

MINUTES
WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
June 11, 2019

Park & Rec. Members Present: Bonnie Bellows, Jay DeLaRosby, Brad Erickson, Bob Gausman, Dave Lynch, Rachel McNamara

Non-voting Members Present: Wendy Berry, Councilperson, Sharon Hatfield, Administrative Specialist, Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Presenter: Kevin Hendricks

1. ROLL CALL

2. ADOPT MINUTES

Co-chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

The committee approved the minutes from the May 14, 2019 meeting with the correction of the guest's name to **Kuiper** McNamara.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Art Park Discussion

Assistant Parks Director Schletty updated the committee on the Boy Scout Eagle Project in the Art Park. The Boy Scout completed the pollinator garden. Schletty said that he did, "a really nice job." The parks maintenance staff will keep an eye on it and either city staff or the Green Thumb Club will water the garden for two weeks.

Kevin Hendricks came before the committee to talk about a possible grant from the Metro Regional Arts Council to obtain art for the Art Park. Hendricks related how he used to maintain a public arts website that cataloged outdoor art in the Twin Cities. He noted that West St. Paul did not have a lot of outdoor art. The only example was the outdoor mural at McDonalds. Hendricks first heard of the Art Park a few years ago. The City has not had the budget to put art in the park. The MN Regional Arts Council has grants of \$10,000 to be used for arts projects. The grant could be used to obtain 3-D art for the park or a sculpture. The grant could be used to rent sculpture as well.

Hendricks shared a few ideas for interactive art/community engagement pieces:

Candy Chang's "Before I Die"
A "build" on the pollinator garden
An edible garden exhibit

Another idea would be a showcase sculpture; the City could relocate the sculpture to a permanent location. Hendricks said the City needed to develop an art plan and establish a broad vision for the grant funding. The grant would require the city to finalize an idea that is sustainable.

Hendricks said there would be an informal first meeting to on July 10, [6:30-8:00 pm] at the park. Joan Patten from Ward I will join the group. Hendricks suggested forming a subcommittee for the grant. The subcommittee would look at grant requirements, put together feedback, and write the grant.

Hendricks proposed the following timeline:

Jul 10 –Informal meeting event
Aug- Present the short list of ideas
Oct- Public event
Dec 16- Grant Deadline

The committee talked about Hendricks’s proposal. Member Gausman said there is a visible shortage of art in the city. He has a lot of support for Hendricks’s efforts. It is hard to know what [type of art would fit;] it is an unwieldy hill. Member Erickson said the proposal is exciting and he is glad to see someone step up to the task. Lynch would like the subcommittee to work on a name for the park. Clpn Berry asked about the parking. Parking for the lot is only available on Butler. Hendricks said the lot is a challenge; he would like cars to see art when they pass by and for residents to walk to the park as well. Member McNamara thanked Hendricks for his enthusiasm. Members Gausman, DeLaRosby and Erickson volunteered for the subcommittee. It was clarified that there is no minimum number of parking spots needed for the park. Schletty said that Oakdale Park is nearby. It have many more amenities and not much parking. Hendricks said that the [art park] is a “bit of an experiment.” Gausman said that the bottom of the park is ADA compliant. Lynch thanked the park maintenance staff for the work they did on the park. Schletty said he would coordinate the first meeting of the subcommittee. He reminded the committee that, because of Robert’s Rules and legality issues, only three committee people could meet outside of regular committee meetings.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Basketball Hoop Update**

Schletty reported that council heard testimony from the public 2-3 weeks ago and voted in favor of putting up the hoops back in the [Oakdale and Haskell] parks. Staff is taking care of getting the equipment and putting up the hoops. Schletty has spoken with Lieutenant Sturgeon and the police will monitor calls they receive about the hoops. Park maintenance staff will try to get the hoops installed by the end of the month, (in time for the start of park youth summer programming.)

5. **OTHER**

a. **Garlough Park-** Lynch has been working with a Boy Scout who would like to build a bridge over the creek in Garlough Park for his Eagle Scout project. He will present his project to the committee.

b. **Camping in West St. Paul Parks**

DeLaRosby asked Schletty about two upcoming Boy Scout events. Schletty said there would be a campfire nighttime event in Weschcke Park in August hosted by St. Stephens. Another group has proposed an overnight event. They have not finalized details with Schletty yet.

c. **Annual West St. Paul Bike Rodeo**

DeLaRosby said that the West St. Paul Bike Rodeo would be held at the Wentworth Library this Saturday, 10 am – Noon. It is a free event for kids in kindergarten through sixth grade. Food will be served which is also free. Preregistration is required for the free helmet giveaway. The event, however, will accept walk-ins.

d. **Council Updates-**Berry said that she is confident Council had the [necessary] information regarding the basketball hoops. She thanked the advisory committee for their work.

- e. **Staff Updates-**
 - i. **Mud Lake Cleanup-** Schletty said he would send out an invitation to the cleanup later this month. He would like to schedule the event for mid-July.
 - ii. **Vandalism of Harmon Park-** Schletty spoke briefly about the vandalism of the park, (graffiti, damage to the splash pad equipment and keypads, litter and aggressive use of the bathrooms.) He welcomed ideas from the committee for prevention.
6. **ADJOURNMENT**
The committee members adjourned at 6:10 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield