



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118
JULY 13, 2021 at 5:30PM**

1. Roll Call

2. Adopt Minutes

2.A. Approve May 11, 2021 Minutes

Documents:

[051121.PDF](#)

2.B. Approve June 8, 2021 Work Session Minutes

Documents:

[PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE WORK SESSION 060821.PDF](#)

3. New Business

3.A. 2022 Playground Replacement Discussion

4. Old Business

4.A. Marthaler Redevelopment Update

4.B. Art Park Update

4.C. Skate Park Update

4.D. Continued Horseshoe Court Discussion

5. Other

5.A. Council Updates

5.B. Staff Updates

6. Adjourn

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WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Parks & Rec. Members Present: Bob Gausman, Kirsten Mulraney, Jay DeLaRosby, Bonnie Bellows, Mike Petrasek, Sara Blair, Kelly Hagler

Non-voting Members Present: Sharon G. Hatfield, Parks and Public Works Administrative Specialist; Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director, Ross Beckwith, City Engineer, Parks and Public Works Director; Wendy Berry, Council Liaison

1. ROLL CALL

2. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES

Chair Petrasek called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. The minutes from the March 9, 2021 meeting and the April 13, 2021 work session were approved by the Committee. Member Bellows acknowledged Administrative Specialist Hatfield's work on her wonderful minutes. Bellows told Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Schletty that he needed to give Hatfield a raise. Hatfield gave Bellows the thumbs-up.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Horseshoe Court Discussion

Schletty said the topic of the horseshoe court was discussed about 4-5 years ago before the construction improvements were done at the Sports Complex. At the Sports Complex, there is a very large structure that looks like a picnic shelter. However, it is not a picnic shelter, but a covered horseshoe court. There are 12 horseshoe courts inside the structure that are lit [at night]. There is a local club, the West St. Paul Horseshoe Club. They run leagues two times a week, and have 1-2 tournaments a year. When the park was developed in the 80's, they had a thriving club of about 400 members. The membership has since dwindled. They have undergone a resurgence, but the club has diminished to about 100 members. Of the 100 members, only about 15 percent are from West St. Paul. They have leagues twice a week and have one tournament in the summer.

Schletty asked the Committee to discuss whether or not the structure is meeting the needs of all of the City's park users and residents, and if there is an opportunity to explore repurposing a portion, or all of the structure. Some ideas for the structure include converting half or all of the space into a picnic shelter and fire pit, creating an ice skating area over the concrete surface, and installing a performance space. Rental groups could come in, with a deejay or a band to play music and have a nice dance space. The space is probably big enough for a wedding. There are many opportunities in the structure and the City may not want to limit it to a single use like the horseshoe court. This year alone the City has received multiple requests to rent the space; people are bringing in their own tables and chairs to use the space for events like graduation parties. The horseshoe court has provided a nice covered outdoor space for people to meet, especially because of the COVID-19 precautions. Last year a group rented the space for dance parties with deejay and music for a weekend festival. Schletty asked for comments from the Committee. He said that the City could also invite residents and the Horseshoe Club members to give feedback. Bellows asked about the idea of converting half the area into a picnic shelter and leaving the other half as a horseshoe courts. Schletty said that no final decision should be made right now; however when the Horseshoe Club was presented this idea, they said that a half-conversion would "kill our Club." Member Lynch asked if the club was paying any rent. Schletty said that they are a paying a non-resident fee, (\$35 per year for each non-resident.) It is not enough to cover maintenance expenses. Lynch wondered if there would be any club growth. Lynch said that it would be interesting to hear their sales pitch. Member Hagler asked if there were anything else in the area that were similar. Schletty that there are not any other covered horseshoe courts in the area. It was a unique structure in the metro and even in the state. Bellows said, conceivably they could be moved somewhere else, it just would not be covered. Schletty said this was correct. There are many possibilities. At one time, the City talked about installing six [uncovered] courts north of the structure. Bellows said the City has to ascertain how often the courts are used. She wondered if the structure would be more use as a picnic shelter. Schletty said that judging from the requests that the City receives to use the court as a picnic shelter, it would probably generate much more interest. It would easily be the biggest outdoor picnic shelter in the City, even larger than the shelter in Thompson County

Park. If the City were to rent the court as a shelter, the City would make about \$200 a weekend. Member Mulraney asked about the area north of the horseshoe court, and if it were the same area that City of Skate wanted to develop into a skate park. Schletty said that the proposed area for new horseshoe courts would be to the west, a similar area but it would not interfere with the proposed skate park. Member Gausman said that he liked the idea of the horseshoe court; it is a traditional pastime and he has a couple pairs of horseshoes. He has played in the structure. He does not like the concrete. It dings up his horseshoes. He is not that great a shot. Gausman commented that there is a lot of room in the Sports Complex. The horseshoes courts could be done some place else. Lynch said that he is torn [regarding repurposing the structure.] He likes the idea that West St. Paul has a unique feature within the Twin Cities. However, if the structure were to be used by only a small number of people twice a week and their numbers kept dwindling, [the single purpose] would not be worth it. Petrasek agreed with Lynch. He would like the City to reduce the number of courts to half and then monitor how the facility is used. He would hate to nix all the horseshoe court activity and find out that the structure is not being used.

Lynch said he would like to hear from the Horseshoe Club. Petrasek said Committee Members should visit the court while the horseshow club is there. The City could ask the club if they were open to having half the courts moved west. Lynch would like to visit the club at the Sport Complex and compare their presentation to the actual experience. Bellows asked Schletty for the dimensions of the structure and a description of how the courts are set-up. Hagler asked about the possible half-and-half setup; would there be potential for damage. Schletty does not think would be any problem with damage. Petrasek said that this decision could be tabled now and the Committee could hear from the club in June or July. Petrasek will visit the Club during a horseshoe event and speak to club members. He is still torn on the converting the courts. There are still a number of tournaments in the Sports Complex: softball, baseball, Little League. Schletty added there is a lot of soccer as well. Petrasek said it would be nice to have an additional shelter for teams to get out of the sun. He would hate to yank the amenity away from someone but he still wants the structure to be used to it fullest extent. DeLaRosby said that the Committee is treading on the equity issue again. Pickleball was a non-existent amenity and the Committee made pains to bring it about. The City does not want to squeeze out a unique amenity (albeit limited) and then eliminate it. The structure has not sat empty and decrepit; it is getting used. It might be like a big box store, having a huge surface lot and only needing the space for small fractions of the time. The Committee will have to determine how to coexist or refit the structure to be multiuse. The City is treading on taking away an amenity from the community unnecessarily just by wanting to provide something else. The City should be adding things without subtracting them. If the statistics are correct, and 85 percent of the users are not West St. Paul residents, people from outside the community are coming into West St. Paul for the horseshoe league and [perhaps] stopping at a restaurant on Robert Street. Bellows said that it would be interesting to see if there were any other facilities for horseshow throwing. Lynch said there are three or four pits in South St. Paul. Schletty said there used to be horseshoe pits in Thompson; they were removed with the pond project years ago. Schletty will get some other statistics regarding the court to Committee Members. Petrasek said that he would try to do some reconnaissance as well. Schletty went on to say it would be good to have other clubs use the courts. The City is attempting to offer an adult beanbag league.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. Park CIP Update

Schletty said that the Committee did some homework and put together a nice list of projects for the next 10 years. Schletty presented it to Council and Council was very receptive to it. They wanted to thank the Committee for their work. Schletty brought the list to the Committee once again for review before it is presented to the City Finance Department for incorporation into the CIP plan. Schletty said the list does not include the Ice Arena, the Dome or the West St. Paul Pool. Schletty asked if there were any questions or comments. Bellows asked about the \$430 K to be paid this year. Schletty responded that the City has 150K as West St. Paul's share in the Marthaler Garlough trail project; \$600K is allotted for the Marthaler Park Redevelopment for 2023. Bellows wanted to clarify that the spreadsheet was money for the parks from park dedication. Schletty said not necessarily. Some of the money is not in the CIP yet. The

spreadsheet is what the Committee created. Petrasek described the spreadsheet as a “roadmap.” Bellows asked if the spreadsheet would change depending on the finances. Schletty said that this was correct. He went on to say that all of the projects on the spreadsheet are “doable.” Lynch had a question on Mud Lake and the pond treatments-\$1,500 per year. Currently, this is for chemical treatment. Lynch wondered if mechanical treatment could be used instead because the chemical treatment is not working well. Schletty said the City could definitely explore this option. However, the cost would be twice as much. The City will have the same limitations from the DNR with percentages; the one difference with the mechanical removal is that the lily pads will not die and fall to the bottom of the pond. Schletty would also like to explore doing aeration in the pond instead of treating for the algae and the duck weed.

Petrasek asked about Kennedy Park, and relocating the playground. He remarked that that the playground should be moved because the playground is not inside the park technically. Schletty added that the playground is technically not in West St. Paul. Petrasek commented that with the playground not being in the park or in the City, and with the sewer lines running under the playground, it would be chasing good money after bad, if the City were to replace the playground where it is currently located. Bellows asked if the residents were notified about the situation. Schletty has explained this to a few of the residents; it did not seem to sway them. DeLaRosby said that the residents are concerned about the open space. Mulraney asked about the option of a natural play structure. Schletty said that the City could incorporate a natural play structure into the hill. The City will invite the neighborhood residents to a meeting to discuss options for the park this fall. Improvements for this park are planned for 2022.

Petrasek said that the spreadsheet document looks good. He commented that the new skate park at the Sports Complex for 250K in 2030 looks a little low. Schletty said the numbers are rough and the [implementation] years are approximate as well. They could be moving targets. The important thing is to get something in the books. DeLaRosby asked about the target year of 2030 for the skate park. He wondered if the Committee would have the ability to revisit this and create a new spreadsheet. Mulraney commented that there would be a lot of frustration if 2030 were the magic year for the skate park. Many people said they brought this request up 10 years ago. She wonders if there is any flexibility to this. Schletty said that the 2030 is, “just a number and just a year.” The year 2030 was picked because the current CIP plan goes to 2029. All the money is being laid out so that the City knows where it is at; and how much funding it has. 2030 is the continuation of the plan. If the City has a big improvement planned for 2026 and the City decides not to do it; the City could easily change the improvement to the skate park. If the developments keep coming in at a record pace, and the park dedication fees grow, the City could definitely move the skate park up. The Committee should not get discouraged by the 2030 designation. The new Council is gung ho about the plan and the new City Manager who wants to see more investment in our parks. Clpn. Berry said that the former City Manager, who was fiscally conservative, said that the spreadsheet was not a wish list. The City can accomplish all of the improvements. Berry spoke to the new City Manager, and he did not “even bat an eye. The [spreadsheet] is possible as is.” Moving the items around is something that the Committee could discuss. The Committee must realize however, if development stops, it will cause the Committee to be more creative. DeLaRosby asked about excess funding. He wondered if the money would go back to Council for reallocation, or if the Committee could allocate the excess in a spillover fund. Schletty responded that the Park Improvement budget is funded by the LGA. Money coming in from the state is dedicated specifically to park improvements. Money is also added through our Park Dedication fees. If there is an improvement budgeted for \$50 K, and it comes in at \$40K, the 10 K stays in the fund. However, say there is a \$M in the fund, the City cannot, “spend it down.” Money is allotted each year; the goal is to have a cash balance each year and not to issue debt. Money will not be lost if the Committee does not spend it. DeLaRosby asked if the plan has captured the dedication fees for current developments. Schletty said that the fees have been captured; this was how the Marthaler Park improvements were pushed up two years. Schletty talked about the year 2030, and how it seems to be a magic year. For example, the Harmon Park playground is due to be replaced in 2030. Everything in the park seems new but in reality, the equipment is seven years old now. In another nine

years, the park will be 16 years old, and the City must have the foresight to plan for the improvements now. When 2030 approaches and the City finds that the Harmon playground is still good, the improvement can be pushed off a couple of years. Hagler said she would be shocked if the playground made it to 2030. She noticed that the playgrounds that are slated for repair soon look in better shape than the Harmon Park playground. Harmon is aging faster than the other parks. Schletty said that the City has replaced one of the brackets on the slide at Harmon Park; it was still under warranty. Schletty agreed with Hagler; the playground at Harmon Park gets a lot of abuse. Petrasek said the Committee would need to be flexible in the future. In 3 years, there may be a request for a change, for example a badminton facility. The Committee will need to juggle other needs. Right now, the spreadsheet is the best roadmap the City has. It is a living, breathing document. Bellows said that the document should be looked at every year.

Lynch made a motion to accept the worksheet for now with the caveat that the spreadsheet will be examined on a yearly basis, and open for change. DeLaRosby seconded the motion. The motion carried. All Ayes

b. Continued Marthaler Redevelopment Discussion

Schletty talked about the order of improvements for Marthaler Park. The Committee needs to complete the Master Plan for the park and to have another public input meeting. Buy-in is needed from the community and feedback is needed from Council so that they could see the Committee has done their “homework” Schletty’s plan is to bring back the consultant to work through what the Committee has been discussing for the last two months. The consultant will then work on his completion of the Master Plan and facilitate the improvements next year. Lynch asked Schletty to review the schedule for the trail. Schletty said that construction for the trail would begin next week. It would start in Marthaler Park. The small picnic shelters will be removed. A number of trees will come down. An area will be trenched out to create a nice slope that will come down to Humbolt Avenue. Bits of the trail and other trees will be removed and prepping of the new trail will begin. In early June after school is out, construction will move into Garlough Park. Barring any major delays, the construction is scheduled to be completed in late July. Lynch asked about the bench and bike rack for the disc golf course. Schletty answered that this would occur at the end of the project, with the tree plantings and some other amenities. The improvements for the first year would be the parking lot, the paved trails and the pond. Schletty said that the pond improvement would be the shoreline restoration. The second year priorities would be the playground equipment, the picnic shelter and the modern bathrooms, and the work on the sledding hill. Schletty said the trail alignment and the parking lot arrangement has been changed since the last Committee review. Schletty would like a nice working document that can be presented to the public in July or August. Bellows asked for a rough copy of the construction timeline for the work this year. Schletty said that he could put something together for the Committee. Schletty will have a virtual meeting with the consultant to update him. The City will probably be working with the same firm and the same consultant.

5.

OTHER

a. Skate Park Subcommittee Update

Mulraney said that DeLaRosby had the idea of pairing up efforts with the Bike Safety Rodeo. Mulraney has spoken to the owner of Third Layer. Third Layer is an indoor skate park. The owner grew up in West St. Paul. He attended Grass Middle School, (Heritage School.) He is very enthusiastic about joining West St. Paul. City of Skate is interested in the effort as well. Now that restrictions are lessening, Mulraney hopes to gather people together to get their input. DeLaRosby said that he has been working with the Children’s Hospital, the library, and the Police Department to put on the event to put on the Bike Rodeo. The event had to be cancelled last year because of the COVID-19 precautions. The stakeholders met last month, along with Sam Murphy, Program Coordinator and decided to have the event later in the year so that people have more time to be vaccinated. They are targeting September 4 or September 5, the last weekend before school starts. They are also thinking of expanding the event to all things wheels. This would include roller blades, skateboards and scooters. It would be a good event to gauge interest in the

skate park. Petrasek talked about the subcommittee membership. Because the Committee has expanded, the subcommittee could expand as well. If anyone would like to join, there is now an opening.

b. Council Update

Berry said that Council expressed appreciation for the work the Committee did in the last year for the park improvement planning. She has spoken to Schletty regarding engaging the public about changes in the parks. A resident came forward Monday night regarding the change in Emerson Park, (the conversion of a tennis court into a pickleball court.) He lives close to the park and was not notified about the change. Berry asked Committee Members to think other ways the City can notify the public. This will be a topic of discussion for the future. Bellows said a column in the newsletter could provide updates to the parks. Member Blair asked about communications regarding the parks. Schletty said the City has the newsletter and the website. Parks and Recreation does not have a separate blog. DeLaRosby wondered how many people were watching the web streamed Committee meeting. Petrasek asked, "What are our ratings?" Schletty said there is also a community parks connection program that NDC4 hosts. It is a half-hour show with Mendota Heights, West St. Paul, South St. Paul and Inver Grove Heights. The cities do their own interview and film in different parks. The show is done quarterly. Schletty just filmed the upcoming summer show. The program was done in Emerson Park and talked about the new playground and the new pickleball court. It is cable access; Schletty does not know how many people watch it. He sometimes does have people tell him, "Saw you on TV again!" Petrasek commented that from his experience in the school system, no matter what they did or how thorough they were, someone was going to be missed. No matter how good the intentions are, this must be kept in mind. However, the City can also try to be more effective. Schletty added that the City does not have a set mailing address standard for public meetings. He sometimes send out notices to residents living 250 feet away from the park, sometimes 500 feet from the park. It might be good to set the parameters. The parameters may change according to the project.

c. Staff Updates

- i. City Open House-**The City is holding another Open House in early September. It might be good for the Committee to have its own table. It would be a way to inform residents of what is happening in the parks, and to gauge interest in the skate park. The Open House is 2 hours long and is held in the fire bays over in the Fire Department.
- ii. The Pool-** The pool will be open again this year. The City has a contract with the YMCA for the management of the pool. The pool should be opening the second Saturday of June. There will be some capacity limits for the beginning of the season.
- iii. The Ice Arena-**The City and the Youth Association are working on creating a lease for the facility to fast track some improvements for the arena: new locker rooms for the high school teams and dry land indoor training space for the hockey players to use. Council has given the okay for the effort. The City has received a sizable donation from the Sibley Hockey Booster club, (\$72 K earmarked for the locker room improvements.)
- iv. Summer Programs-** It is an exciting time for summer recreation programs. This is the highest number of enrollments that the City has seen in Schletty's memory. People are excited to get into the programs and there are waiting lists for every activity. The City needs more staffing (paid positions) for the youth summer programs.

d. Marthaler Park-Lynch gave a "shout-out" for the Neighbors of Marthaler Park. They are building a strong group of neighbors/volunteers that are very interested in improving the parks. Last weekend there was a group of people cleaning up trash and clearing buckthorn in the park.

6. ADJOURN

The committee members adjourned at 6:38 pm. The next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield

WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Parks & Rec. Members Present: Bonnie Bellow, Mike Petrasek, Jay DeLaRosby, Dave Lynch, Sara Blair, Kelly Gibbons

Non-voting Members Present: Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director; Wendy Berry, Council Liaison

1. **ROLL CALL**
2. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. **Marthaler Park Redevelopment**

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Schletty talked about the history of Marthaler Park Redevelopment and the 2017 draft of the master plan. The plan stalled out and never went before Council for approval. Schletty would like to do “a walkthrough” with Committee member and see if they have any questions or comments. He wanted Committee Member to finalize the elements they wanted to see in Marthaler Park in the next 2-3 years. The Committee could also discuss other elements in other parks that they would like to see.

Schletty gave an overview of Marthaler Park. Marthaler Park is one of the city’s main parks. It is adjacent to City Hall and 34 acres in size. It includes naturalized areas and recreational opportunities. Amenities include a destination sledding hill, highly used tennis courts, picnic areas, a playground area, park trails, hard surface play spaces and a parking lot. The park is almost surrounded entirely by residential properties. The Master Plan was originally developed in 2001, and identified improvements for the park after finding that the park is a focal point of the City. The current documents was an update from the 2001 plan. The documents assess and prioritize proposed improvements.

The City performed the community engagement process, and generated feedback from city staff, the Parks and Recreation Committee and residents in the public open house (May 2017). Staff and the consultants conducted a site survey and a park walk through. On June 13, the Committee reviewed and prioritized program features, looked at the past Master Plan and identified key features of the park that they wanted to be preserved or improved. They also identified next steps in updating the plan. The next month, the Committee met with the consultant to review the three- concept Master Plans for the park and selected the most desirable elements from each concept. They also talked about County participation and the regional trail. There was a third PRAC meeting on August 8. The elements taken from the last meeting were reviewed in a new master document. An amenity poster board was also presented.

Chair Petrasek said that many things have changed, (budgeting, priorities, timing of public open house) since the last review. Schletty said that the consultant would work through these pieces. The plan tonight is to see what changes Committee Members would like to see and bring them to the consultant. In April, the Committee had 3-4 things prioritized for Phase I; 3-4 things prioritized for Phase II, and a list of things for Phase III. Schletty said the plan is now outdated. Some items needed to be eliminated. Petrasek said the Wentworth Street project forced their hands on some items. Member Bellows because things have changed; some things do not make sense now. If you put in every detail, residents might ask why the City did not do a certain item.

Schletty said that the City is now in the development phase. Key elements of the park include: the Regional Trail head area, the [inner] trail, modern restrooms, wayfinding signage and bike repair stations. The southern park improvements include the new southern parking lot, tennis courts and trail access. The playground area includes new playground equipment, adjacent benches, picnic areas and a large “reservable” picnic shelter. Northern park improvements include a basketball court, a paved volleyball court, picnic shelter, and a parking lot. Pond improvements included a fishing pier, shoreline fishing platform, shoreline restoration, habitat improvement and ice skating. The sledding hill improvements include: the removal of trees and other vegetation, an overlook observation area, a picnic shelter at the bottom of the hill and removal of the roadway at the bottom of the hill. The City is now in the middle of the Regional Trail headpiece; the southern area park improvements have been laid out, (new parking lot, resurfaced tennis courts.) There are no new improvements to be done there. The playground area will be in the new centralized area where the parking lot is now. There will be a playground with age-separated equipment/containers. Benches, picnic areas and the larger picnic shelter will also be located in this area. North park improvements include the basketball court, paved volleyball court, picnic shelter and a parking lot. This was accomplished with the Wentworth Avenue project. The courts were resurfaced and the parking lot was put in. The City could not find a good place for a new shelter it at that time. It could be done in the future.

Petrasek recalled from the April work session; there was \$450 K to spend the first year and \$600 K to spend the second year. The first year would be the parking lot, paved trails, and the pond. The second year, the Committee scheduled the playground equipment, picnic shelter, modern bathrooms and the sledding hill. For Phase III, it would be the amphitheater, splash pad, sculpture, and mountain bike trail. Schletty remarked that one of the changes to the plan was the regional trail and the tunnel. The completion of the trail into the document has to be incorporated into the document. This will all be “cleaned up.” The southern park improvements list is still valid.

Bellows remarked that there must be an easier way to do this. This document was is history; the City may not want to do away with it. We need to update the new plans and incorporate what has been done. Schletty said that the consultant would know how to do this. Bellows went on to say it is important for people to know how long the City has been working on the document. She would hate to lose this part of it.

Schletty went back to the details of the plan: The open lawn picnic space is now eliminated from the plan. Where the old picnic shelter and the playground had been, the City had talked about it being an open green space. Because of the trail going in, this opportunity has been lost. Bellows asked if one of the plans show the work that has been done to the ponds resulting from the work on Wentworth Avenue. Schletty replied no; the work will be incorporated later. The pond improvements have not changed; it is an underutilized amenity because the pond is surrounded by buckthorn. There is no good access to the pond. Shoreline cleanup and removal of the soft-wooded trees would enable people to see the pond better. The City would like the loop trail to be completed around the pond. Schletty hopes to get the DNR to restock the pond. The DNR had a plan in place but discontinued it. The City had been working on the county for funding for the cleanup. Funding was approved by the county but not by the state. There is still a possibility for the funding to come in the future. Sledding hill improvements are still valid; they include an observation dock/tower and hill vegetation cleanup. Cleaning up the wooded area to the north and restoring it to prairie is also possible. Lynch asked if this would include cleaning of the middle grove area; Schletty said yes. As with other areas in the park, it would probably be returned to the Oak Savannah. Park trail improvements (internal looping trails) would include fresh coats of asphalt. The internal trails would be 8 feet wide; the regional trails are 10 feet wide. Bellows asked if the internal

trails would connect to the regional trail. Schletty responded that there would be tie-ins at points. . Regarding the southern park improvements, Schletty said that these need to be broken down further. He would like to see these things broken out. Parking lot, playground, and picnic shelter improvements could be separate categories.

Schletty said that the cost estimates and implementation plan are obsolete. A new table should be created with the amenities listed with their costs broken out. Petrasek said he would like this to be updated before the Committee meets with the consultant. He would like Schletty to update the consultant on what has been done since the 2017 plan (especially with the north end improvements and the County trail.) He would like three pieces to be updated: the old report, what has happened and actually happening, and what the Commission has agreed to at our April work session. Hopefully, a new report could be created. Bellow said that the consultant should know how to do this. Petrasek said the Committee has all of the pieces for the new plan, “we just need them all in one basket.”

Petrasek would like to present the report to the public before it goes to Council. After the buy-in from the community, the Committee has done all that it can do; and then it will be up to Council. Schletty summed up that the Committee wants an updated document that is not “final-final” but pretty close to what the Committee’s vision is. The Committee wants the public to weigh in on it to make sure we have buy in. Take in the public input and bring the plan to Council. Schletty said that the invitation to the next public meeting will be to a broader audience, and will not be limited to the neighbors of Marthaler Park. Blair asked if Schletty anticipates the plan changing much from public feedback. Schletty said maybe very slightly. The biggest point was the parking lot area for the residents that live nearby and the safety of the sledding hill. One of the things the City has to watch out for is that [of course] the City wants a nice park, but it does not want a park that is overused. Harmon Park is an example of this, with the splash pad feature. Marthaler Park is a different kind of park where people will come to relax and have a picnic. That is why Schletty thinks it would be best to have only one shelter in the park. It would not be good to have two groups of 100 people competing in the park. Lynch said that if you bring in too many people into Marthaler, you would destroy the natural, environmental aspect of the park. A good balance is important. Bellows said that the trail in Marthaler make a big difference. Gibbons asked if the City has ever considered putting electric car charging stations in the parks. Schletty said that the Recycling Coordinator asked about this as well. The City has not yet decided to do this; the county has discussed it. It is definitely something that he thinks the City should look into.

Petrasek asked if Schletty has enough direction from the Committee to meet with the consultant. Schletty said absolutely. Bellows listed the elements and asked if the pavilion would have bathroom facilities. Schletty said that right now, only the trailhead building would have restrooms. Schletty anticipates for the north end of the park, that they would still use the porta-potties. Schletty said it would be ideal to have a new document to Committee Members before the next meeting. Once the consultant adds the cost estimates to the park elements, the Committee can work on prioritizing the elements. Cost estimates still need to be added for things like removing old asphalt and ripping out playgrounds. Bellows said that it looks like it is coming together finally.

b. Park Inventory/Master Plans

Bellows asked if the pickleball court has been put up at Emerson Park yet. Schletty said not yet. The City is at the mercy of the contractor. The estimate is mid-July. The playground is in. There is some clean up to do.

Petrasek said that he did do his homework and visited the horseshoe pits. The visit went well. There are 12 courts. They used 5 courts on Tuesday morning and 10 courts on Wednesday nights. They love the courts. They take care of the courts. They work on the clay. The man that Petrasek spoke to was the regional vice president of the Gopher State Horseshoe. He is willing to come to the Committee meeting to present. He comes from Shoreview to play. He is not opposed to moving the horseshoe pits outside of the sheltered area. They understand that they have had a padlock on the amenity for many years. The annual tournament is there this Saturday. Petrasek tried to be politically correct; he found out the median age for the horseshoe people was senior level. Lynch remarked that across the state, horseshoe throwing is a bigger deal. They do not market the West St. Paul horseshoe pit facility very well. Petrasek said that the closest facility is 36th and White Bear Avenue. It is far away. Member DeLaRosby visited the court after the last meeting and snapped some photos. He was surprised. He grew up in a community that had a horseshoe pen that was open, exposed and all dirt. The [Sports Complex] court is cement and only the horseshoe pit is dirt. It gave him hope to pave one of the inside rinks and use it for other things. Currently, the courts are used only a certain part of the year for a certain thing. However, it is a large space. DeLaRosby was wondering if the City could devise coverings for the pits so that the structure could be used for other purposes such as a skate park. Schletty said that he is using the courts for a beanbag tournament. He is also renting out the structure for musical events later on in the summer. There will be a Juneteenth event held there. The food truck event held by Augustana will also be held there. Even without converting the structure, the City is using it for non-horseshoe events. Petrasek was not able to ascertain how many residents used the shelter; he thinks it is mostly non-residents that use the structure. Schletty said that in the future, the may charge non-residents the daily shelter rate to use the structure, (instead the \$15 rate). Lynch asked if there were any parks programs that promote the horseshoe courts. Schletty said that the City had not done it in the past just because they had their own club. The City used to have a link to their club on the city website but discontinued the link because the Horseshoe Club did not keep up their site.

3. **Other- NA**
4. **Adjourn- The work session adjourned at 6:46pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon G. Hatfield