

Town of New Chicago

Parks Board Meeting Agenda

Public Hearing for 5-Year Master Plan

DATE: 1/24/2023

Start Meeting: 7:00pm

Roll Call:

Joe Bachman - Present

Morgan McCabe - Present

Kim Krikava - Present

Trilaina Bachman - Present

Dave Anderson (Council Member) - Present

5 Year Master Plan:

Four members of the public were present at the public hearing for the 5 Year Master Plan who were eligible to speak. Those community members were the following:

- Dan Moore – 523 Van Buren St, Hobart, IN 46342
- Bill Hanna – 104 Garfield Ave, Hobart, IN 46342
- Tammy Bucko – 417 Arthur Ave, Hobart, IN 46342
- Steve Bucko – 417 Arthur Ave, Hobart, IN 46342

New Chicago Parks Board President Joe Bachman opened the public hearing with a roll call and then explained to the community members what the public hearing was about in more detail. Joe also detailed that input for the 5 Year Master Plan could only come from members of the community, including members of Lake Station and Hobart since our parks also were used by members of those communities that lived close to the borders of New Chicago, and the New Chicago Parks Board. Comments could not be allowed from the spouses of Parks Board members or any elected officials of the town.

Dan Moore was called upon first to speak. His proposed ideas for the plan were for some new fencing around the basketball court and also new fencing around the entire park in general. The idea of possibly doing wrought iron for the fencing around the park was suggested by Mr. Moore also. Better leaf cleanup at the park was brought up by Mr. Moore also. There was some brief discussion about what we had done this year differently from other years and also that leaf cleanup for the park is especially hard due to the amount of trees surrounding the park. It was explained that we do the best we can in the fall, but the majority of the leaves end up getting cleaned up in March before the Easter Egg Hunt event. Mr. Moore's final suggestion was adding a fountain to the pond/stream that runs through the park. Not only would this help "enhance" the park, it would also help keep the algae bloom down in the water as it does not always flow. Dan also asked several questions about our parks, including the usage of Teeter Wallace and Tot parks by the community.

Bill Hanna was called upon second to speak. His proposed ideas for the plan were similar to Mr. Moore's. Bill also asked some questions about our parks and parks board, of which several minutes of discussion took place with what we thought would be great to see at the parks that also aligned with the views of Mr. Moore and Mr. Hanna. One of the biggest suggestions that Mr. Hanna presented was the possibility of looking into buying the old American Legion

building. The Parks Board members did confirm that they were already looking into different ways to obtain the old American Legion building for use as a "Community Center".

Tammy Bucko was called upon third. She had no comment at this time as Mr. Moore and Mr. Hanna had both covered everything she was thinking about.

Steve Bucko was called upon last. Steve reiterated that he had basically the same ideas as Mr. Moore and Mr. Hanna. His one suggestion for us was to also contact Ducks Unlimited to see about conservation efforts and what else they would recommend for the pond/stream to tackle the algae bloom problem.

We did receive word during this meeting that some of the students from River Forest School wanted to say that they would like to see a water feature of some sort at Twin Oaks, such as a Splash Pad during the summer and also soccer goals.

No other community members arrived.

Comments from Board Members:

The New Chicago Parks Board thanked everyone for their comments during this public hearing. Members of the board commented that many of the ideas that were given this evening were along the same lines as what they were already wanting to do as projects.

Vice President Morgan McCabe mentioned that we were also looking into replacing the concession stand at Twin Oaks Park due to its current condition and the lack of care it had received for so many years. Secretary Kim Krikava , VP Morgan McCabe, and Member Trilaina Bachman also stated that we were looking into more ADA friendly equipment for the parks as a whole, with a specific focus to start at Twin Oaks Park as it is used the most. Last, VP Morgan McCabe mentioned the Oral History project that she is working on in conjunction with the Lake Station-New Chicago Public Library and other entities so that some local history can possibly be added into the various parks as well.

Adjournment: President Joe Bachman made the motion to adjourn. Member Trilaina Bachman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Public hearing ended at 8:00pm.