



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

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 14, 2017 AT 5:30PM
HARMON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

1. Roll Call

2. Adopt Minutes
 - 2.A. Approve February 14, 2017 Minutes
Documents:

[FEB 14.PDF](#)

3. New Business

4. Old Business
 - 4.A. Art Park Update

 - 4.B. Update On Sports Complex Phase 2 Construction

5. Other
 - 5.A. Council Updates

 - 5.B. Updates From The Assistant Director

6. Adjourn

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MINUTES
WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
February 14, 2017

Park & Rec. Members Present: Bonnie Bellows, Bob Gausman, Dave Lynch, Mike Petrasek

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

1. **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES**

Chair Petrasek Called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The January 10, 2017 minutes were approved.

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Discussion of Marthaler/Garlough Trail Study**

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Schletty talked about the Master Plan updated provided by the grant from Dakota County Active Living. Schletty showed a map/plan of the trails to the committee. Dakota County would like to update all the park trails to County standards. Marthaler Park's trail plan will be complete by summer; Garlough's trail plan will be completed soon. Once the trails are renovated, Dakota County will take over the maintenance (as part of the River to River Trail.) The trails were discussed at the neighborhood meetings. Garlough Park has some grading issues. Some trees will need to be cut down. The ninety degree turns will be corrected.

Schletty answered some questions regarding the plan. Layout of the trails does not need to be decided at this meeting. County standards of trails include ten foot width, and adequate setbacks. There may be a "cost share" between Dakota County and the city if the city chooses to install a shelter in Marthaler Park with bathrooms if the shelter acts as a trailhead. Schletty does not know what the maintenance savings will be for the trails. (Dakota County will take over the snow removal for these park trails.)

Member Gausman likes the trail plans. The only issue he has with the trail is the remoteness of the trail. He would like to "open it." He would also like to take advantage of the pond at Garlough. Member Bellows asked about the trail costs; Schletty replied that this is unknown [right now.] (The cost of benches and bike racks has not been determined either.) Petrasek said that the Garlough Trail is in "rough shape." He does not feel nervous about the trails; there are always people [on them.] Lighting may help. Member Lynch said that the trails should stay away from [Garlough] school.

b. **Discussion of Facility Rental Policy**

Schletty showed the committee a draft of sports field rental policy to the committee. This policy covers the expectations of "clean-up" for renters. It is for the Harmon Park and Sports Center Fields. Bellows asked if there have been problems. Schletty said that there is "still somethings to clean up" [after the rentals.] City staff do all the work after rentals. The new policy will "teach coaches and parents to be better

tenants and stewards” of the fields. It is directed toward outside groups. The city will provide chalk for renters to mark the fields. (The school district currently has this policy.)

Schletty said that the “next step” is to amend the fee schedule to include a damage deposit. It would create the incentive for renters to clean up.

Petrasek said that he “like the idea.” City staff should still drag the fields. Schletty said that the field will be dragged by staff every third or fourth tournament game.

c. Quick Discussion of Marthaler Park

Schletty reported that the city will be sending out a Request for Proposal for the Marthaler Park Improvements. The consultant hired with work directly with the committee for the new plan. Bellows mentioned that she would like a copy of the 1998 Master Plan. The Master Plan covered all West St. Paul Parks. It was going to be funded by referendum but was renovation plans were postponed because of the events of September 11, 2001.

Schletty said that by early summer the committee will look at the Marthaler plan.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Harmon Park Mosaic

Outside funding has been obtained for the mosaic. Lynch suggested that the students come to the Council meeting to attend the “formal acceptance.” Schletty will target the February 27 Council meeting.

b. Council Update

Clpn. Napier talked about the recent neighborhood meetings. Residents are concerned about the “walkability” of the city to its parks. Council will talk about how people are using parks differently now during its strategic planning sessions. Napier agreed with Gausman about the need to “open up” the parks; buckthorn growth is also a big problem at the Dodge Nature Center. There is a volunteer group at Dodge Nature Center that [gets rid of] buckthorn. Napier thinks that the city can get funding to help with this problem.

There is a resident concerned with the use of Weschcke Park. The resident does not feel there are enough people who are ice skating to justify warming house staffing. Napier said that Council will assess this park’s use and other parks to enhance service to residents.

c. Sports Complex Phase II

Schletty reported the renovations that will be done at the Sports Complex this year. The parking lot will be redone, along with the new lighting. There will be new field lighting as well with an automated system that will regulate them. The irrigation system will be replaced. The plaza area around the concession area will be redone and a drop off area will be formed in the plaza. The horseshoe court will be renovated into covered picnic space. The trails will be redone. City staff are working on renovating the inside of the buildings.

There will be an abbreviated softball schedule this summer. The parking lot renovation will be completed at the same time as the roundabout. The timeline for the renovations is very “tight.”

4. **OTHER**

- a. **Thompson Oaks Golf Course**-Staff anticipates that the golf course will be open this summer.
- b. **Jack Libbesmeyer, Eagle Scout Candidate**- Lynch will follow up with this project.
- c. **Marthaler Park**- Lynch suggested clearing the poplar trees in the east hill to improve the vista.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The committee members adjourned at 6:19 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield