

## **Minutes**

### **Cheney Park Board Commission Regular Meeting via zoom**

**February 9, 2022**

Commissioners Attending: Jackie Randall, Chris Babcock, Ron Valencia, Ryan Delaney, Kelley Cullen, Savannah Youmans, Chris Hoppe.

Commissioners Absent: none.

Staff Attending: Kelly McGinley Ashe, Leslie Bridges, Prestan Walker.

Councilmembers Attending: Paul Schmidt.

Call to Order: Kelly McGinley Ashe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the December 8, 2021 regular meeting were approved by Commissioner Cullen and seconded by Commissioner Randall.

Ms. McGinley Ashe introduced our newest Park Board Commissioner Ron Valencia. Commissioner Valencia stated he has been in Cheney for 10 years on and off and believes Cheney/Spokane area is great place to live. He would like to offer whatever skills and talents he has to the Park Board.

#### Information Items:

- A. Dog Park Updates – Ms. McGinley Ashe showed the Board members the most current map of the dog park. Councilmember Schmidt stated that this is the revised plat plan of the perimeter of the dog park. These 2 acres have been dedicated to Cheney Parks & Recreation for a dog park. Councilmember Schmidt stated that construction has been budgeted for this year and will start in the spring. Councilmember Schmidt reviewed the revisions of the map including parking stalls, 2 separate double gates for the small dog area and the large dog area, water meter and 2 fountains, large perimeter area and a 6ft high chain link fence. Park mitigation funds will be used to construct and make improvements for this park. The apartment owners to the east of the dog park would like to utilize some of the city land for additional parking space. They are willing to pay for it but we will use mitigation fees instead as these funds have a limited time to be used. Any funds that are received from the apartment owner would go back in to park funds. City forces will be putting flags at the corners of the park area for markers. Ms. McGinley Ashe noted that the flags are already in place. Councilmember Schmidt recommended that the Board members and the Dog Park committee go look at the perimeter and report back with any question or concerns to himself or Todd Ableman. Commissioner Babcock inquired as to why there has to be a 20-foot space all the way around the park area. Councilmember Schmidt stated that it is a buffer for larger equipment access, grading, etc. Commissioner Babcock asked for more clarification when they meet at the park. Councilmember Schmidt stated that we need at least 3 written quotes from contractors before we can begin the work. This spring we will hopefully get the fencing started. Any funds not used for construction will be used for other park improvements. We need input from Board members and the Dog Park committee for other amenities they would like to see at the park. Commissioner Hoppe inquired about parking, access points and drinking fountain locations. He voiced concern regarding the access point

being at a busy corner of the park and maybe the access point could be moved to the lot next to the parking area instead. Councilmember Schmidt stated that that area is slated for more park amenities and could not be used as an access point.

- B. Recreation Coordinator Update – Ms. McGinley Ashe introduced Prestan Walker as our new Recreation Coordinator. Prestan noted that he has experience working in the parks and recreation department in Alaska as well as the Spokane area and is excited to be working for us.
- C. SEEK Award – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we received funding for our entire summer day camp program CASLO, a teen hiking camp and 2 different sports camps in the amount of \$63,200.00. This is a reimbursable award so we pay upfront and then we send in receipts for reimbursement. This will cover the entire cost of our day camp program including staff wages.
- D. Aquatic programming with EWU – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that the Spokane Parks Foundation is going to give EWU \$3000 for swim lessons this summer and \$1000 for drowning prevention clinics. Prestan Walker and Commissioner Babcock are working on these programs. EWU also received \$2000 for lifeguarding classes. Commissioner Hoppe wanted to know how the community will know about these classes. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that it will be advertised in our spring/summer brochure as well as social media and the utility bill insert.
- E. Hagelin Park Restroom Updates – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we are getting a new restroom at Hagelin Park around spring time. We will be using mitigation fees to cover the cost. The entrance to the restroom will also face the park and not the street. The restroom may also be located a little farther down to make room for a new pool.
- F. Pool RFQ Updates – Councilmember Schmidt stated that we have 3 submittals and the state requires that we have to interview all 3. Commissioner Babcock and Commissioner Randall are on the interview panel. Councilmember Schmidt noted that interview schedules will be sent to them. The process will begin with a heavy dose of public input. Commissioner Babcock inquired if they needed to recruit for the pool committee. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that she had been approached as well about serving on the committee and will get that information to Commissioner Babcock. Commissioner Randall also stated that she has also had people show interest as well and will get the contact info over to Kelly. Councilmember Schmidt stated that we will go with the most qualified consultant and not necessarily the cheapest. The cost for a consultant would be \$100,000. Commissioner Babcock inquired as to how we will know who is most qualified. Councilmember Schmidt stated that the committee will have set questions to answer and then they are rated by the committee. Commissioner Valencia asked what stage this pool project is currently at. Councilmember Schmidt stated that we have a blank slate and we are at ground level. Commissioner Valencia also expressed interest in serving on the committee. Commissioner Hoppe inquired about the source of the \$100,000. Councilmember Schmidt stated that it came from Real Estate Excise Tax. The design funds will come from REET funds as well. Commissioner Randall inquired if it is safe to assume that refurbishing the pool is not an option. Commissioner Valencia wanted to know when the committee would be meeting. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that the meetings will start after we get the interviews set up.
- G. Brad Barsness – Betz Park – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that Maria Fell inquired about renaming Betz Park to Brad Barsness Park and a dedication plaque be displayed in his honor. Maria Fell thanked the Board for this time and believes this would be a great name-sake for Brad. Brad has done so much for the community and Maria stated she has received a lot of community support for this idea. The community is willing to help in any way to accomplish this. Commissioner

Babcock like the idea although she believes that park needs some cleaning up first if its going to be dedicated in someones honor. If the community is willing to help, they could come out and help clean up the park. Commissioner Hoppe inquired about a park-naming policy. Councilmember Schmidt believes that the naming protocols would rest with the City Council. Other cities have offered catalogs with various ways to remember loved ones and community members. Councilmember Schmidt suggested a sub-committee should report back about this. Commissioner Randall stated that she has seen lots of benches, statues and fountains in memory of loved ones in parks and liked the idea of a list of ideas to offer to those who want to honor someone. Ms. McGinley Ashe asked for a sub-committee for this project, Commissioner Babcock and Commissioner Delaney offered to be on that committee.

Citizen Participation: Casey Barsness, Brooke Hanley, Maria Fell, Kellisa Kulm, Debra Morgan. Maria thanked the Park Board for their time and commitment to the sub-committee and also noted that Brad's wife is in agreement with this idea and they have also considered reaching out to Mark Peterson and the Extreme Team regarding grounds improvements.

Action Items:

- A. Vote on a new Park Board Chair – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that she had 2 nominations, those being Chris Hoppe and Ryan Delaney. Councilmember Schmidt said no confidentiality involved and we could open the floor for more nominations and then vote. No other nominations were presented. Commissioner Hoppe and Commissioner Delaney were both honored to be nominated. Commissioners Cullen, Delaney, Babcock, and Randall all voted for Commissioner Hoppe. Commissioner Valencia motioned to appoint Commissioner Hoppe as Park Board Chair and Commissioner Delaney seconded the motion.

Tree Board Business: None.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Randall stated that while attending a Cheney Merchants Assn meeting someone had inquired about pickle ball. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we are already working on it. Commissioner Babcock confirmed that EWU will be doing the swimming lessons and Cheney Parks & Recreation would be doing the advertising. Commissioner Hoppe stated that he is accepting applications for intramural sports and offered the link.

Staff Reports: None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By:

---

Leslie Bridges, Administrative Clerk

---

Chris Hoppe, Chairman