

Minutes
Cheney Park Board Commission
Regular Meeting

April 20, 2022

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

Commissioners Absent: Kelley Cullen.

Staff Attending: Kelly McGinley Ashe, Leslie Bridges.

Councilmembers Attending: Paul Schmidt.

Call to Order: Commissioner Hoppe called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the February 9, 2022 regular meeting were approved by Commissioner Valencia and Commissioner Randall.

Information Items:

- A. Dog Park updates - Councilmember Paul Schmidt & Commissioner Chris Babcock
When does construction begin? – Councilmember Schmidt reported that he met with Todd Ableman from the Public Works department and the Dog Park Committee. Mr. Ableman had provided a quote/design for the fencing that was given to the Board members for review. The perimeter is set and fencing was added around well 5. It will cost approximately \$50,000 to fence the dog park. \$80,000 has been budgeted from the park mitigation fees to cover these costs. Councilmember Schmidt explained to the Board members how the park mitigation fees and the REET funds work. The quote/design will go to City Council for approval in May, preferably the first meeting in May. Councilmember Schmidt recommended a 12ft opening for the gate to accommodate cement truck entry. Commissioner Hoppe suggested adding 5 parking spots. Councilmember Schmidt recommended approving the bid and design this evening to move the process along. The Board suggested having a garbage can instead of a dumpster. Commissioner Delaney inquired the reasoning for using a black fence instead of galvanized and that we should use whatever is less expensive if we need to cut cost somewhere. Councilmember Schmidt suggested going over the rules of the dog park as well. Commissioner Babcock inquired about the start date for the fencing. Councilmember Schmidt stated that the bid/design needs to be approved by the City Council first. Commissioner Hoppe asked for a motion to approve the bid/design including the parking spots and wider gate opening. Commissioner Randall approved and Commissioner Youmans seconded, Commissioner Valencia abstained.
- B. Recreation Coordinator updates – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that our Recreation Coordinator Preston Walker has left our employ and we have 15 applications to review for the position. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that she would like to have at least one Board member to sit on the interview panel. Commissioner Randall volunteered to be on the panel.
- C. Renaming Parks – Ms. McGinley Ashe handed out some examples of what other cities policies are regarding the (re)naming of parks and also a draft of ours from years ago. Ms. McGinley

Ashe believes we could create a subcommittee to draft a policy using all of this information. Commissioner Babcock and Commissioner Delaney volunteered to be on this subcommittee and are willing to help create this policy. Commissioner Delaney shared some other information about park naming policies and asked what the donated funds would be allocated towards and if waivers are acceptable regarding ownership. Councilmember Schmidt stated that we need equal protection for all involved. Commissioner Randall inquired if there is a long-range plan for the 50-acre park and would like to see the park named after Brad Barsness. Commissioner Delaney and Commissioner Babcock will bring a drafted policy to the next Board meeting for review.

- D. Update on pool consulting – Commissioner Babcock believes we need a pool manager that solely does that job. Commissioner Randall inquired if we know Brooke Hanley as she is our new project manager. Our consultant is confident that they can figure out how to secure more funding for our project. Councilmember Schmidt stated that the next step will be City Council approval and then we need to get community involved for input. If we go out for a bond we need heavy community input and support so it will pass, as we would need 60% of vote. Commissioner Randall stated that we need to get the community educated on pools and what we need. Commissioner Valencia inquired if we could meet with the consultant so we know what is going on. Commissioner Youmans suggested a community survey. Commissioner Randall suggested ways of bringing in more revenue by charging for the use of cabanas, etc. Commissioner Randall and Commissioner Babcock volunteered to be on the pool committee. Commissioner Hoppe believes we need to gather information and give that to the consultant. Todd Ableman of the Public Works department is negotiating the contract. Councilmember Schmidt stated that we should have something to review by the next park board meeting.
- E. Summer Programming Plans
Anticipated challenges (staffing) – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that our staff numbers for the CASLO summer day camp program are very low right now. EWU is going to help us out by sending out a flyer for us advertising the positions available. Cheney High School will also make announcements for us and we could make flyers for them as well. Commissioner Valencia stated that he has connections at Cheney high school that could help us get the word out as well.
SEEK funded program numbers – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we have been awarded the SEEK grant that will cover the full costs for some of the summer camps. All of the free spots for the sports camps and CASLO are taken however we do have 6 free spots left for the hiking program. This grant will also cover all of our expenses for the CASLO program this summer.
- F. Learn to Swim Programs at EWU – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that EWU is also having the same issue with low staffing numbers. She reviewed the swim lesson schedule listed below.
Enrollment opens end of May. Lessons start June 20th.
Lessons offered to every age group, including adults.
Monday-Thursday mornings, 9:30-11:30am & Monday and Wednesday evenings, 5-7pm. No Saturday lessons during summer.
- G. Street Sweeping Schedule – Councilmember Schmidt stated that we do not have a schedule as we just sweep as needed. We are getting a new street sweeper so we will have better equipment to work with. Our street revenue is declining and we have less staff to work with. The street revenue is funded by the utility tax and we receive minimal funding from the general fund. If we get more funding we could possibly work on scheduled maintenance.

- H. Park/Playground Maintenance – Ms. McGinley Ashe addressed the following issues.
Most frequent damage in our parks/playgrounds, and estimated costs that go into repairs -
Most of these damages are caused by misuse of the equipment by high school students. We
have installed security cameras and they have helped a little.
Areas of greatest concerns for repair/replacement within parks/playgrounds - We have created
a priority list of our concerns.
Proposed future park/playground enhancements - We would like to try and get at least one or
two splash pads, a new roof and rafters on the shelter at Centennial, and enhance the restrooms
and shelters at Salnave and Hagelin parks.
Process of scheduling parks/playground equipment inspection - Lucky Fitzner, our parks
maintenance lead, said these inspections are done as needed. The Board members expressed
concern that this needs to be done on a routine basis.
- I. Field Rental Fees – City Council is reluctant to pursue this as we only have two outside groups
that use our parks and they always help with the maintenance. Commissioner Babcock inquired
about using Crunk’s field. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we want to stay in our own parks and
Crunk’s field is owned by the school district. The Board members requested a fee schedule for
review.

Citizen Participation: None.

Action Items: None.

Tree Board Business: None.

Commissioner Reports: None.

Staff Reports: Ms. McGinley Ashe reported that in lieu of a pool this summer, we will be offering Spray
Days at the parks in Cheney.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By:

Leslie Bridges, Administrative Clerk

Chris Hoppe, Chairman