

**WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**6:00 PM, Tuesday, May 9, 2023**  
**West St. Paul Council Chambers**

**Park & Rec. Members Present:** Chair Dave Lynch, Luke Abrahamson, Bonnie Bellows, Sara Blair, John Cronin, Emily Vergin, Nadine Wenzel

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

- 1. Roll Call**
- 2. Citizen Comments-NA**
- 3. New Business**
  - a. Adopt April 11, 2023 Minutes**

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The April 11, 2023 minutes were approved by the committee.
  - b. Introduce New Member- John Cronin**
  - c. Presentation/Update on Park System Plan- Mend Collaborative**

Recreation Supervisor Murphy reminded the committee about the park system plan update being performed by the city. Mend Collaborative made a presentation on the project.
- 4. Old Business**
  - a. Park Naming Update**

Clpn. Berry related that Council reviewed the names. They would like to receive community feedback on the names. It would provide more confidence in the decision-making process. Lynch said that the city will receive more input from the West St. Paul Days event. Schletty added that Council would like to stay away from naming a park after a specific person. If the list of park names becomes larger from the West St. Paul Days' event, Schletty suggested reaching out to the community via social media for more responses.
  - b. Explore West St. Paul Days- Update**

Murphy talked about the upcoming event, June 8-10. There is an additional event sponsored by Residents of Color Collective (ROCC?), Saturday, June 10, 2-6pm in the Wentworth parking lot of the Sports Complex. It will feature art, poetry, dancing, and a food giveaway and is free to attend.

The committee discussed participation in the city open house and the parade.
- 5. Other**
  - a. Council Updates**
    - i.** Clpn. Berry reiterated the Council discussion regarding naming of the parks.
  - b. Staff Updates**
    - i. Programming Update**—Murphy said summer programming starts on June 12. Programs are full mostly and there are waitlists. There are still sports available for adult sports recreation. The Bike Rodeo will be held on Sunday, May 21, 1:00- 3pm, at Garlough Park.
    - ii. Explore the Doors/Travis Olson**—Murphy reported that Olson has found places for the doors in all the parks except for Albert Park, the Art Park and Oakdale Park. He will construct a PVC structure that will be installed underground for the doors at the forementioned parks.

- iii. **Marthaler Park Project**- Schletty said the contractor will break ground in late May. The old parking lot will be removed. Dead trees will be cut down and grading will be done. In early June, the new parking lot/driveway will be set up. The new underground utilities (piping) will be installed. New trails will be laid out. At the end of July and August, the new bathrooms and potentially the new dock will be built. The new shelter and the playground set will be built in September- October.
- iv. **River to River Trail**- Schletty reported that buckthorn has been removed from the trail. Herbicide will be applied this fall. The city will work with the county for maintenance of the trail. Pollinator-friendly planting and prairie restoration has been on-going.
- v. **National Fitness Campaign** -Schletty talked about the city's success in a grant application for a fitness court to be built in West St. Paul through the National Fitness Campaign. The next step is for the city to raise more money for the court. The city will budget a portion of the funding; 2024 is the project year. The city is asking for funding locally and from bigger businesses outside of West St. Paul. The city would like to install the court at the Sports Complex.

c. **Environmental Committee Liaison**

Vergin reported that the Garlough World Fair and Dance was held last Friday; the Environmental Committee did outreach at the fair. At the last meeting, the committee planned for the Explore West St. Paul Days event. The Arbor Day event will be part of the Explore West St. Paul Days' event. The committee has updated their content on the city website. The city is also moving forward on the GreenSteps program with the city [energy] audit.

- d. **West St. Paul Pride Festival**-Lynch said the festival is on July 8 at the Sports Complex.

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Sharon G. Hatfield**  
**Administrative Specialist**