



CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL

1616 HUMBOLDT AVENUE, WEST ST. PAUL, MN 55118

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2018 AT 5:30PM
HARMON PARK NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

1. Roll Call
2. Adopt Minutes
 - 2.A. Approve September 11, 2018 Minutes
Documents:

[SEP 11.PDF](#)
3. New Business
4. Old Business
 - 4.A. Discussion On Halloween Extravaganza
 - 4.B. Art Park Update
 - 4.C. Mud Lake Update
5. Other
 - 5.A. City Council Updates
 - 5.B. Staff Updates
6. Adjourn

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MINUTES
WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 11, 2018

Park & Rec. Members Present: Brad Erickson, Bob Gausman, 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

Guest: Lindsey Bjerke, Jerry Delgehausen, Ruth Delgehausen, Connie Lacombe

1. **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES**

Chair Petrasek called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

Member McNamara asked for clarification on the minutes. She wanted to know what the, “No Playing,” signage meant in paragraph one on page three. Parks and Recreation Assistant Director clarified that “No Playing after 8 pm.”

NEW BUSINESS

2. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Mud Lake Meeting Recap**

Schletty gave a recap of the August 28 meeting with the residents of Mud Lake, a DNR representative and a Dakota County representative. He said that there were 15-20 residents at the meeting. The DNR has determined that Mud Lake is not a recreational lake, but a wetland. Schletty showed historical [aerial] photos of the lake to committee members and guests at the meeting. The photos ranged from the 1920’s to 2017. The 1920’s photo looks most like the picture taken last year. There is not a lot of open water. There is a distinct change in the lake shape in 1974. The change was probably to accommodate the new construction and road. (The original plat shows how the change was to accommodate the new road.) The work done shrank the lake and “squared” the shape of the lake. The clear water appeared at this time. The shorelines were grassy to the edges. At one time, inlets were added. Schletty said that, looking at the pictures, Mud Lake is now reverting to its original condition and returning to the wetland it was.

Schletty has obtained a permit to treat the lily pads. The city is currently at the maximum treatment level. The city can get a permit later on to remove silt in the lake inlet. The City can install a boat access ramp; this would involve clearing a twelve-inch width. The ramp could be done in-house, inexpensively. Schletty is working on a maintenance plan for the whole park and a long-range plan as well. The maintenance plan involves clearing brush and buckthorn around the lake, adding mulch and wood chips to the trail, and continuing water treatments, which will include treating duck weed and algae. The long-range plan involves a permanent trail around the lake, and observation dock and signage indicating that the lake is a wetland area. The representative from Dakota County said that he/she thought improvements could be made to the lake and Mud Lake may be added to their long-range plan.

Residents from Mud Lake commented. Connie Lacombe said that she knew of one neighbor that used to dump their garbage in the lake. Jerry Delgehausen talked about the cleanup that was done years ago that took away the grove of buckthorn. Schletty said

member Lynch headed the clean-up years ago. Petrasek assured the residents that the committee will work with the DNR and the County and keep residents informed. Member Gausman said that putrefaction is natural in the lake; it is sped up by people living nearby and by fertilizers. It builds up to a lot of peat. Petrasek asked about the difference between a lake and a wetland. A committee member said that a five-acre [water body] area is a lake. A resident commented that it is a gray area. Petrasek urged residents to feel free to come to him or Schletty with any comments. Schletty said that if he organizes a cleanup, he would inform the residents by email. Gausman said Como Lake had been dredged with holes punched at the bottom of the lake. Petrasek said that this was not possible for Mud Lake. The committee talked about the process for getting a permanent path around the lake. First, the idea will be discussed at a staff level. A “feeler” will then be sent to Council regarding the idea. Next, residents will be informed. A neighborhood meeting is set up for residents’ input. Council will finally make a decision with the resident input. The City will assess treatment costs with Mud Lake residents in 2019. It is a cosmetic treatment, under \$100.00 per resident. The City will pay for the 2018 treatments. Schletty did uncover a petition from the 1990’s from residents around the lake; they were mad because the treatments had killed all the vegetation.

b. Discussion on Halloween Extravaganza

Schletty talked about the upcoming Halloween Extravaganza scheduled for October 31, 2018, 6-8 pm at Harmon Park. Schletty gave the committee a list of vendors that Alisha McGraw is contacting to set up stations on the trick-or-treat trail. McGraw is targeting twenty sponsorships. Schletty plans to purchase two hundred more hot dogs this year. Water and another beverage will also be provided. The fire pits will be on the north side of the building. Schletty said that the City will not purchase any more fire pits for the event; they cost about \$250.00 each. Napier said that the City could borrow the fire pit from the Dodge Nature Center. McNamara said that the City could borrow her fire pit as well. Schletty said that he would try to get hay bales for the event. There is a coloring contest; the coloring sheets need to be back at Municipal Center by October 26. Schletty will distribute Halloween flyers at the Touch- a-Truck event. There will be a food donation bin for Neighbors Inc. at the Halloween event. Schletty will solicit funding from the Commercial Club. Schletty needs ten volunteers for the event. Petrasek and Erickson volunteered. Petrasek says that the plans for the event look good.

3. OTHER

a. City Council Update

- i. Pickle ball-** Napier said that there is a lot of interest in pickle ball. Schletty recommends that pickle ball courts be put into the ice rinks. Six pickle ball courts can fit (north-south orientation) into the ice rink in Harmon Park. The rink has the added benefit of being lit at night.

A motion was made to recommend that the Parks and Recreation Department stripe six pickle ball courts in the Harmon Park ice rink for pickle ball in the spring and summer season. The motion was carried. All ayes.

McNamara would like to see the notes that Schletty had regarding the grant for pickleball.

- ii. Budget-** Napier said that council is working on finalizing the budget.
- iii. Marthaler Park Reconstruction-** Staff is working on a possible noise issue with the new parking lot. One resident spoke to Napier regarding the reconfiguring of

the parking lot at Marthaler. Her biggest concern was noise. There may also be an issue with the new lighting in the parking lot. The reconstruction of the north side of Marthaler Park will coincide with the reconstruction of Wentworth Avenue.

b. Staff Update

- i. Warming Houses**- Schletty said the warming houses. Ten warming houses were built in the 1980's. They were concrete blocks that had a small window, door, benches inside and a heater. Three of the warming houses are in use in summer, Harmon, Haskell and Southview warming houses are currently being used for park equipment storage. The City is slowly decreasing the number of warming house staffing. Last year, the City had five houses open with six rinks flooded. The City has received no negative feedback. This year will take away Dodd. (Dodd is close near to Harmon and Orme.) This will save quite a bit of money.

The warming houses at Oakdale and Kennedy will be removed. In the CIP plan, warming houses will be replaced with a permanent structure (storage ones.) The others would be replaced with a shelter like a bus shelter possibly with infrared heat. Lighting can be provided with timers. It will be more functional and cheaper. They would not be staffed. The warming houses with hockey rinks will still be staffed. There is \$340,000.00 in the CIP to replace the structures.

Erickson asked if there were any changes in flooding. Staff has purchased a flooding truck. Staff will be able to go in after the ice is established; one man will be able to put a new coat on the rink in minutes. He/she could do 3-4 coats a day.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The committee members adjourned at 6:34 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield