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

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 13 2016 AT 5:30 PM
HARMON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

1. Roll Call

2. Adopt Minutes

2.A. Approve September 13, 2016 Minutes

Documents:

SEP 13.PDF

3. New Business

3.A. Discuss Possible Mural Donation And Installation

The Sibley High School Mural Club, under the supervision or Carol Patt, have proposed installing a mosaic mural (attached) inside the Harmon Park Community Building.

Documents:

HARMON MURAL.JPG

3.B. Discuss Possible Grant Opportunity For Outdoor Fitness Equipment

HTTP://EFFICIENTGOV.COM/BLOG/2016/11/29/OUTDOOR-FITNESS-MATCHING-GRANTS/?NEWSLETTERID=EG-GRANTS-12-01-16&UTM_SOURCE=ICONTACT&UTM_MEDIUM=EMAIL&UTM_CONTENT=TOPNEWSMAINTITLE&UTM_CAMPAIGN=EFFICIENTGOVMEMBER&CUB_ID=USR_77I615YWMVCBJKFA

4. Old Business

4.A. Halloween Bonfire Recap

4.B. Update On Sports Complex Phase 2 Construction

4.C. Art Park Update

5. Other

5.A. Updates From The Assistant Director

6. 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.
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MINUTES
WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 13, 2016

Park & Rec. Members Present: Bonnie Bellows, Brad Erickson, Bob Gausman, Brandi Hoffman, Mike Petrasek

Non-voting Members Present: 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 5:29 pm. The June 14, 2016 minutes were approved. Member Bellows commented that the [Petrasek's] motion got "pilfered," at the Council meeting.

2. **DISCUSS OPTIONS FOR FALL FESTIVAL/HALLOWEEN EVENT**
Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Schletty talked about a proposal to have a "Fall Harvest Festival" at the Ice Arena with the possible date of October 22, 23, or 29 from 3:00-5:00 pm. Schletty asked for the committee's preference and direction. (Schletty's preference is October 29.)

The committee discussed the event. Since the construction of Harmon Park and the location change of the event, attendance has decreased. Schletty described the Ice Arena Event. Alisha Blaydes, Program Coordinator, planned the event. It would be an open skating event with free admission. Attendees would be asked for food donations to Neighborhood House. There would be (Halloween-themed or other) music playing in the rink. There are rooms at the Ice Arena for booths and crafts for younger children. There could be a costume contest and face painting. The city would issue a coloring contest promotional flyer and have the winner announced at the event. (Hoffman liked this idea; the flyers would be shown on the city website.

This year Halloween falls on Monday which would coincide with Monday night football and a national Vikings game. Members talked about possibly televising the Vikings game at the event. Schletty said he would need to find out what kind of rights the city would need to obtain to promote the Vikings game.

Another option would be to do a similar event at the Sports Center. Schletty said that there does need to be a space available for inclement weather. (The Sports Arena is very spread out.)

Member Ericson commented that the Ice Arena "reeks," and "bring your Febreeze." Hoffman prefers not to have the event at the Sports Complex. Schletty added that the Sports Complex is not located in a residential area. Member Gausman would like to know what the residents want. Hoffman said that information could be gathered after the event. Bellows asked if Thompson Park is possible. Schletty said that people would still need to drive there and that Thompson is a Dakota County park. Petrasek went through the list of

parks to see what parks could be used for a bonfire. Haskell is "big enough," and a "decent option." The bonfire would be located at the "ag line." The only problem with Haskell would be parking. (St. Michael's may provide parking for Haskell Park.) Weschcke is small. Ideally the bonfire would be centrally located in the city. Southview Park is an option. Both Haskell and Weschcke Parks have small warming houses. The nearby apartment buildings would be the audience. The Golf Course was mentioned as a possible bonfire site as well. Orme Park was a possibility. The Pool Park is not good; the asphalt would melt.

A committee member remarked that the youth activities appeal to a certain population, but the bonfire integrates everyone. Hoffman said that the "bonfire has worked." (Schletty said that Public Works does have brush to burn.) The Ice Arena does limit the event to a certain community.

Gausman asked if Harmon Park was a possibility. Schletty said that the bonfire cannot be done at Harmon Park anymore. The only possible place for the bonfire would be the hockey rink and the fire would melt the boards. (Schletty remarked that there may be event "burn-out" this year with the Touch a Truck event.)

Joining events with Dodge Nature Center was discussed. It did not seem like a possibility; Dodge Nature Center charges "a lot" for their event. Dodge Nature Center's event always falls on the Friday before Halloween.

The committee talked about "locking in" a location and a date for the event. Petrasek remarked that there have been people coming to the bonfire for over 25 years. (Mendota Heights has been doing a bonfire as well.) Schletty said that if the committee decides to do the bonfire, they should consider doing just one type of thing. The bonfire could start earlier in the day instead of after dark.

Gausman made a motion to do the bonfire, keep eyes open for location and find ways to enhance it. There was discussion following the motion. The decision was made to "lock in" the core of residents that like the Bonfire.

The motion was modified to have the Halloween Bonfire at the Sports Complex and to serve hotdogs. The motion carried. All Ayes.

3. **EAGLE PROJECT UPDATE**

Schletty reported that the Eagle Scout has not come to the Park and Recreation Committee yet with his proposal, but Schletty has approved for him to plant milkweed in Marthaler Park on top of the sledding hill. The scout will clear out a fifteen by eight foot area and use timbers to barricade the area from being trampled.

Dave Lynch is currently involved with another Eagle Scout project. This Eagle Scout wants to build wood duck houses in Mud Lake Park. Member Lynch is also working with a neighborhood group to clear the trails in Mud Lake Park.

4. **ART PARK**

Petrasek remarked that the Art Park now looks like the drawing. Schletty reported that city staff excavated the site and will soon (weather permitting) pour concrete. Landscaping will begin soon as well. The purchase of the lights has been delayed. The art work will be installed next spring. Bellows said that the top of the site needs to be rototilled again. Gausman suggested having the lot terraced in the future.

5. **OTHER**

a. **Color Dash Event**- Hoffman said that the Color Dash was a very fun event. She said that the children liked it better at the Sports Complex than the other location. [Albert Park.]

b. **Environmental Committee**- Gausman said that the Environmental Committee thought that the Parks and Recreation Committee would like to do outreach for to biking and walking groups. He also said that buckthorn is now an official city issue.

c. **Thompson Oaks**- Schletty reported that the future of the golf course is unknown. The golf course [revenue] numbers were very good [this year.]

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The committee members adjourned at 6:26 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield