

WEST ST. PAUL PARK S& RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
6:00 PM, Tuesday, February 10, 2026
West St. Paul Council Chambers

Members Present: Chair David Lynch, Luke Abrahamson, Bonnie Bellows, Nolan Cornell, Leah Foxhill, Bryant McClelland, Bob Payton, Angela Rizo Rosales

Non-Voting Members Present: Councilmember Wendy Berry; Recreation Supervisor Sam Gray; Recreation and Engagement Manager Sam Murphy, Parks, Recreation & Environment Director Eric Weiss

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

- 1. Park and Rec Roll Call**
- 2. Citizen's Comments- NA**
- 3. Adopt Minutes**

- a. The October 7, 2025, minutes were approved by the committee.

- 4. New Business**

- a. 2025-26 Recreation Programming and Events Update**

Recreation and Engagement Manager Murphy and Recreation Supervisor Gray presented reports on 2025-2026 recreation programming. Recreational Manager Murphy reviewed the strategic goals behind the planning and programming activities. Highlights included the new West St. Paul Days website, the Marthaler and Kennedy Parks reopenings and the 100th year birthday celebration at Harmon Park. She is working with Jess Hall on a new spring event that will transition community egg hunt into a sustainability "Spring Fling" event scheduled for April 25, 9 am-12 noon.

Recreation Supervisor Gray gave a breakdown of program types, youth athletics, adult athletics, camps, arts and adaptive classes. Activities included the spring break day camp, ice rink season. Attendance increased overall in 2025. A new activity to be featured this season is the Dungeons and Dragons program.

- b. Early Pool Concepts Review**

Parks Director Weiss reported that Burbach Aquatics had been hired to give high level assessment of the pool facility condition. Community engagement has revealed that residents want to save pool. The city has also hired Damon Farber as the team leading the design of the pool renovation. The project will be split into two parts. A small construction project will happen this spring; the existing slide will be rehabbed. Designs will be presented to the state, and bidding will take place this summer. Construction will begin this fall. Parks Committee members provided feedback on several design features for the future improvement project, including deck layout, pool ramp, and play features.

- c. Park Ordinance Review**

The Parks Committee decided to table the discussion on park ordinance review until March and/or April.

- 5. Old Business- NA**

- 6. Other**

- a. Last Committee Meeting/Luke Abrahamson-** Chair Lynch thanked Member Abrahamson for his service to the committee.

- b. Staff Updates**

- 1. Park System Plan-** The plan was adopted by Council in January.

- 2. 150 Thompson Avenue-** The city is moving forward with the next phase of design, (schematic design/more detailed planning).

3. **Albert Park/Scott Memorial-** The city is moving into the construction plan phase. The plans must be evaluated by MnDOT.
 4. **Park Signs-** Parks Director Weiss will send out the RFP tomorrow for design of park signs and implementation of Phase I.
 5. **Ice Arena-** The city is doing several improvement projects in the arena including a sustainability audit headed by Jess Hall, the building official and Xcel Energy to decrease energy costs.
 6. **Sports Complex Pavillion Renovation--** The renovation will open the pavilion up for different events.
 7. **Parks Department Hirings-** There are a lot of different employment openings including Communications and Engagement Coordinator (Administration) and Recreation Facilities Manager, a Park Intern position and a lot of other summer employment positions.
 8. **Strategic Plan Arts Directive**
 - i. **Parks Committee-** It was decided by Council that the Parks Committee will handle the arts directive.
 - c. **Commissioner's Park Updates** –Chair Lynch said there will be a meeting at end of February regarding the woods at Garlough Park.
 - d. **Environmental Committee Liaison-**Member Vergin reported the Environmental Committee met last month (January). There was a recap of the recycling efforts for 2025. Mendota City Hall hosted the craft swap meet last week. There was also an update regarding landscape zoning code changes. There was also an update regarding the 424 Butler Avenue project.
 - e. **Council Updates- No new updates from Councilmember Berry.**
7. **Adjourn**
- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon G. Hatfield
Administrative Specialist