



# CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL

1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

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PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
AUGUST 21, 2018 AT 5:30PM  
HARMON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

1. Roll Call

2. Adopt Minutes

2.A. Approve June 12, 2018 Minutes

Documents:

[JUN 12.PDF](#)

3. New Business

3.A. Discussion On Halloween Extravaganza

3.B. Review Of Basketball Courts In West St Paul

Attached is a map showing all public full and half basketball courts in West St Paul for your review. This can help facilitate a discussion on the future of basketball in West St Paul parks.

Documents:

[BASKETBALL COURTS.PDF](#)

3.B.1. Haskell Park Maintenance Work

Maintenance staff are in the process of a few projects at Haskell park, including clearing fences around the property. There are questions about court use that we would like PRAC feedback on.

4. Old Business

4.A. Update On Mud Lake Clean-Up

5. Other

5.A. City Council Updates

5.B. Staff Updates

6. Adjourn

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*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](http://www.wspmn.gov) EOE/AA*

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**MINUTES**  
**WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**June 12, 2018**

**Park & Rec. Members Present:** Bonnie Bellows, Brad Erickson, 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

1. **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES**

Chair Petrasek called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The meeting minutes from May 8, 2018 were approved.

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. **New Committee Bylaws and Committee Expectations**

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Schletty presented two new documents to the committee for review: the Committee By-Laws and Committee Member Expectations. Schletty explained that the documents were drawn up by the city attorney, city council and the city manager to consolidate the by-laws and expectations for the various City of West St. Paul committees. Until now, different committees had different language and “different things going on.” Now the committees will have the same language and same nomination and committee appointment process. The documents are not very different from the previous versions. One main difference is that it talks about the suspension of the by-laws; only the bylaws can now only be changed only by City Council. Schletty said that the documents have been adopted by Council. A committee member asked if the committee expectation document was new; Schletty said yes.

Petrasek asked if council wanted the committee to sign the document. Schletty said yes and no; he does not expect signatures tonight. He said that some Environmental Committee members wanted to talk to the city attorney to get clarification. The city manager will take any feedback to council and, if need be, make changes. Petrasek asked for feedback from the committee. Member DeLaRosby said the [Expectations] are a brand new document and the document was created with a purpose to “silence folks”. You have to pick and choose whether to serve your city or be vocal about your community. That is not what a democracy is all about. You should be able to serve and have a voice. Erickson said [council] is asking volunteers to sign a document saying they will uphold a certain behavior that quite frankly they are not holding themselves to. Erickson asked about the process of removing members from the committee. A committee member said that this was “spelled out” in By-Law III. DeLaRosby will not sign the document. The document is a response to outspoken members. Petrasek is struggling with the document as well. On section six, regarding “interactions [and] abusive talk, if [members] have issues outside this committee, [they] should be able to express these views. The policing of committee member is “kind of strong.” There should be a warning process. Erickson said that the document was very broad. Petrasek would like to change the signature page to read [only]: “I have received a copy of the West St. Paul Committee Member Expectations.”

Schletty commented that he disagreed a little bit with DeLaRosby and Petrasek. However, he urged committee members to reach out to the city attorney for further clarification. Erickson asked if they could speak with her next meeting. Schletty said no; the city has to pay for her to come to the committee. Schletty said that the city attorney

could be reached by email. She offered a training, but the city manager declined. McNamara did not have concerns with the document, “as is.” She would like to have the intent of the document to be clarified. Napier said the main thing is the council does not want the committee meetings to be “bitch sessions.” The need productive committee members adding to what they want to do; to do deeper work and come back to [Council] If this does not happen, Dave Schletty would have to be a “referee” and tame down committee members. If other people have ideas about how to accomplish the work, Council welcomes these ideas. Some meetings have not been productive and were used for a platform. Staff asked for help with this. DeLaRosby asked if the Parks and Recreation Committee was one of these committees. Napier said, not necessarily.

Member Bellows said that it is important for this committee to be fair and impartial. She said that Parks and Rec have done a good job in that regard. DeLaRosby is fine with the document existing within the scope of the committee, but does not want it to be used to police outside committee hours. He would like to strike the need for a signature, and have a list of committee members that have received the document. Petrasek said “on the plus side, it’s a good job description.” It is a good [for the committee] to have these expectations. Erickson said he looks forward to the code of conduct in these meetings. Outside the [meeting], we should be able to speak our mind. McNamara said that there are certain elements like the “Conflict of Interest,” that are important.

Petrasek said, “we have talked about it enough.” The committee can wait for Schletty’s email [to contact the city attorney.] Napier said that it is not a bad idea to have an orientation for the Advisory Board.

**b. Discussion on Condition of Mud Lake**

Schletty said the committee has talked about the condition of Mud Lake previously; the park has had little projects “here and there.” Residents have contacted the city about the condition of the park and the water; some residents came to the meeting to talk about the park.

Schletty gave a briefing about the park. Annually, the city does minimal maintenance, which includes mowing. A couple years ago, a Boy Scout project cleared a trail around the park adding woodchips to the trail as well. The city contracted a vendor for cattail control treatment. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) allows the city to treat a certain amount of cattails each year. The DNR limits what the city can do. Mud Lake is a DNR water body. Ross Beckwith, City Engineer, has contacted the Lower Mississippi Watershed regarding Mud Lake. (He has not heard from them yet.) One resident has contacted the DNR regarding the lily pads in the pond. The DNR says there is a possibility to treat for lily pads but it is dependent on the recreational use of the pond. Schletty has applied for the recreational use permit. The city can treat for algae and duck weed. The treatment would be a shared cost/assessment with the residents that border around the lake. The City Manager and the City Engineer have both looked at the park. The City Manager says that the lake could be an attraction for the city.

McNamara asked if there were any metrics on the water quality of the lake. (Schletty did not have the information with him at the meeting.) The pond is very green this year. Three-quarters of the lake is surrounded by residents and lawns. A large part of the problem is the amount of fertilizer in the lake.

There are two storm water inlets for the lake (southeast and northwest) and one outlet on the northeast side. There is probably a lot of “muck” and sediment at the bottom of the

lake. Schletty will check with the DNR to see if Mud Lake can be dredged. Marthaler Lake is the about the same size but is deeper; dredging Mud Lake and making it deeper may improve the water quality.

Charlie DeReuil of 324 Moreland Avenue, spoke before the committee. He has lived there for 9 years. In that time he has noticed that there is now less area in the lake for water fowl to land. In three weeks, lily pads take over the pond. The lily pads make it hard to skate on the lake in winter. Eight years ago, this was not an issue. The DNR does not care if it is ugly. They do care if it is recreational. It is an eyesore. Canoes cannot be used in the lake. He appreciates the city giving "us a voice."

Tom Fillipi has been living in the area for 32 years. There used to be many geese and ducks in the lake. Today, the waterfowl are almost non-existent. The park is a resource for the city. Now the park sign can be revised from "Mud Lake Park" to just "Mud." We used to have a good month, month and a half of clear water; now it is only 2 weeks. Dredging the lake is something that definitely must be done. We have had the conversation before and it keeps getting stalled. We would like a recommendation from parks for an on-going program over the next 5 years that can evolve.

John Seidel, of 1266 Galvin, has lived at the lake over 30 years. He remembers the when shoreline was clear. It is something that they miss. There are of kids in the neighborhood. They used to be able to use the park; they cannot use the lake any longer. It is a disgrace. He would like to see some open water. He is willing to start a new program for the park today.

Tracy Croker has lived on Galvin for are 12 years. She asked if something could be done about the weeds in the lake so that the kids could use the pond. She would really appreciate what the city could do for the lake.

Napier has been lived in West St. Paul for last 42 years. (He has worked at Dodge Nature Center for 30 years.) He said that aerators may help for wild life but not the vegetation. He has been working with the DNR for a long time. Napier said that residents must bag their grass clippings or else the clippings end up in storm sewers and cause the algae. He said that the pond can be treated. The pond treatment (for storm water ponds) was cut out of the budget this year. Napier said that the pond is an amenity for the city. Now the pond is green and disgusting. It is caused by the community using fertilizers and not bagging their yard clippings. Unless the pond is treated, it will not get any better. He said that the DNR is very open to finding out how to treat ponds. His approach would be to treat the pond.

Erickson asked how much would it be to treat the pond? It is about \$1,200 per pond. All the residents need to be "on board" to do the treatment and to share in the funding to treat pond. It would end up being \$92 per resident. (Schletty said that cattail treatment was not cut; there is no fee for it.) Napier said that he supports funding for the pond treatment. (The treatment is for duck weed and algae.) Napier said that he can support the budget for duck weed and algae but not for lily pads because of habitat. It is hard to justify funding for ice-skating. Schletty said that funding might be used for a dock and trails around Mud Lake.

**A motion was made to continue to pursue the lily pad permit through the DNR and that the city budget for algae and duck weed treatment in 2019.**

**Discussion followed the motion. Bellows asked if the treatment costs are put back into the budget, what would happen if residents do not agree to the assessment. Schletty said that the city attorney is working on the assessment; it may be a majority decision. DeLaRosby asked when the [treatment] permits were applied for? Schletty said that the cattail treatment was one month ago and lily pad treatment permit is being processed as well. Schletty has not heard if the permits have been approved. If the city is allowed to treat for lily pads, the city will do so this year.**

**The motion passed. All ayes.**

Schletty said that there would probably be another meeting on Mud Lake. Napier asked residents to come to Council Meeting when the matter comes before Council.

**c. Haskell Park Maintenance Work**

Schletty reported that the Haskell Park tennis courts are going to be resurfaced this year. The fence lines around the courts are overcome with plant growth. The growth is inhibiting sun light and there is a lot of algae/mold and “slime” on the court. Residents were informed that the fence lines are going to be trimmed. Most residents did not have any issues about the work. One thing that did come up was the basketball court. There used to be a basketball court in Haskell Park. The basketball hoops were taken down because of misbehaving clientele. The courts have been sitting without the hoops for a long time. It is time to decide on if the city should permanently remove the posts. The eliminated basketball from Weschcke Park as well. The court was changed to half-court basketball. Schletty asked for input from the committee. Bellows asked how you find out how the parks are used. Schletty said it is by observation. Park maintenance can tell use by amount of trash generated. Bellows saw a daycare provider using the park equipment. In the summer, the green space is used for soccer and T-Ball and other youth programming. Petrusek said that there are three basketball hoops, two traditional poles and one adjustable hoop. DeLaRosby asked if basketball if “off the table for the space.” Napier said it is hard for him to comment because he was not on council when the decision was made. [The parks] are a way for kids to get out of their houses to play. He used to enjoy watching the games. We need to pull together a group to make the decision. It is easy to say that history tells us to pull the hoops out of our parks. He would hate to pull basketball out of our parks. DeLaRosby said that from an economic standpoint, [it is easier] to buy a basketball versus ice skates and a hockey stick. He wants people to use the parks. If people live in an apartment, he wants them to be able to “shoot some hoops.” Napier asked how many basketball hoops are in the parks. There are two in Oakdale, three in Haskell, and two baskets in Weschcke, (half court.) Napier said that it is not too late to go back to how it was, but he does not want to downplay the problems. Napier would like the committee to look at the issue. The committee may need to consult other communities to see how they do it. Bellows said the city needs to contact the residents before putting up the hoops. Schletty added that the parks that have full courts: Marthaler has a full court. Marthaler does not have problems because residents do not live nearby. Southview has a full court (similar to Haskell, not full length) with no complaints. Emerson has a full court (tennis court size) but the city has had complaints about the court. Haskell did have a lot of problems, drug deals, alcohol, fighting and late night playing. The court is in a very hidden part of the park.

Erickson asked about the warming house at Haskell. Schletty said there are no plans for the warming house right now. Bellows asked about having someone removing the hoops

at nine pm every night. Petrasek said that it would be good for the committee to stew on the issue. He is interested in knowing what a police officer has to say about the issue. Schletty will see if the Parks officer is available. Darlene Lewis interjected and said that residents were very vocal about the basketball court; behavior in the park was unacceptable. When the basketball hoop was taken down, the problems stopped. License plates were run and the people that were using the park did not live in West St. Paul. A committee member asked when this event happened; Schletty said that it was in 2007-2008. Petrasek said that it was a long time ago. DeLaRosby said that his son is still waiting for the hoops to go up at Oakdale Park. Schletty suggested writing a memo to the City Manager to get feedback from council about putting up the basketball hoops. Bellows would like to have the park police officer come to the meeting.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. **Marthaler Park-** Schletty was unable to present to council regarding the Marthaler Park reconstruction. The parking lot may now be made smaller and reshaped; the parking lot might shrink to sixty stalls. There will be only one shelter at Marthaler Park; not as many parking spaces are needed. He was also going to talk about the different options for the Master Plan. There would be 5-6 phases and each year, one part of the park would be done. The first phase would be the parking lot, then the playground and lastly the park trail. Right now, the city does not have the funding to do the two million dollar reconstruction.

4. **Other**

- i. **West St.Paul Bike Rodeo-** DeLaRosby said that this Saturday is the West St. Paul Bike Rodeo, 10 am- Noon. at the Wentworth Library, for kids kindergarten to sixth grade. There will be a helmet giveaway. There will also be a raffle. It is a free event. It was the most attended police department program last year

5. **Updates**

a. **Council Update**

- i. There are a lot of good things happening in the city; Napier asked committee members to watch the city website for events.
- ii. Harmon Park Neighborhood Center- Napier had event at the Neighborhood Center; he said that the room is getting many compliments from the community. He left a huge relish tray in the refrigerator. It is missing in action.

b. **Staff Updates**

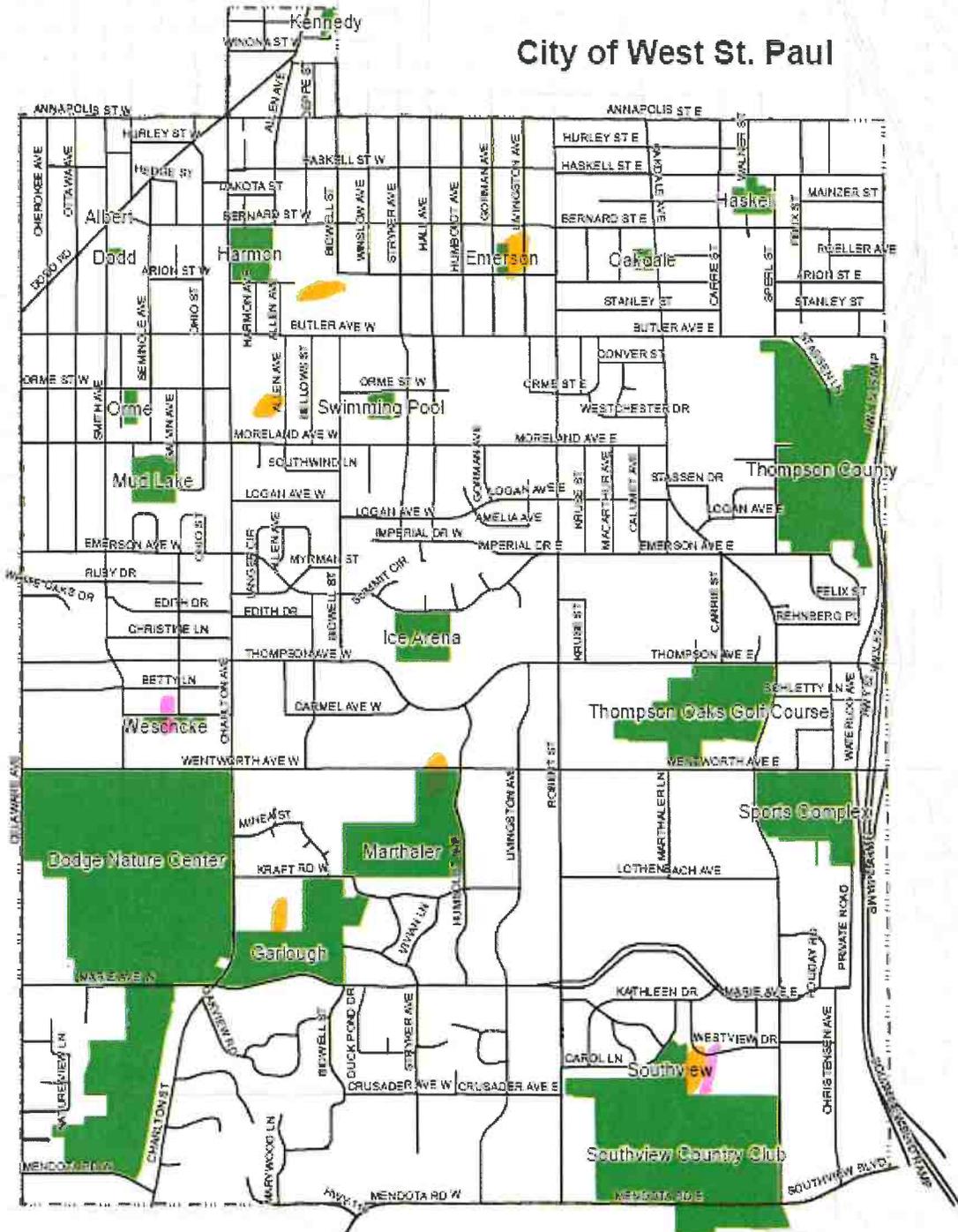
- i. **Foot Golf Course-**The foot golf course opened on June 1. It is gaining traction. The U of M Women's soccer team is hosting an event later this fall.
- ii. **Art Park-** Schletty said that the city needs to find outside funding for major improvements in the park. The city may plant pollinator plants in the future [on the plot.] Napier said that volunteer neighborhood groups are welcome to [native] plants in the park.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The committee members adjourned at 7:01 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon G. Hatfield

# City of West St. Paul



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**West St. Paul Parks**

West St. Paul Parks
  West St. Paul Streets

Full = 7  
 Half = 3