



## **CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL**

1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

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### **PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016 AT 5:30PM HARMON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**

1. Roll Call
  
2. Adopt Minutes
  - 2.A. Approve February 9, 2016 Minutes  
Documents: [FEB 9.PDF](#)
  
3. New Business
  - 3.A. Discussion And Planning For Easter Celebration
  
4. Old Business
  - 4.A. Art Park Update
  
5. Other
  
6. Adjourn

**MINUTES**  
**WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**February 9, 2016**

**Park & Rec. Members Present:** Mike Petrasek, Bob Gausman, Laura Tesch, Dave Lynch

Excused: Bonnie Bellows, Brandi Hoffman

**Non-voting Members Present:** Clpn. Jenny Halverson, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Dave Schletty; Parks and Public Works Secretary, Sharon G. Hatfield

**1. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES**

Chair Petrasek called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm. The minutes from the January 12, 2015 meeting were approved by the committee.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Introduction of New City Engineer/Public Works and Parks Director, Ross Beckwith**

Superintendent Schletty introduced Ross Beckwith, the new City Engineer to the committee. Beck previously worked at Dakota County as a Road and Bridge Construction Engineer for eight years. Before Dakota County, Beckwith worked at the City of Plymouth.

**b. Outdoor Ice Rink Maintenance**

Schletty introduced two residents that wanted to share ideas of how to maintain the outdoor ice rinks with volunteers. Temporary Park Maintenance staff is “down” to only five people to maintain the warming houses and ice rinks. Usually there is a staff of eight to 10 part-time temporary staff people. Crews of “flooders” would supplement full-time staff. There are currently only three people that perform the night time flooding. There has been a volunteer “pilot experiment” with Orme Park. A former employee, now a volunteer, has been helping maintain the rink at Orme. One issue with volunteers is that non-staff cannot have access to the warming houses and hydrants for liability issues.

The gentlemen added that it is better to perform the flooding at night than at daytime. Snow must be removed from the rink before it is flooded. The water freezes better at night. It is ideal to have three people flood; one can “spot” the others.

Halverson would like to know more about the issues of liability with volunteers. She would also like to see the warming houses hours be extended at night. Schletty remarked that a warming house can invite trouble if it is locked with outside lights on. He will speak to Joan Carlson, [Finance Director] about the liability/loss control.

Committee members talked about the use of volunteers. It is an opportunity for people to get together and make more use of Harmon Park.

The guest suggested painting the hockey net frames red like the ones in Edina. Schletty said that the frames have been backordered. The gentleman mentioned the problem with the door to the ice rink and the level of the ice; the door does not close properly. Schletty said that the city is aware of the design problem; the “fix” is two thousand dollars.

**A motion was made to use adult residents and parent volunteers from local youth associations to do ice maintenance so that the ice rinks can remain open longer. The motion carried. All Ayes.**

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Art in the Park**

Schletty said that there is twenty thousand dollars budgeted toward the Art in the Park project. Schletty showed the grading of the lot to the committee. He also showed different idea plans/sketches for the lot to the committee. The new Civil Engineer, Darin Rezac will be drawing up the plan. The biggest issues will be the slope and the grading of the lot. There is an eight-foot drop from the highest point to the sidewalk. There are options with the trail in the park but making the park ADA compliant may be difficult. Any type of stairs will be non ADA compliant. Maintenance staff suggested building a patio area in the lot with a circular path/trail around it. The trail would still feature the lit art boxes. This idea would not affect the budget even with the addition of water and electricity. Halverson asked if steps up to the garden would have to be ADA compliant; Schletty said that the garden would not need to be ADA compliant. The art feature/rest of the lot could be naturally terraced and the trail could be made compliant.

After some discussion, the committee decided that they did not want a patio area in the park. Halverson said she did not envision the park with a patio; she did not want the park to “stick out.” She wanted the path to run through the park. Petrasek said that a trail would need to run north-south because the grading of the lot runs east-west. Schletty said the plan can be accomplished with the grading and the water and electrical and come under budget. Petrasek said that it is important to get it right the first but also be cognizant of the cost.

Halverson said that Cpln. Armon, the Living Longer, Living Stronger group, the South Robert Street Business Association are “on board” with the project.

Petrasek suggested grading the property minimally to be ADA compliant. (He added later that the pollinator plantings should be done as planned.) Halverson wanted the lights boxes to be adjustable; she did not want the lights to “pop.” Schletty said that the grading the lot, water (six-seven thousand dollars) and electric (three thousand dollars) would fit into the budget. Stamped concrete would be too expensive and pavers would be very difficult for snow removal. There are no restrictions on the path width.

### **4. OTHER**

- a. Bike/Pedestrian Safety** Member Lynch mentioned that a Sibley Open house he attended that he discovered that Delaware Avenue is considered an unsafe street for school children. Children that need to walk to school by way of Delaware Avenue are encouraged to ride the bus.
- b. Departure of Ali Lukin** Schletty announced that Ali Lukin will be leaving the City of West St. Paul. She has been hired as a full-time Parks and Recreation Coordinator for the city of Lino Lakes.

### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The committee members adjourned at 6:39 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon G. Hatfield

