

**WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**6:00 PM, Tuesday, March 14, 2023**  
**West St. Paul Council Chambers**

**Park & Rec. Members Present:** Chair Dave Lynch, Luke Abrahamson, Bonnie Bellows, Sara Blair, Kelly Hagler, Teresa Smock, Emily Vergin

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Council Liaison Wendy Berry, Parks and Recreation Director Dave Schletty

**1. Roll Call**

**2. Citizen Comments-NA**

**3. New Business**

**a. Adopt Minutes**

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The February 14, 2023, minutes were approved by the Committee.

**b. Egg Hunt Details**

Assistant Parks Director Schletty reviewed the annual Egg Hunt celebration details with the committee. It will be held at Harmon Park on the morning of Saturday, April 8 at 9:30 am; the egg hunt will be at 10 am. It is a free event and no registration needed. A new part of the program event is the Eggcessible Egg Hunt for youth with disabilities. The Eggcessible program is free; however, participants must register for the activity.

**c. Explore the Doors**

Schletty gave some background on the “Explore the Doors” concept. The Art Park committee has been discussing ways in which to get community involved in public art. An artist presented his concept of “Explore the Doors.” It would entail the installation of “fairy doors” in city park trees and encouraging park visitors to find them all. The doors would be accessible to three-year olds and not hidden in a tree grove. Each door will be custom fit to a “tree nook”. The city will have a page dedicated to “Explore the Doors” information.

**The Park and Recreation Committee approved a motion was to move forward on the “Explore the Doors” proposal.**

**d. Park Assignments**

The Committee discussed the list of parks and which parks should have committee member assignments. Schletty mentioned that the city plans to conduct random pop-up community events; they will be good opportunities for members to meet with residents. The city plans for members to be trained for these events by an outside consultant.

**e. Disc Golf Course Discussion**

Lynch reported that a lot of buckthorn has been removed from Garlough and Marthaler Parks. The clearing has made it possible potentially to expand the disc golf course in Garlough Park.

**4. Old Business**

**a. Naming of Unnamed West St. Paul Parks**

Schletty said that the city would not be naming the trail at Thompson Oaks at this time. It will be done at the future. The city is looking at multiple options.

**b. Core Values Discussion**

Schletty said the Committee has identified its five core values and their definitions. Once the values have been finalized, the document will be added to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee web page.

**5. Other**

**a. Council Updates**

- i. Strategy Meeting-Clpn.** Berry reported that Council had their meeting last Saturday. The city has set tangible goals for engagement and inclusion; these goals may be applied to park programming.
- ii. Trash Cleanup Day-** The day is set for the same day as Earth Day. -

**b. Staff Updates**

- i. Marthaler Park Project**—Schletty related that the city is in the final stages of the plans. Tomorrow the plans will go out for bid.
  - ii. New Commissioners-** The new members for the committee are Nadine Wenzel from Ward I and John Cronin from Ward III.
  - iii. Butler Avenue Trail Open House-Lower Mississippi Water Management-Clpn.** Julie Eastman of the Lower Mississippi Organization said there is going to be an open house at Thompson County Park on April 25 regarding the trail along Butler Avenue.
  - iv. Disc Golf Course-** The City will be working with Tree Trust. Tree Trust is a company that takes at-risk youth and provides them on-the-job training. Tree Trust will rebuild the bridge and trail area in disrepair at the disc golf course.
  - v. Summer Programming-** Program Registration opened up about a month ago, Registration numbers are very high and many programs are already full.
- c. Environmental Committee Liaison-**Member Vergin reported that the committee convened and met the new Recycling Coordinator, Courtney. There will be an environmental fair event at Garlough School on May 5. Some of committee members will participate in order to do outreach. There are efforts for a community garden at Heritage School as well. They are also progressing with the GreenSteps program with the Recycling Coordinator. The committee is working with the Planning Commission regarding zoning code updates.

**6. Adjournment-**The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sharon G. Hatfield**  
Administrative Specialist