

Town of New Chicago

Parks Board Meeting Agenda

DATE: 2/7/2023

Start Meeting: 6:00pm

Roll Call:

Joe Bachman - Present

Morgan McCabe - Present

Kim Krikava - Present

Trilaina Bachman - Present

Dave Anderson (Council Member) - Present

Minutes: January 3rd Meeting Minutes & January 24th Public Hearing - Morgan made the motion to approve the minutes. Trilaina seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ordinance: None

Old Business:

- 5 Year Master Plan
 - Joe stated that he had not heard back from IDNR at this time. He did remind the board that this was to be expected as there is only one person at IDNR that is checking every single 5 year master plan coming in from across the entire state.
 - Several online surveys were received and read at this meeting. Those surveys are as follows:
 - Tyler Wilson, 534 E 37th Ave, Lot 284 (Ravinia Pines)
 - Neighborhood Garden for hearty low maintenance vegetables like sweet potatoes, regular potatoes, carrots, and native flowers and sunflowers for pollinators and overall appeal.
 - Ability to cook food at parks with a permit that can be purchased annually.
 - Space for parents to teach small classes of children different skills out of the elements (permit can be purchased annually) or in conjunction with the ability to heat the space with a large fire for winter. (So fire pits, which can be purchased separately than the cooking permits also purchased annually).
 - Neighborhood camping at the parks would be opened up for this where people can get together and break bread and camp in almost any weather condition if they are willing to endure.
 - Stacey Shrewsbury, 2793 Benton St, Hobart (New Chicago), IN
 - Assure parks are ADA accessible
 - Update lighting for safety
 - Rubber mulch for playground areas

- Update basketball court- rims, concrete, benches
- Access to drinking fountains
- ADA activities for children and adults
- Paved walking path within park
- Community garden within park
- Update refuse bins to include recycling bins
- Create and promote park endowment for funds to go specifically to park needs
- Mary & John Squires
 - Maintenance and upkeep at the parks
 - Mulching
 - Bridge at Twin Oaks
 - Fencing repairs
 - Equipment upkeep
 - Trash
 - Basketball court repairs - Maybe paint top layer black top
 - A shelter at all parks with a picnic table for sunny days and a place for people to sit out of the sun, with kids or have an afternoon snack
 - Fountain of some kind for the water at Twin Oaks to help with the algae, maybe even a light dredging
 - Swings, chains, hooks all wear out building in repairs/replacements
- Easter Egg Hunt
 - Kim & Morgan will be working on an inventory. Kim will be placing an order for eggs for the easter egg hunt.
 - March 29th, 2023 to fill the eggs at the town hall at 6pm.
 - Joe will speak with Tara about doing the prizes.
- Rummage in the Park – June Edition
 - June 3rd, 2023 (June 4th rain date).
 - Same prices as last year. \$15 for 10 x 10 spot, \$25 for 10 x 20 spot for residents of New Chicago. \$20 for 10 x 10 spot and \$35 for 10 x 20 spot for Non-Residents.
 - Joe will be creating the map and signup sheet to give to Dorothy. Registration will open April 1st.
 - Morgan will update the flyer and use same design as last year and update the dates.
- Shakespeare in the Park

- July 28th (Opening night) at 7pm.
- Joe and Trilaina will talk with Nicholas Tockert at the Historical Fencing Guild to setup a sword fighting demonstration. Live demonstration starting around 5pm.
- Gary Shakespeare Company offered closing night also to us. Date will be confirmed later, but it is sometime in mid-August.

New Business:

- River Forest NHS
 - No members showed.
- Old American Legion Building
 - Morgan provided pictures to the board members for review. Asking price is \$250,000 including equipment. Liquor license is \$100,000 additional.
 - Relator thought it was a great idea for us to buy it with the ideas we have.
 - Only request they had was that if we bought it, we would keep the MIA/POW table setup. Board was perfectly fine with this.
 - Original building was just the downstairs section.
 - Some issues with flooding if sump pump fails in basement.
 - Roof has not been replaced in quite some time. May need repair/replaced. Might be a tar roof. Could be easy for us to repair or cheap to have someone do it.
 - Utilities were about \$1500 a month for Electric/Gas. \$300 per month for water.
 - Multiple refrigeration units including walk-in unit.
 - New carpet in some areas. New floor around the bar.
 - Partner with Fire and Police Department on this venture possibly.
 - Joe mentioned the Community Facility Grant as a possible way to get money to help purchase the building.
- Cornhole Tournaments
 - 3 options from Amazon were presented to the board by Joe Bachman.
 - All boards were regulation size.
 - One board did have LED lights around the hole and was only \$3 more.
 - Purchase price would be around \$480.
 - Joe asked if there was a motion for the purchase of the boards with the LED lights. Trilaina made the motion to purchase the boards with LED lights. Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Oral History Project
 - New Chicago Chronicles - New name for the project.

- Morgan is waiting for the folks that she has invited so far to tell her which dates will work for them that she provided.
- Library is good with the dates and times that were given so far.

Legal Reports: None

Announcements:

- Joe brought up that his and Trilaina's work schedules are about to be at their peaks again for the summer road construction season. Projects are starting up again around March 1st and will be going through November with multiple projects that Joe and Trilaina will both be on.
- Morgan also announced that her schedule will be tightening up a bit due to rehearsals and other things involved with the Gary Shakespeare Company.
- No announcements from Kim.

Other Business:

- Play Reading for Adult Crowd
 - Morgan will be working with the Lake Station-New Chicago Public Library to setup a date/time for this. Nothing too adult oriented, but would not be like the other play readings for children.
- Story-telling at the park
 - Lake Station-New Chicago Public Library wants to do story telling events at the park again this year.
 - More information will come next meeting.
 - Looking at weekdays to possibly do this after school dismisses for the year.
- Morgan brought up ordering a printer for the parks department to be able to print flyers for the various events.
 - Joe did speak towards the Brother Laser printer option that Morgan suggested instead of the HP as he does have two at home.
 - Joe went in depth as to advantages and disadvantages over the toner and drum units between various brands of printers.
 - Joe will inform the council that we are looking to purchase a color laser printer for around \$300 and to get their approval prior to actually finding one.
- Changing tables have not been ordered yet.
 - Trilaina will be looking into seeing if we can get a changing table donated.
- Popup Market for Local Arts and Crafts
 - Morgan brought up the idea of doing popup markets just at random.
- Looking for someone to teach a yoga class at the park.
 - Morgan suggested finding someone that could teach a yoga class.
 - Trilaina mentioned a friend that does teach yoga at Sunset Hill Park. Might be willing to come this way. Will investigate more.

- Tree Painting

- Tony Martin mentioned to Morgan that he saw a neat project that could be done during the summer painting a tree at the park by wrapping the tree and painting the wrapped area.

- Partnering with NCPD

- Coordination with NCPD Chief Earl Mayo will be vital this summer with the events that he wants to plan and also our events.
- Joe will start attending the Police Commission meetings when possible.

- Open Mic Night

- Might need to get a small karaoke system.
- Joe will check with a DJ friend, Tony, to see about what system he would recommend.

5 Year Master Plan Public Hearing:

No members of the community were present.

Open Forum for community (3 mins per person):

No members of the community were present.

Comments from Board Members:

None

Adjournment: Trilaina made the motion to adjourn. Kim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.