

Minutes
Cheney Park Board Commission
Regular Meeting

April 12, 2023

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

Commissioners Absent: Chris Babcock.

Staff Attending: Kelly McGinley Ashe, Ethan Olson, Leslie Bridges.

Councilmembers Absent: Paul Schmidt.

Call to Order: Commissioner Hoppe called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the March 8, 2023 regular meeting were approved by Commissioner Valencia and seconded by Commissioner Randall.

Information Items:

- A. Youth Sports update – Mr. Olson reported that our youth spring season for soccer and flag football started on April 10 and we currently have 36 youth spring sports teams combined and 4 referees have been hired. This is the most referees we have had since 2018.
- B. Pool update – Ms. McGinley Ashe reported that in Councilmember Schmidt’s absence she will refer to an email that was sent to her by Councilmember Schmidt with an update. “Ordinance Y-45 is scheduled for three readings with the 1st reading on Tuesday night. The main points of the Ordinance are to place on the ballot a General Obligation Bond in the amount of \$13,000,000.00 to be paid by Cheney property owners for the next 20-29 years. We are proposing to have the levy rate be around \$0.47 per \$1000 in property valuation. An example would be a property valuation of \$350,000.00 would require an annual tax payment of approximately \$164.50 annually or \$13.70 per month. At the City Council level, there appears to be support for Ordinance Y-45, and if passed by City Council at the 3rd reading in May, the measure would be on the ballot for election on August 1, 2023. I have not heard of any “Friends of the Pool” committee being formed as of yet, but maybe after Ordinance Y-45 is passed that could be the time to look for community support.” Councilmember Randall stated that she has been approached by citizens that want to help support the pool and she suggested having updates added to the City website. Commissioner Hoppe reminded the Park Board members that as Park Board members we cannot garner support for the pool however we can be an informational source to the public. Commissioner Valencia inquired about the final cost for the pool project, Commissioner Cullen stated the cost is estimated at \$12 million. Commissioner Randall inquired if someone were to sponsor the cost of one of the amenities if we could use that savings for other amenities.
- C. Dog Waste Station update – Ms. McGinley Ashe reported that she found a company that was affordable enough to purchase 10 waste stations including signage and bags for each station. At this point we are waiting for the purchase order to be approved and then we can order them.

Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that Commissioner Babcock and the Dog Park committee will be planning the grand opening once the waste stations are in place. Commissioner Randall reported that there are still some areas where dogs can get underneath the fencing. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that Lucky Fitzner and the parks crew are aware of this and they are working on it.

Citizen Participation: None.

Action Items: None.

Tree Board Business: None.

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Cullen stated that she is a member of the 50 Acre Park Committee, and they are working on ideas to get the 50 Acre Park in compliance with the RCO requirements. Only 13 of the 50 acres are currently being used for recreation purposes and the other 37 acres have gone undeveloped and are being used as farmland, which is causing us to be out of compliance RCO. We need to decide what we are going to do with these 37 acres. The 50 Acre Park Committee has been working with an outside agency for recommendations. One of the options mentioned was selling off 30 acres however that is a complicated process in that the money from the sale would need to be used to purchase more land for park space and that land would need to be of equal value to the land sold. Possible park space could be Crunk's field or wetlands. The City would need to get an assessment of value for the 30 acres if we go in that direction. Commissioner Hoppe stated that by the city not being compliant with the RCO requirements that could compromise us for other grant opportunities. Commissioner Cullen noted that as a member of the 50 Acre Park Committee she would be the voice for the Park Board and share our questions and concerns with them. The 50 Acre Park Committee members are Mark Schuller, Brett Lucas, Vince Barthels, David Early, Debbie Anderson, and Kelley Cullen and three others from the architecture agency. They meet every other week. Commissioner Valencia inquired if the 30 acres are going to be developed. Commissioner Cullen responded that the committee is leaning toward the sale of the land but is also looking for ways to development the land. Commissioner Hoppe mentioned the 50 Acre Master plan that was created in the early 2000's. Ms. McGinley Ashe inquired about the survey that was done on the pool a few years ago and if those results were being taken into consideration for development. The Board discussed these options among themselves, and Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that she would find the original master plan of the 50 Acre Park and the survey results.

Commissioner Hoppe inquired about the status of the Parks Director position; Ms. McGinley Ashe responded that there are no updates at this time.

Staff Reports: Mr. Olson reported that we may be lining one of the tennis courts at Hagelin for a pickleball court. Commissioner Hoppe mentioned that EWU staff commented on the tape that was used at one of the regional tournaments and said it was great. Commissioner Hoppe noted that maybe we could reach out to them and find out what kind of tape they used.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By:

Leslie Bridges, Administrative Clerk

Chris Hoppe, Chairman