

Minutes

Cheney Park Board Commission Regular Meeting via Zoom

February 10, 2021

Commissioners Attending: Tricia Hughes, Ryan Delaney, Kelley Cullen, Chris Hoppe.

Commissioners Absent: Christine Babcock, Jamie Rieth.

Staff Attending: Kelly Ashe, Leslie Bridges, Alyssa Gonzalez.

Councilmembers Attending: Paul Schmidt.

Call to Order: Commissioner Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the December 9, 2021 regular meeting were approved by Commissioner Hoppe and Commissioner Cullen.

Information Items:

- A. New Recreation Coordinator – Ms. McGinley Ashe announced that Alyssa Gonzalez is our new recreation coordinator. Ms. Gonzalez introduced herself stating that she started on January 12th and has been working on creating youth sports programs that adhere to today's protocols along with familiarizing herself with the pool operations and working with Kelly on other programs. She is also on the Wellness Committee with the City.
- B. Spring Sports – Ms. Gonzalez stated that we are offering some sports "clinics" right now with very limited groups in order to keep within the Washington State COVID requirements. We have soccer, flag football, volleyball and momentum running club. Soccer is very popular with quite a few on the waitlist for ages 3 through 6. With the exception of volleyball, these clinics will be held outdoors to enable social distancing.
- C. Echo Expansion – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that she met with City Administrator Mark Schuller and Cheney School District Asst. Superintendent, Tom Arlt regarding increasing the number of participants at our Echo programs at Snowdon and Windsor. We have several families on the waitlist who are in need of these services. As of right now we can have 14 kids at each site and since our meeting I have found out we can have 20 kids at each site and we can also have use of the gym in the mornings and afternoons. The school district is still providing breakfast and lunch for the kids, and they will provide an area in the gym where we can keep snacks and supplies for our program. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we will be losing three staff at the Windsor Echo site, so we are currently scheduling interviews for these positions. Commissioner Hoppe inquired as to why these staff are leaving. Ms. McGinley Ashe responded stating that they were hired at positions in their field of study and also with the school district. Ms. Gonzalez also noted that a common issue we have with hiring staff is that they do not have the required certifications in CPR/First aid training and trying to find a class right now is difficult. Commissioner Hoppe inquired if the Cheney fire department could hold a training. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that she has looked in to that however they are short staffed right now and cannot offer the training.

- D. Centennial Park Slide – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that the slide has been damaged for some time now, so we have used \$4000 in grant funds from Spokane Parks Foundation to replace the broken slide. However, the total cost of the slide was \$7000. Councilmember Schmidt noted that since the grant for Hagelin park was not approved that we would use mitigation fees to replace the playground equipment at Hagelin park. The equipment has been received and will be assembled soon. Councilmember Schmidt also mentioned that dog park discussions are underway and hope to go out for bid soon. The nearby apartment developers stated they would like to get more parking area for the complex which would be in the area next to the dog park. Its possible that we could do this and charge lease fees for the usage that would help with the dog park costs. The developers are in support of the dog park. Commissioner Hoppe inquired if the mitigation fees would help with the dog park costs. Councilmember Schmidt stated that the mitigation funds have guidelines for which they are to be used. He will get a copy of the language for mitigation fees to the Park Board members as there are limitations and sunsets on the fees. He will also look in to using those fees for dog parks. Councilmember Schmidt noted that we have approximately \$500,000 in mitigation fees to spend and we should refer to our list of priorities to apply these fees. Commissioner Hoppe requested a copy of the park's priority list.
- E. Windstorm Damage – Councilmember Schmidt stated we are currently working with insurance on the damages to playground equipment at Sutton park. Our insurance premium is \$5000. FEMA will cover the cost to clean up the damage and debris from the storm.
- F. Park Board Vacancy – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we currently have an open position on the Park Board and if you know of anyone who might be interested please let her know. Commissioner Hughes expressed interest in having a county resident on the board. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that the Mayor will make the final decision.
- G. 10-Year Comprehensive Survey Update – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we have 284 responses to the survey. That is about 130 more than what we had the last time we did a survey about 10 years ago. John McCallum with the Cheney Free Press ran a story in the paper about the survey to help promote it. The survey was sent out on many platforms to reach all populations. Commissioner Hoppe said he sent the survey info to EWU but has not had a response yet. Ms. Gonzalez said she would share the survey with the Cheney Moms group and Neighbor to Neighbor. So far, our biggest comments in the survey are about the pool location, trails and natural areas. Commissioner Delaney stated that when we do our next survey we should inquire where they are finding the survey. The Cheney Connections newsletter that is sent in the utility bills has a link but it is really long and inquired if we could get a different one. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that she can take care of that and also direct people to the City website.
- H. Economic Development – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated she presented a packet of information to the Mayor and met with him to discuss the importance of Parks and Recreation in economic development. The Mayor stated that he would read over the information and follow up with her. She also sent him some follow-up emails with more information. Commissioner Hoppe stated that he has other resources that he can forward to Ms. McGinley Ashe as well.
- I. Upcoming Virtual Classes/Events – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we are offering a Galentines virtual cooking class and we have 21 people signed up. The Mason Jar restaurant is providing all the ingredients for the class. We also have a virtual history lecture/tea time on February 24th and we have 5 people signed up for that and 6 for the March lecture. Joan Mamanakis is the

speaker, and the tea and scones are provided by The Mason Jar. Virtual classes are becoming more popular so if you have suggestions please let us know.

Citizen Participation: None.

Action Items: None at this time however Commissioner Hughes suggested marrying the parks priority list with dog park needs for the next meeting under Action Items.

Commented [HT1]: So, I suggested this, but don't know what it means? What are we trying to say here? 😊

Tree Board Business: Ms. McGinley Ashe reported that the playground equipment at Sutton park suffered some major damage due to the windstorm and trees falling over.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Hoppe would like to know the sunset of the mitigation fees and also announced that he has taken on the role of the EWU Homecoming Committee Chair. He also inquired about field usage fees. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that she is putting something together and will have a proposal for the Board at the next meeting. [Commissioner Hughes wants to ensure that we bring up the parks priority list at our next meeting and add the dog park to the list.](#)

Staff Reports: None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By:

Leslie Bridges, Administrative Clerk

Tricia Hughes, Chairman