

**Minutes**  
**Cheney Park Board Commission**  
**Regular Meeting via Zoom**

**June 9, 2021**

Commissioners Attending: Christine Babcock, Savannah Youmans, Jackie Randall, Kelley Cullen, Ryan Delaney

Commissioners Absent: Tricia Hughes, Chris Hoppe

Staff Attending: Kelly McGinley Ashe, Alyssa Gonzalez

Councilmembers Attending: Paul Schmidt

Call to Order: Commissioner Ms. McGinley Ashe called the meeting to order at 6:04pm

Minutes: Minutes of the May 12, 2021 regular meeting were approved by Commissioner Babcock and Commissioner Cullen

Information Items:

- a. New Park Board Members – Ms. McGinley Ashe introduced the new members, Savannah Youmans and Jackie Randall to the Park Board. The Park Board members introduced themselves to the new members.
- b. Dog Park updates – Councilmember Schmidt stated that over the last year the Park Board and the Dog Park Committee have met several times to establish a plan for an off-leash dog park in Cheney. The property at the corner of Presley drive and highway 904 became available when the adjacent apartment complex wanted to purchase the land for more apartments. According to the previous history of that land it was deemed not usable for anything with a foundation due to a previous dumping ground below the surface. Therefore, this area became available and through the work of the Park Board Commissioners and the Dog Park Committee it was discovered this would be a good area for a dog park. It has been formally brought to City Council and approved for a dog park. The cost for fencing the area and other amenities would be upwards of \$50,000. As funding sources are being researched it was brought to our attention that the neighboring apartment complex would like to use part of that area for additional parking. This brought forward the opportunity to exchange land for dog park improvements. This is currently in the hands of the Mayor's office and the City attorney to draw up a plan and come up with a value for what the land is in exchange for the value of the improvements. Most likely it will be fairly close. We plan to proceed ahead to present to City Council. This should be around July. Would like to have improvements done this year. Apartment owner seems very interested in moving forward as well. Commissioner Babcock is working on submitting a grant for the dog park improvements. Commissioner Randall wanted to know what amenities are included in the dog park. Commissioner Babcock stated that as of right now we are just trying to get funding for fencing and if we are able to get more funding, we can get more amenities. Amenities would include benches, trees, gazebos, etc. Commissioner Babcock inquired about accessing water to that area. Councilmember Schmidt stated that we should be able to get water to the area from well 5 and then we could have drinking fountain stations that include the

dog bowl at the base. Commissioner Babcock mentioned fundraising ideas to help with amenities.

Citizen Participation – None

Action Items:

- a. Funding requests for Spokane Parks Foundation (SPF) – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that SPF is an excellent partner with all the parks and recreation departments in the area. Every year we get funding for swimming lessons and free swim days from them. Their recent email to us stated that they received a letter from a long-time donor about funding opportunities. The donor has recently retired and has business contacts throughout the county and would like to approach them about funding SPF for local parks and recreation needs. Last year we asked SPF for \$15,500 for pool covers, Hagelin park restroom improvements, volleyball and tennis court improvements and a security system at Centennial Park. We were able to purchase the security system recently for Centennial Park but that doesn't mean we can't request funding for security systems at the other parks. Also, after reviewing the recent parks surveys, meeting with the parks' maintenance lead, Lucky, and doing some research about splash pads she has found that the approximate cost would be between \$65,000 and \$500,000. Lucky said his requests would be for 2 million for a pool renovation, \$20,000 for restrooms and pump house at Hibbard Park and \$15,000 to \$20,000 for a new sprinkler system at Salnave park. These are just some suggestions. Councilmember Schmidt inquired about how SPF is funded. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that they are funded through donations and are able to give out hundreds of thousands of dollars a year to local parks and recreation departments. This summer we got \$1000 for swim lessons and \$1000 for drowning prevention clinics and last year we did not receive anything because the pool didn't open. We have also received \$9000 for free swims and \$1000 for swim lessons in past years. They have also donated swimsuits. Councilmember Schmidt recommended to go with requests such as scholarships for swim lessons. Also, we need to refer to our Park Board priority list for needs. Commissioner Randall asked if requests could include swim passes. Ms. McGinley Ashe said that would seem possible as they have in the past. Commissioner Youmans asked if there are other funding sources in Cheney for swim lessons. Ms. McGinley Ashe said Cheney Outreach also gives out scholarships for our programs. Commissioner Cullen asked if these requests would be in addition to our previous requests. Ms. McGinley Ashe believes these requests would be in addition to our previous requests. SPF needs requests by the end of this week. Ms. McGinley Ashe asked if there are other suggestions or if we should just vote on \$75,000-\$100,000 for a splash pad. Commissioners Babcock, Cullen, Randall, Youmans, and Delaney are all in favor for requesting \$75,000 to \$100,000 for a splash pad. Councilmember Schmidt suggested that would it be a 30% to 50% match which would be good especially if its in addition to the other requests. Ms. McGinley Ashe asked if there are any other requests. Commissioner Babcock suggested that pool covers are needed and a pool heater. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that the pool is heated and Ms. Gonzalez confirmed that the pool is heated however there is no hot water in the showers. Ms. McGinley Ashe asked if there are any other requests. Commissioner Randall asked how the Airway Heights pool was funded. Councilmember Schmidt said it was a vote of the people in Airway Heights to go out for a bond for the aquatic center. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that our recent survey results said people would be in favor of a bond for a new pool. Commissioner Babcock asked how long is has been since we went out for a pool bond. Councilmember Schmidt said he believes we have never gone out for a bond for a new pool. We did fund a study 18 years ago though. We need a current plan, a design, and a committee to sell it before it can go on a ballot. Future Park Board meetings should include continued discussions about this topic. We have budgeted for a pool

analysis to be done in 2021 or 2022 and will follow up with the mayor's office to see when this can get underway so we know what we are facing. The funding is there for the study. Commissioner Randall inquired if there is enough room at Hagelin Park for a pool and a splash pad. Councilmember Schmidt said the current location wouldn't be an issue and that the splash pad would essentially take the place of the kiddie pool however there is an issue with a shallow water table but it is fixable. The reality of a new pool would be about two years out due to the timely and detailed process involved. Ms. McGinley Ashe asked if we still need to do a study. Councilmember Schmidt said that the voters are going to want a current study that would show research of current costs, maintenance, etc. Ms. McGinley Ashe concluded that she will resend the park priority list and comprehensive plan survey results out to everyone before we move forward with a vote.

- b. Top priorities for Park Mitigation Funds – To be discussed after further review
  - a. Create formal plan to present to Council for Park Mitigation funds
- c. Top 3 Park Priorities from Comprehensive Plan – To be discussed after further review

Tree Board Business – None

Board Member Reports – Commissioner Randall stated that she is licensed in bike safety if we ever need her for any of our programs.

Staff Reports – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that previously it was requested by the Park Board that we do a cost analysis of field maintenance. After meeting with Lucky, it was decided that due to park and pool priorities it would be more feasible to do this in the fall. Ms. Gonzalez stated that she still needs lifeguards for the pool and she has been consistently working on getting the pool ready for opening.

Adjourn – Commissioner Cullen moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm, Commissioner Babcock seconded.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By:

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Kelly McGinley Ashe, Recreation Director

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Tricia Hughes, Chairwoman