



CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL

1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2020 AT 5:30PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 1616 HUMBOLDT AVE

1. Roll Call

2. Adopt Minutes

2.A. Approve January 14, 2020 Minutes

Documents:

[JAN 14.PDF](#)

3. New Business

3.A. Giant Blue Picnic Tables Presentation

The Giant Blue Picnic Tables is a FIRST Lego League team from Heritage Middle School. Their solution to increasing use in Marthaler Park has advanced them to the State finals. They would like to make their presentation to the committee and get their feedback.

3.B. Presentation On Oakdale/Thompson Trail Feasibility Study

3.C. Easter Celebration Planning

4. Old Business

4.A. Art Park Subcommittee Update

5. Other

5.A. City Council Updates

5.B. Staff Updates

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
www.wspmn.gov EOE/AA

MINUTES
WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 14, 2020

Park & Rec. Members Present: Bonnie Bellows, Jay DeLaRosby, Brad Erickson, Bob Gausman, Dave Lynch, Rachel McNamara

Non-voting Members Present: Sharon G. Hatfield, Parks and Public Works Administrative Specialist; Wendy Berry, Councilperson; Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

1. **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES**

Vice-chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The meeting minutes from December 8, 2019 meeting were approved.

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Bylaws and Committee Elections**

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Schletty said that the committee needed to elect a new chair and vice-chair for this year. The committee also needed to review the Committee Bylaws and Expectations documents. Schletty said that the Committee Expectations document has been refined” and softened since last year. Schletty had a Committee Expectations signature page for the members to sign.

A motion was made to “maintain the status quo,” and reelect Petrasek and Lynch as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. The motion carried. All Ayes.

Schletty passed the signature page to committee members. The signature page confirms that the committee members received a copy of the expectations document.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Art Park Subcommittee Update**

Schletty said that the subcommittee has not met since the last committee meeting. The subcommittee submitted the grant request to the State. Schletty said that the grant was very well-written; “Kevin did a nice job.” The subcommittee will meet after the committee meeting to plan in anticipation of the grant award. (Schletty will find out if the grant request is accepted in February.) Schletty explained that the MRAC [Metro Regional Arts Council] is a state-funded grant. The grant is for \$10,000 and the matching grant would be \$2,500. Schletty said the City received a \$500 check from the South Robert Street Business Association. The Association also donated \$6,000 to the Winter Festival. Member McNamara asked about the art project. Schletty said that the mosaic column would be fourteen feet high. He will send out details regarding the column to committee members.

4. **OTHER**

a. **Minutes Corrections**-Member DeLaRosby wanted the following corrections to the December 2019 minutes:

i. On page two, paragraph three, the second sentence should read, “There have been **no** calls regarding the reinstalled basketball hoops.

ii. On page two, paragraph five, a correction to the spelling of “basketball.”

iii. **Kevin Hendricks’s** name is misspelled on page twice on page one, [under Old Business, paragraph two.]

b. **Sports Dome**- Lynch commented that he was very impressed with the Sports Dome facility. He has been using the facility for walking with his daughter. It is a fabulous facility. He is amazed with how many people used the fields for many different uses during winter break. Schletty confirmed that the rental rate is still successful. The City held a flag football camp event in December.

c. **City Council Update**- Clpn Berry did not have any updates, but asked Schletty to report to the committee regarding the property at 1010 Dodd.

d. Staff Update-

- i. 1010 Dodd-** Schletty reported on the Council discussion regarding the property at 1010 Dodd, (corner of Smith and Dodd.). It is now [city-owned] vacant lot. The property used to be Jay's Auto. It is not a good spot for development; MN DOT may reconfigure the whole intersection to coincide with the development of the Dodd Shopping Center. Council did not want the lot to be vacant. Council charged the Environmental Committee to come up with a design plan for the park. The plan was approved at last night's Council meeting. The plan is for a Mandela pollinator garden. It is a circular raised bed garden with a starburst shape. Neighborhood groups would adopt the garden. The garden would feature small raised beds in the corner of the lot, with a sidewalk dissection/cut through option from Dodd to the avenue. New trees, picnic tables and an educational signs about the pollinator plant species would also be features. The garden could be moved to another location if MN DOT were to change the area. Council commented that the plan is "almost too nice." Residents might be upset if the garden were removed. The cost estimate for the garden is \$23,000; the hope is to raise the money through local neighbor and business community groups. Lynch asked if there were a budget guideline for this type of plan. Schletty said there is no hard guideline; if the City were to fund the project, the money would come from the park fund for improvements. DeLaRosby asked if the plan furthered the GreenStep program. Schletty said that the plan would probably help "tick off some boxes," but because it is not a permanent space, the City would not score very well with grants. Gausman remarked that an attractive garden would inspire residents as well.
- ii. Ice Arena-**Schletty reported that Council discussed a possible expansion at the Ice Arena, which included a permanent locker room and a dry land training space. Presently three groups use the arena: the Athletic Association, the Sibley Area Youth Hockey and the Sibley Booster Club. The initial cost of the project is \$2.3 million. The City will be speaking to the school district (Mendota Heights) for proposed cost share. There may be a three-way cost share with the user groups as well. Lynch asked about a possible outdoor rink at the Ice Arena. Schletty said that it is possible. The Ice Arena's compressors were updated for this purpose but the City's usage numbers do not support an outdoor rink right now.
- iii. Council Recognition-** Schletty said that Council recognized the contributions of the Youth Athletic Association. (The Association runs West St. Paul Basketball.)
- iv. Staff Turnover-** Schletty informed the committee that they has been some staff turnover in the past month.

Employees/open positions included:

Alisha McGraw, Parks and Recreation Coordinator. This job has been posted.
Ben Boike. Ben Boike moved to the City of Cottage Grove and Community Development Director. Melissa Sonnek was promoted to City Planner and her former position, Community Development Coordinator is open.
Dan Gallahue, Building Maintenance Tech.
Community Service Officer

5. ADJOURNMENT

The committee members adjourned at 6:00 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield