

TO: Park & Recreation Advisory Committee
FROM: Parks & Rec Director
DATE: April 11, 2023
SUBJECT: Core Values Discussion



City of West St. Paul

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the August 2022 work session, the Committee developed a list of priorities for the next couple years. One of those priorities was to create a list of Core Values. These Core Values will be used when discussing and developing all parks and recreation items moving forward. At the work session members began to discuss some options for the core values including:

- Accessibility
- Community
- Equity
- Safety
- Environmental Aspects
- Fiscal Responsibility

At the September 2022 meeting, members continued the discussion and decided to remove fiscal responsibility, since it is a given already. Member Bellows provided some initial thoughts (below) on defining each core value:

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee CORE VALUES

Once the values are defined, our committee can decide how to make sure we use them as we make decisions and provide recommendations to City Council.

ACCESSIBILITY:

- The quality of being able to be reached or entered, of being easy to obtain or use
 - Easier to get there
 - Programs for everyone
 - Age and ability appropriate

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

- Pertains to the process by which a third sector organization and individuals work to build permanent, continual relationships to create an overarching vision for the benefit of the community as a whole.
 - Knowing the demographics of area
 - Maintaining Communication with residents
 - Regular gatherings
 - Direct interaction

EQUITY:

- Refers to fairness and justice; it means recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and must make adjustments to imbalances.
 - We must really know the community and where the barriers are
 - Everyone has the same access to opportunities

SAFETY:

- Is a state in which hazards and conditions leading to physical, psychological or material harm are controlled in order to preserve the health and well-being of individuals and the community
 - Regular maintenance of trails, equipment
 - Rules for conduct in parks and for celebrations

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:

- Is the community's duty to protect and improve their environment; a environmentally responsible community assesses their environmental sustainability and applies this knowledge to its decision-making.
 - preservation of green space
 - Pollinator plantings
 - Decisions should be made with environmental considerations

Members have been working through each definition and have been stuck on defining Equity. Member Blair has volunteered to take all the ideas and try to come up with a solid definition. Here is what she has come up with:

EQUITY

Refers to providing what is necessary (funding, development, or special programs) to create the same access to city parks, recreational programming, and community offerings regardless of geographical location, income level, race, language, ethnicity, gender identity, ability, or age.

- Equitable annual facility and park investments, including park operations and maintenance.
- Inclusive park and recreation programming.
- Diverse Park & Rec workforce that reflects the diversity of the community
- Intentional effort to elevate the voices of those most impacted by health disparities and environmental injustice to inform parks' policies, programming, activities, and services.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Continue the discussion of Core Values for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to use for all future discussions.