



CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL

1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 8, 2018 MEETING
MUNICIPAL CENTER COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. Roll Call

2. Adopt Minutes

2.A. Approve March 13, 2018 Minutes

Documents:

[MAR 13.PDF](#)

3. New Business

3.A. Wentworth Street Project - Park Impacts

Tom Olson from Bolton and Menk, Inc. will discuss a proposal to use part of Weschcke Park for stormwater management.

4. Old Business

4.A. Recap/Evaluate Easter Event

5. Other

6. Adjourn

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MINUTES
WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
March 13, 2018

Park & Rec. Members Present: Brad Ericson, Bob Gausman, Jay DeLaRosby, Dave Lynch, Rachel McNamara, Mike Petrasek

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

Presenter: Bob Slipka, WSB

1. **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES**

Chair Petrasek Called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The February 13, 2018 minutes were approved with this correction on page two, first line: “McCarty” should be changed to “McNamara.”

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **Review Park & Rec Section of City’s Updated Comprehensive Plan**

Bob Slipka of WSB came to the committee meeting to review and update the Dakota County 2040 Master Comprehensive Plan. Slipka said that he would like to “run through” the items he highlighted on the document with the committee. He also invited members to send him comments after the meeting as well.

On page 1, “Thompson Oaks Golf Course” should be changed to “the former Thompson Oaks Course.” The sentence, “There are discussions to extend this trail system through Dodge Nature Center to Highway 110.”

A committee member asked if the committee’s mission statement needed to be part of the plan. The flavor of the committee was not and Schletty said that the mission statement had not been formally adopted by council. Petrasek remarked that this was a living document. Slipka said the document is updated about every 5-8 years and that changes in the document can be triggered by events.

Member Lynch asked if the improvement of water quality in the ponds/lakes (in Mud Lake, Thompson and Marthaler Parks.) at the parks was a goal to add. He would like to bring back the ducks. Slipka said that a large part of the water improvement is covered under stormwater management.

Petrasek said that “zoos” need to be stricken from the plan. The golf course needs to be stricken as well. McNamara asked if the city has the metrics for the distance from the parks to residents. Slipka does not know the national standards offhand but Schletty said that the city is way above national standards. McNamara said that the city should “tout” this fact.

A member asked about bullet \$4 and asked if the CIP program is applicable. Schletty said that yes the city still has a CIP; it does not need to be developed.

Bullet #7 “NURT” should be changed to “River to River.”

Schletty confirmed that the city still has an environmental committee.

Bullet #8 needs to strike “Sibley High School” and “Dodge Nature Center.”

Schletty confirmed that the city does have a Tree Preservation Ordinance.

On page four, the shore line maintenance ordinance is to be left as is.

Slipka asked about the park listing matrix for the city; Schletty said that he find a current matrix. Schletty will also find a new public facilities map. (The golf course will be removed and the park acreage will be changed accordingly.)

Schletty talked about the improvements that have taken place since the plan was last rewritten. [Dakota County] added one large seasonal shelter in Thompson Park that has a kitchen and a restroom. McNamara said that the amenities of the boardwalk trail, fishing pier and toboggan/ski slope are listed in Kaposia Park instead of Thompson Park. Slipka said that needed to be amended. Harmon Park has a new building, a little league building complex with a concession stand. It runs the complex in partnership with the school district. In all there are three new buildings: [the Neighborhood Center, a warming house and the concession stand.] There have also been improvements to the Sports Complex that need to be added. There is added land to the Sports Complex. This was done before the Harmon Park reconstruction. . About five acres had been added to the park system.

The CIP budget is still current.

Slipka said that survey/resident input data was incorporated into the Master Plan.

Slipka said that there is also a GIS generated map in the plan.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. Easter Celebration Update

Schletty said that the event will be on Saturday, March 31, 9:30 -10:30 am. There will be a petting zoo and an Egg Hunt, (at 10 am sharp.) All four ball fields will be used for the egg hunt. There will also be a raffle and prize eggs at the egg the egg hunt. Schletty will order 2,000 eggs for the egg hunt. Member McNamara volunteered for the event. Petrasek will ask for a donation from the Hockey Booster to help pay for the event. Member Lynch's wife has volunteered to be the Easter Bunny.

b. Marthaler Park Update

Schletty said that at last night's OCWS, Schletty discussed a draft for the Marthaler Park Reconstruction. Schletty had only about seven minutes to present the plan. It will probably be revisited at the next meeting. Most Council members like the plan. Once council member wanted to rework some elements. There is some "heart burn" on the "price tag" of the project. Napier said that the committee has [already] done a lot of the work regarding the priorities and the phasing of the project. He feels that the timing of the reconstruction of the park with the River to River Trail project and the Wentworth Avenue project is important. Schletty said that it might just be the northern part of the park that is reconstructed in 2019. Council is aware that there is an opportunity to receive funding from Dakota County for the trailhead building.

Slipka said that there might be some efficiency/cost sharing in using the building plans from the Flint Hills Trailhead building. (Slipka has been talking with John Mertens of Dakota County.) There would have to be an outside architect to advise on this plan.

Schletty said that the city will resurface the tennis courts and install a rebound wall.

c. Discuss Park Signs

The committee is keeping the “Park Signs, “on their radar.” Gausman remarked that he liked the big white sign at Garlough Park. He would like to see a border around the sign at Albert Park with “West St. Paul” on it. DeLaRosby said that there has been discussion about moving Albert Park to the convergence of Mendota Heights and Dakota/Ramsey Counties. Member Ericson said that a traffic circle may be constructed at the present site for Albert Park. DeLaRosby said that the park signs need to match the water tower and the future gateway signs. Petrasek agreed; the city should highlight Marthaler and Garlough Parks. The rest of the parks can have smaller signs. Once council gives the committee a budget for the signs, the committee will decide on a design for the signs.

4. Updates

a. Council Update

- i. Golf Course-** Napier said that the golf course has been closed. The land at the golf course will need to have soil corrections. It is filled with concrete, asphalt and tree stumps. The cost of the correction is about \$1million dollars and may be paid by an interested developer.=-

b. Assistant Parks and Recreation Director-

- i. Civic Rec Software-** Schletty said that the new Parks and Recreation brochure was sent out last Saturday and residents have been signing up for programs on the new software. The comments from residents have been positive. The department made \$800 on the first day of operation.

5. Other

- a. Emerald Ash Borer-** Lynch asked if there had been any changes in the Emerald Ash Borer [situation.] Schletty said that there has been no change. The will be the third year of the program and all the boulevard trees will have been treated after this year. There have been no “massive tree cuttings.” The city saved a lot of money by treating the boulevard ash trees. Schletty does not expect a “die-off” of any trees.
- b. Ice Rinks-** Schletty did not have exact attendance numbers for the ice rinks. They “got off to a rocky start.”
- c. Winter Festival-** Schletty said that the Winter Festival was well attended even with the snowstorm. There were fireworks and a dog sled feature that carried 130 kids through the park.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The committee members adjourned at 6:43 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield