopping** event on Nov. 11 and to launch an online store to sell T-shirts for the purpose of fundraising and awareness of the exciting community project.
2. Pathway to Renewal. Two new members joined the PTR subcommittee. Current work is ongoing, creating the set pieces for the larger mosaics. Bill Darwin, Darwin Glass has received 50% of the funding for this part of the project.
3. Pickleball - construction update, policy update. Personke shared that the court will see breaking ground in October. A subcommittee of commissioners and Chelsea Pickleball has developed a policy for use, including designating open play times. A PB standard "rotation board" will be available on-site to keep track of teams' queues. Courts will be designated for novice, intermediate, and advanced players. The committee leans toward no reservations to avoid overwhelming external reservations. No charges are projected at this time. No-charge tournaments and lessons will be organized through Chelsea Community Education. Mehuron suggested that the committee should have City staff in the group to stay informed about the collaboration between Chelsea Community Education and pickleball teams. Thomson agreed. Also discussed - ways that PB fundraisers can be directed towards court maintenance.
4. Infrastructure update. Same as before. Mehuron noted that its September meeting, City Council viewed the water pipe trench that had been dug.

C. Pierce Park

1. Volunteers. – Angus met with Meg Gower and some volunteers. Bollinger (City staff) was contacted about the need for winter mulch. The plan is to organize volunteers' Spread the Mulch day; Genesis will initiate it.
2. Path from Twisters (on hold until budget is discussed)

D. Vet's Park. No update. Discussion revolved around prioritizing Vets Park planning for 2024-2025. A community survey may be necessary to kick off planning.

E. Dog Park (Muldoon and Personke)

1. Celebration event on Saturday, October 21 at the Dog Park. Current registrants are informed about the celebration and all the park improvements. The celebration will offer pet portraits and prize drawings. Chelsea Area Friends of Recreation will co-sponsor the event.
2. Agility course. Muldoon reported that this Eagle troop project is nearly complete.

F. Community Center Planning Group. Angus reported that the group will meet next week. Last week the group met to talk about the Washtenaw County Public Safety/Mental Health millage that yields \$100k annually. It is coming up for renewal. Angus offered that there is a Chelsea schools position that provides mental health support; maybe the working hours could be extended, and positioned at the community center as well. 5 Healthy Towns is mapping out the potential collaborations.

G. Freer/Trinkle property update. **A subcommittee was formed to pursue information/direction, including Muldoon, Angus, Personke.**

H. Purple Rose hill update. Merkel has been trying to communicate with the DDA and Purple Rose staff. Need to meet directly with DDA. Personke: In the Parks Plan it is shown as "green space." Its' history needs review with the City manager. There may be an option to make the hill a City property instead of the DDA's oversight. Merkel observed that the hill looks almost like a natural amphitheater.

I. 2023/24 budget

- I. Updates on budget numbers (Marty) No update.
 - II. Priorities Discussion. Parks Commission members also discussed the 2023/2024 budget and what their priorities should be, based on the 5-year park plan. Mehuron: Consider we are two years out from the state mandated Parks Plan update. Some possible affordable projects might include: designation of the hill beside Purple Rose; City Manager review of ADA guidelines and other types of accommodation needed in the parks; needs for tree, flower beds, benches, play elements in Pierce and/or Vets; collaboration with WWRA and Zero Waste Coalition on the Parks' trash bins. Thomson noted that there is a Friends of Timbertown account currently held by the City. The Commission should check to ensure it is empty.
 - III. Work session. Possibly Oct 17
6. New Business. None.
7. Commissioner and Staff Reports & Announcements. Thomson met with Pickleball group to discuss that Chelsea Community Education maintains a calendar for ball fields, on behalf of the City as a contractor for those services. Mehuron shared that the Planning Commission is working on an ordinance for food trucks; this will impact the Parks in the future.
8. Next meeting: Nov. 7, 2023
9. Adjournment: Castle moved; Muldoon second: Unanimous.