



CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL
1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2016 AT 6:00PM
MUNICIPAL CENTER
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM

1. Call To Order
2. Roll Call
3. New Business
 - 3.A. Approve March 2, 2016 Minutes
Documents: [030216.PDF](#)
 - 3.B. Volunteer Appreciation Event
Documents: [VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION 2016.PDF](#)
4. Old Business
5. Subcommittee Update
 - 5.A. Arbor Day Planning
6. Other
7. Adjourn

*If you need an accommodation to participate in the meeting, please contact the ADA Coordinator at
651-552-4100, TDD 651-322-2323 at least 5 business days prior to the meeting
www.wspmn.gov EOE/AA*

Minutes
West St. Paul Environmental committee
March 2, 2016
West St. Paul Municipal Center-Administrative Conference Room

1. ROLL CALL

Committee members in attendance: Jon Thompson, John Margot, Jonathan Wagner, Chris Gevara, Sheila Williams-Ridge, Lauren Smith, Jessica Vanella-Friendshuh

Non-voting members present: Bob Gausman, Dave Schletty

2. NEW BUSINESS

a. MINUTES

The minutes from the January 6, 2016 meeting were approved by the committee with these changes:

- Jon Thompson was present,
- The committee adjourned at 7:14 pm.

b. ARBOR DAY PLANNING

The committee discussed the Arbor Day celebration. Arbor Day Celebrations entail the planting of a tree and a proclamation by the Mayor. For the past two years the city has coordinated their event with the Garlough School Environmental Fair. The Arbor Day booth will feature the spin wheel that gives away trees and other prizes to children. The trees are provided by Southview Garden. There is also a raffle with prizes donated by local businesses.

The committee talked about perhaps “buddying” with Dodge Nature Center for the event. Someone commented that city staff is “tapped out” and cannot work with Dodge Nature during West St. Paul Days.

The chair asked for volunteers to chair the Arbor Day subcommittee. She said that the event is fun and it would entail having a table [at Garlough.] The event is very child friendly. Jon volunteered to co-chair the committee. Schletty will contact Southview for trees and for sponsorship and verify the date of the event with Garlough School. He will also get the spinning wheel from Dakota County. The city clerk will get “swag” for the event as well.

McGuire suggested giving out herbs instead of trees to apartment dwellers. Schletty will see if milkweed can be obtained for the event.

Future Arbor Day celebrations may take place in the new Harmon Park Neighborhood Center.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Pollinator Friendly City Resolution

The pollinator friendly resolution discussed at the last meeting was passed at the last Council Meeting. West St. Paul is the fourteenth city to have a pollinator

friendly resolution. A committee member raised the issue that residents will be cited by Code Compliance (1020.02 Ordinance) for having native plants on the boulevard. This citation would conflict with the new ordinance. The ordinance and resolution need further clarification. Residents with tall weeds may be helping the pollinator resolution. Schletty will check on enforcement issues and report back to the committee.

b. Grant Updates

The City of West St. Paul received the grant for park planning. The funds will be used for trails in Marthaler and Garlough Park, (ten-twelve thousand dollars.)

The DNR Forest grant request was denied; the DNR had twice as many requests as it had funding. City council chose not to pursue the Dakota County SHIP "Food Desert" grant request.

4. SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

No Updates.

5. OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS

a. Thompson Oaks Golf Course Closure

The golf course is slated to close at the end of this summer. The YMCA is also moving to another location. Presently the land is not bringing in any tax revenue to the city.

Margo wanted to discuss how other committee members felt about the closing. Gausman said that the original plan was to set aside the land for sale. He is taking the "wait and see" approach. Schletty said that the land will be put before the public before it is developed.

Williams-Ridge said that the Renaissance Plan called for the land to be zoned "mixed use." This would include a tech park, commercial use and green space. She does not want the spaced to be zoned just for business. There are many empty business spaces in West St. Paul already. There will definitely be some green space on the land and some residential use. Williams-Ridge also said that there is no indoor space for youth in West St. Paul. The land could be used for a youth recreational building.

Wagner said he would like the golf course to remain a golf course. He would like to retire and be able to walk to the golf course. West St. Paul is not a technology hub; a tech park is not needed. The golf course could be used as a cross country course in the winter.

Committee members do not want the city of West St. Paul to subsidize any business ventures in the golf course space. (However, the YMCA owns part of the course and does not pay any taxes for the land.) Committee members

agreed that golf course usage has declined and that the golf course had not profited the city. The Met Council predicts that the population in West St. Paul will grow by ten thousand by 2030. There is a significant need for more housing. The Renaissance Plan calls for hi capacity housing/town homes (with green space.)

b. AARP Age Friendly Communities

Smith followed up on her research regarding AARP Ager Friendly Committees and West St. Paul. West St. Paul (overall) scores slightly- above average. Its strengths are transportation, opportunity and health. It scores low on subsidized housing, pollution (because of proximity to highways,) and broadband access. Seventy-seven communities have joined the AARP list. A committee member mentioned that this initiative would be a better fit for the Living Longer, Living Stronger group.

c. Robert Street Grant

It was mentioned that Council would like to get more funding for the Robert Street reconstruction. They would like to get additional aid from the state.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the Committee and with no objections, the Environmental Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:07 pm.

YOU'RE INVITED

2016 WEST ST. PAUL

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

CELEBRATION + DINNER

TUESDAY APRIL 12TH - 5-7PM

THOMPSON PARK - 360 BUTLER AVENUE EAST - WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

5:00 - 6:00PM - SOCIAL HOUR

6:00 - 6:30PM - DINNER

6:30 - APPRECIATION PROGRAM

CASH BAR FROM 5-8 CLUB

Come join us for a casual, fun evening of socializing, dinner and a short program!

PLEASE RSVP to Diane Erickson, at derickson@wspmn.gov or 651-208-4840 by Wednesday, April 6th.

You are welcome to bring a guest. When you RSVP please include the name of your guest also.

We are very thankful, grateful and humbled by the enthusiasm with which needed tasks are completed by our volunteers, no matter how large or small!



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