

Minutes

Cheney Park Board Commission Regular (Virtual) Meeting

August 12, 2020

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

Commissioners Absent: Christine Babcock.

Staff Attending: Kelly McGinley Ashe, Dan Curley, Leslie Bridges.

Councilmembers Attending: Paul Schmidt.

Call to Order: Commissioner Hughes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes: Minutes of the June 10, 2020 meeting will be emailed.

Information Items:

- A. Back 2 School – Mr. Curley stated that the Back to School event this year will be held at Sutton Park on Sunday and it will be a drive-thru format in order to comply with social distancing guidelines. Due to the success of the event last year we have decided to increase our donations goal this year. We are working with 12 other organizations to help collect donations for the event. So far, we have collected 300 backpacks, 300 pairs of shoes, various school supplies and make-up among many other items. Ms. McGinley Ashe noted that we have also set up a wish list on Amazon for those who want to make a donation online. We are receiving packages daily.
- B. Fall Programs – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that we are doing some socially distanced special events this year. We are going to have the Trick-or-Treat Trail again however there will be scheduled groups of 5 every 15 minutes. We also have a Festival of Ghost Stories in Sutton Park and there will be professional story tellers from the Spokane Story Telling League to read the scary stories and we will have hot cider available. This event will also be limited with socially distanced seating. In September we will have Zombie Laser Tag for ages 12-15 at Sutton Park with teams of 4. In January we will be offering a Snowshoe Dinner at the 50-acre Park. There will be 3 tented stations set up, one for appetizers, one for dinner and one for S'mores. If we don't have snow it will be a walking event to get people outside to stretch their legs.
- C. ECHO – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that she met with the Cheney School District Assistant Superintendent, Tom Arlt, about using 3 of the schools for our ECHO program. Mr. Arlt informed us that the rooms could only have 5 kids each. He is meeting with the district officials Friday and will get back to us with more information about running the ECHO program at the school facilities. Commissioner Hughes inquired about how ECHO would look this year. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that the program hours would be 7am to 5:30pm. We will ensure children are attending their zoom meetings and assist them the best we can. We will have a waiver for parents to sign so we cannot be held accountable if students are falling behind in their classes. We will incorporate recreation activities at break times. We are also working with Mr. Arlt regarding free lunches for the students.
- D. Comprehensive Parks Plan – Mr. Curley stated that he is working with Park Board Commissioners Hoppe, Delaney and Cullen to have an updated plan by the end of the year. We

are working on how to engage the public to get feedback to assure we are on track for the final four years of the ten-year program. We are compiling different survey questions to narrow them down to aim us in the right direction. Commissioner Delaney is setting up a Google survey document so we can share information. We are also trying to team up with the EWU Masters of Urban and Regional Planning department classes for input on the survey questions. The first urban planning class is in mid-September and there is a masters level class in January that could possibly help us analyze the data we receive from the survey. Commissioner Hoppe stated that once we have a set of questions to review from Commissioner Delaney and the input from the EWU MURP class regarding questions it will help guide us in the direction of what is important and to also understand what the process is. Commissioner Hoppe also stated that with Commissioner Hughes review of the questions and wording that we use will also help us to see if we are hitting the target. Utilizing the EWU students will help us with the work load as well. Commissioner Hughes asked that when we send the Park Board the new survey questions if we could include the previous survey questions and the current Comprehensive Parks Plan so they have a basis of things to review. Commissioner Hoppe also suggested taking into consideration our current situation with the pandemic when updating our plan.

- E. Pandemic Budget – Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that after meeting with City Administrator Mark Schuller we were informed that we are \$24,000 over budget. Mr. Schuller suggested that we really focus on what we are spending on our programs and that we move forward with programming due to the need in the community. Commissioner Hoppe inquired about a utility tax that is brought in to help subsidize our programs. Councilmember Schmidt responded stating that right now that utility tax is helping pay staff wages and benefits. Commissioner Hoppe also inquired about if the funds budgeted for the pool would be applied to pool repairs and maintenance since we did not open the pool this year and if not, could it be used to subsidize our other programs. Councilmember Schmidt does not know at this time how that is being handled. Ms. McGinley Ashe stated that Mr. Schuller did mention that the budgeted amount for the pool expense would be used for repairs and maintenance at the pool. Councilmember Schmidt believes that the gap between revenue and expenditures is not that much but recommended we ask Cindy Niemeier for more detailed information. Commissioner Cullen and Commissioner Hughes are in agreement with wanting to know how the budgeted amount for the pool will be used. Ms. McGinley Ashe believes that sandblasting and repainting are the highest priorities for pool maintenance right now.

Citizen Participation: Councilmember Schmidt stated that they are preparing for 2021 budget and looking at ways to cut budget. Would like to get expenditure and revenue reports to the Park Board members so they know where we are at budget wise. Would like to get some capitol projects going in the parks before funds expire.

Action Items: None.

Tree Board Business: None.

Commissioner Reports: None.

Staff Reports: Ms. McGinley Ashe reported that we received several positive comments on Facebook about updating the park signs. Ms. McGinley Ashe also reported that Cassandra Fauth has resigned from the Inclusive Recreation Coordinator position due to personal reasons regarding the pandemic.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved By:

Leslie Bridges, Administrative Clerk

Tricia Hughes, Chairman