

Minutes
Cheney Park Board Commission
Special Meeting via Zoom

May 12, 2021

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

Commissioners Absent: None

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

Councilmembers Attending: Paul Schmidt

Call to Order: Commissioner Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:05pm

Minutes: Minutes of the February 2, 2021 regular meeting were approved by Commissioner Delaney and Commissioner Cullen.

Information Items:

- A. Park Mitigation Fees for dog park – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that this has been brought up before in Park Board meetings to discuss how much park mitigation fees, we have and if they can be used for the dog park. Councilmember Schmidt agreed that a dog park would fall under expanded use and can be run by legal to confirm. Commissioner Hughes stated that Commissioner Hoppe talked with friends in parks and recreation across the US and they are using their park mitigation fees for dog parks. Ms. McGinley Ashe asked what the process is to use the fees for the dog park. Councilmember Schmidt mentioned it would not be too difficult to use the funds. We need to get it into project mode for construction. He then gave an update on the dog park meeting. Councilmember Schmidt will meet with the owner of Salnave Glen apartments on Friday, May 14th to work with us to lease some of our land for parking purposes. He would then look at building some, if not all the improvements for the dog park. If that works, we will put together how much funds we need before we use park mitigation funds. We can budget in park mitigation fees if needed. Tricia Hughes asked how much space the apartment wants to use for parking. Schmidt said it is to the northeast of the dog park. Commissioner Babcock said it does not affect the two acres of the dog park. Schmidt said the parking lot could potentially connect with Presley drive and enhance the dog park. We will wait to see where the Bark for your Park grant and the partnership with Salnave Glen goes before we look at spending park mitigation fees. Commissioner Babcock stated that the cost of a fence will cost \$50,000 up from \$25,000 which was the original thought. The grant application is due June 30th, but Commissioner Babcock hopes to submit it earlier. She mentioned that Bark for your Park will want to put their logo on our dog park and that will need to be approved by City Council.
- B. Field Use Fees – Ms. Gonzalez did research to put the proposal together. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we are looking into charging field use fees since there are a lot of organizations using our fields and it would be helpful to have fees to help with the upkeep. Ms. Gonzalez said that the proposal is based of Spokane Parks and Recreation fees as a baseline. It is to be used like an application guide to give out to Storm, West Plains Little League, etc. The proposal shows how we will prioritize field use if we have multiple applications. We are looking for input on pricing

and how much we should charge. Ms. McGinley Ashe believes that charging field use fees would be beneficial because of the amount of use the fields get. Commissioner Hughes asked what other activities outside of parks and recreation use the fields. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that West Plains Little League uses Moos and Salnave, and Storm uses Centennial and Salnave. And community members use the fields. Commissioner Hoppe asked if there is an explanation of the current maintenance plans of the fields, what the current investment of resources are that are going into the usage of the fields, and what would any revenue that is generated from these fees go toward. Ms. McGinley Ashe said she would speak with Lucky Fitzner to find out what kind of resources are going into the fields. She stated that the fees would go towards purchasing fertilizer and fuel and equipment repair. Commissioner Hoppe wants to know how much resources WPLL and Storm putting into the fields. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that WPLL paints dugouts and does a lot to get the fields ready before the season. Storm has paid for sod for Centennial. Commissioner Hoppe wants to know if there is any consideration to in-kind match to revenue vs. cash. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that yes, that could be considered. Commissioner Babcock stated that WPLL and Storm might state that they are already doing field maintenance so they would not have to pay field use fees. Commissioner Babcock wants to know what WPLL and Storm are doing for field maintenance. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that Storm only paints lines on the field, but WPLL drags the fields and a lot more maintenance. Commissioner Hoppe would be interested in knowing what the revenue generated would go toward and what is the current evaluation of in-kind match that the leagues are already putting into the fields before he gives an endorsement. What would the leagues get in return for these fees? Councilmember Schmidt thinks we should have an in-kind contribution off-set. Hoppe – what is the difference of impact that the leagues are putting into the fields vs. the public. Commissioner Delaney wants to know if we would do field striping and dragging if the leagues paid fees. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we do not have enough staff to devote time to dragging and painting fields. Commissioner Hughes says we need to make sure that the wording states we will not be lining fields for practices and games. Cullen wants to know how we would bill WPLL. Once or every time a team would use the field. Alyssa said the fee would be due when they apply. Cullen said practices are flexible depending on the weather and some practice more than other teams, so what would the fees get them? There is a lot of variability. Are we charging a lump sum fee or charge by use? Ms. McGinley Ashe stated this has not been determined. Hoppe wants to know if there is an ability to analyze the annual usage on average and forecast expected revenue and how that would translate into maintenance costs. Delaney stated that community members pay taxes for these fields and the clubs coming in prohibit the use of taxpayers using the fields. In general, good idea, but need logistics figured out. Hoppe stated that general region the fees are relatively consistent with market. It is not out of the ordinary, but curious of logistics and how the fees are assessed and utilized. If we charge a fee, are we going to send these clubs to other fields and communities? It would be beneficial to talk to them to see what they would do. Hughes asked about page 4 and how the groups are prioritized. If EWU club sports were to use fields, where do they fall into prioritization? Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that parks and rec are first, then youth sports outside of parks and rec and then adult that are outside parks and rec. Hughes - Is Tri-Agency agreement still in use and does that have any effect? Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that there is a Tri-Agency agreement, but it has not been updated in quite some time. Paul SCHMIDT said Tri-Agency is so watered down it is hardly ever used. Hoppe said it is a small community that needs to share resources and it seems like right now the school district is the beneficiary of most of the Tri-Agency Agreement. It would be good to know how field use fees would affect the Tri-Agency Agreement.

- C. Summer Brochure – Concerts and Movies in the park and Camp CASLO are back. Most all programs in the brochure that have already run, had a lot of interest in almost everything because we have been closed for so long. Commissioner Hughes asked what is happening with Specialized Sports. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we do not offer Special Olympics anymore because it is difficult to offer it through parks and recreation due to the number of volunteers, times, and hoops to jump through to offer their programs. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we are working on making all our programs inclusive, so matter your ability, you can participate in any of our programs. This is the national trend to make everything inclusive. Commissioner Hoppe asked if there is new programming that is being developed that is more accessible to people with physical limitations. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we do not currently have any new programs. Commissioner Hoppe suggested connecting to talk about adaptive programming on EWU’s campus that would be valuable to the greater community. Commissioner Delany noticed that Holiday Inn Express has an advertisement in the brochure and asked how a business becomes a partner with Cheney Parks and Recreation. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that you can purchase a flyer to be printed in the brochure and Holiday Inn Express is advertising all our programs. Anyone who stays in their hotel will get a percentage off our programs. Commissioner Delany asked where a business would go to find information about that, and Ms. McGinley Ashe said they would go to her.
- D. Park Comprehensive Plan Survey Results – Most respondents were ages 31-40. 375 people returned our survey which was almost double compared to 10 years ago. The goal was 500. We paired that down to 296 surveys, which included only Cheney residents. All non-residents were thrown out. 95% of respondents have used our park facilities. The top three facilities that were most frequently used in the past were the Swimming Pool, Sutton, and Salnave Parks. The biggest reason people don’t use our parks is because the quality of our park’s facilities are below what they expect. The biggest things people want to see added to our parks/facilities are Splash Pad, Trails added or improved, and Bike Trails. 34.6% of respondents said they want to refurbish the pool in the current location. 66% of respondents want to update the mechanical room to limit closures. 64% of respondents said they are willing to pay for upgrades to the facilities or add new facilities. 36% are somewhat and 22% said they are very willing. Only 5% of respondents said they are not willing to pay for upgrades. Top three programs’ families use most frequently are youth and adult sports at 53%, aquatic programs at 49.5%, and special events at 40.7%. The biggest reason people do not participate in programs/activities is because they do not have time at almost 80%. People want to see more programming in Exercise & Fitness, Adult Programs, and aquatic programs. Almost 69% of respondents think our fees are reasonable. 18.7% of respondents said participation is limited due to fees. 0.6% never participate due to our fees and 6.9% think we should charge more. Most of the other responses were fill in the blank. Many people mentioned they are not participating in our programs because of COVID. A lot of respondents want a dog park and updates to the pool. A couple people responded that they want more adaptive programming, and our parks were better cared for. Ms. McGinley Ashe will take the report to City Council but wanted to ask Paul Schmidt the next steps. This will need to be approved by Mark Schuller before presenting to Council. Commissioner Babcock and Hoppe want an action item. What is the purpose of presenting to Council and what are we asking them? What is our top priority? Commissioner Hoppe thinks that Ms. McGinley Ashe and the Park Board need to present top three priorities to Council. Commissioner Delaney thinks that you can get a lot from reading the responses from questions 15 and 16 which are open-ended questions. He thinks it would be pertinent to give the top three positive and negative comments to show the sentiment among the population of the city. Commissioner Hughes said he need to think of using Park Mitigation fees for the requests in the

survey. Possibly for bike trails or the splash pad. Commissioner Hughes stated we need to formally prioritize what we want mitigation fees to be used for. A dog park will help with park maintenance, because of the amount of dog poop in the parks. We could possibly have dog pick-up stations in the parks. Commissioner Hughes wants to create a formal plan to present to City Council for how to use park mitigation funds including the top priorities to use these funds on.

Citizen Participation – None

Action Items – None

Tree Board Business – None

Board Member Reports - Commissioner Hoppe wants to know what is happening with the sidewalk at the pool because it cuts through the parking lot. What is the long-term strategy of that parking lot?

Staff Reports –

- a. Two new park board members needed - We have two vacancies and two people applied. The mayor thinks they would be great additions and will reach out to them to appoint them. Commissioner Hughes questioned whether the board gets to find out who they are before they are appointed. Ms. McGinley Ashe said she would request information from the mayor to pass on to the board.

Adjourn – Commissioner Cullen moved to adjourn; Commissioner Babcock seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By:

Kelly McGinley Ashe, Recreation Director

Tricia Hughes, Chairwoman