1. Roll Call

2. Adopt Minutes

   2.A. Approve September 14, 2021 Minutes
       Documents:
       091421.PDF

3. New Business

   3.A. Marthaler Park Draft Master Plan Recommendations
       Documents:
       018648-000-MARTHALER PARK MASTERPLAN - UPDATED 2021-09-13.PDF

   3.B. Halloween Event & Recreation Updates
       Documents:
       10-5-21 COLOR CONTEST.PDF
       RECREATION UPDATE 10.5.2021.PDF

4. Old Business

   4.A. 2022 Playground Replacement Discussion

   4.B. Skate Park Update

5. Other

   5.A. Council Updates

   5.B. Staff Updates
6. Adjourn
WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Parks & Rec. Members Present: Kirsten Mulraney, Sara Blair, Kelly Gibbons, Kelly Hagler, Dave Lynch
Non-voting Members Present: Sharon G. Hatfield, Parks and Public Works Administrative Specialist; Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

1. ROLL CALL
2. REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES
   Chair pro tem Lynch called the meeting to order at 5:29 pm. The Committee approved the minutes from the July 13, 2021 meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS-NA
4. OLD BUSINESS
   a. Marthaler Redevelopment Update
      Assistant Park and Recreation Director Schletty reviewed the Master Plan for improvements to Marthaler Park scheduled for 2022, 2023 and 2024. The plan has been updated. The plan must be completed and approved. The City will take public input at the September 20 Project Open House in Council Chambers. The public will also give input at the City Open House on September 23. With this information, the City will bring the plan to Council in October to adopt. After the plan is adopted, Phase I, (parking lot improvements and clearing of the site) will begin.

   Schletty “walked through” the refined plan with Committee Members. During Phase I, the driveway entrance will be moved to the south about 20 feet. There will be 20 feet of buffer between the park and the private properties to the south. The City plans to meet with the property owners to discuss possible buffers (vegetation, trees, shrubs or even private fencing). All parking will be angled in the new parking lot. The lot will house 60 stalls. The angled parking will stop headlights from shining into the neighboring residents’ yards. Parking lot lighting will also be angled away from resident homes. Trail will be added coming from the Humboldt Avenue sidewalk and around the tennis court. A pier will be built on the pond near the parking lot. Shoreline restoration is planned around the pond to get rid of the buckthorn and to create a nice view around the pond from all angles. Lynch asked if the pond restoration was part of the budget. Schletty answered that the restoration is part of the budget. Additionally, there is grant money allotted to the City for the shoreline and prairie restoration along the trail.

   Schletty continued to say that the new trail would lead the park goer into the middle of the park and the new focal point: the centralized playground. The design will be discussed in 2023. There will be picnic areas and benches around the new playground area. The new shelter area will be near (but separated from) the playground. There are many possibilities for the shelter: an open sided shelter or a partially enclosed one. It could feature a giant fire pit. It is a 2023 project. The new trailhead (info kiosk and restroom) will be located north of the playground. The current picnic shelter area may be repurposed into a performance space or alternative use. To the west on the sledding hill, some prairie restoration will be done. Some undergrowth and the overgrowth aspen trees will be cleared out for the sledding hill. On the top of the hill, the City has discussed having a small picnic shelter, observation deck or lookout tower. This will be part of the last phase in 2024. Lynch asked about the three-year plan. Schletty said each year has been budgeted to each phase directive: Phase I (2022) the parking area, Phase II (2023) the playground, picnic shelter, restroom, pond restoration, and Phase III (2024) the sledding hill. Lynch asked if it were possible to have the parking lot gated after park hours like Kaposia Park. He would have to check out this option with the Police Department. Schletty asked Committee Members to help support the process on September 20 at the Marthaler Project Open House with questions regarding the reconstruction. He also asked Members to attend the September 23 West St. Paul Open house as well.

   b. 2022 Playground Replacement Discussion
      Schletty said that $110K has been budgeted next year for playground replacement. The Parks Maintenance staff said Kennedy Park, the Pool Park and Weschcke Park are in most need of replacement. The Committee needs to decide what parks should have new playground equipment and then have Open Houses to get nearby resident feedback. Schletty showed a video of a net climber playground that was inclusive to all abilities. Schletty explained that this type of playground has a transfer platform. It is out
of the price range at $60K for the equipment alone and $20-25K for installation. Member Mulraney remarked that City should have more options for different abilities. Schletty said that Thompson County Park has this kind of park. Mulraney said that Kennedy Park and the Pool Park were the priorities for the Committee. Member Hagler asked about natural playground options that the Committee could investigate. Mulraney mentioned different sized boulders for children to climb or sensory gardens as examples of natural playgrounds. She would like to see a natural playground in Kennedy Park. The residents near Kennedy Park are interested in this type of park. Member Blair said a natural playground would make the park a destination park. Lynch said that a destination park would be ideal at the Pool Park. Kennedy Park is hard to reach and surrounded only by houses. If the destination playground were built at the pool, the City may increase pool usage. The pool also has a big green area leading up to Moreland. The space could be used as well.

C.  **Art Park Update**- Lynch said he attended the free donut event last Saturday. It was a great event. They did quite well for Neighbors Inc. Schletty added that Kevin Hendricks sent him a summary report about events. About 22 people attended the Friday mini concert program; over 100 people attended the Saturday donut event. Twenty-five bags of groceries and $371 were collected for Neighbor’s Inc. Carolyn Swizz appeared on Fox 9 with a story for the Art Park. The free Little Library project is still on track. The library will be installed by October.

d.  **Skate Park Update**- Mulraney asked Schletty for an update from the City. Schletty said that with re prioritizing, the City now has funding ($250K) slated for 2025 for the skate park. Depending on what the City wants to do, the funding may not be enough. The City could look at outside sources, grants etc. It is too early to get down to “nitty gritty” plans.

5.  **OTHER**

a.  **Council Updates**- NA

i.  **Staff Updates**- Naming of Parks

Clpn. Berry spoke with Schletty about the Art Park and the Pool Park and the naming of unnamed park spaces. Currently there is no formal procedure for the naming of parks and facilities. Schletty will be working on this policy. It will be reviewed heavily by the Parks Committee before going on to Council.

ii.  **Fall programs**

Programs (PeeWee Sports, Gymnastics) started tonight. A good number of children are registered for programs. It is the first time in a while that the City has been able to offer these types of programs in the fall.

iii.  **Halloween**

The Halloween Extravaganza is planned again for October 31. It will be similar to the program from 2 years ago.

iv.  **Glow Dash**

The Glow Dash program will be this Saturday.

v.  **Garlough Disc Golf Course**

Lynch announced that the first sanctioned PDGA sanctioned tournament last Saturday. It was the largest junior tournament ever in Minnesota. Lynch asked if it were possible to have more benches placed in Garlough for the disc golf course.

6.  **ADJOURN**

The committee members adjourned at 6:21 pm. The next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon G. Hatfield
Marthaler Park Masterplan Update

PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN

City of West St. Paul
09/20/2021 | 018648-000

WENTWORTH AVE

SCALE IN FEET

WENTWORTH AVE

NORTH PARK IMPROVEMENTS:
- RECONSTRUCT PAVED VOLLEYBALL COURT
- RECONSTRUCT FULL SIZE BASKETBALL COURT
- ADD SHEDS WITH TABLES AND GRILL
- PARKING LOT (30 SPACES)

OPEN SPACE:
- FLEXIBLE SPACE FOR EVENTS AND GATHERING
- NATIVE PLANTINGS AND TURF AREAS
- IMPROVED LIGHTING

POND IMPROVEMENTS:
- FISHING PIER AND IMPROVED FISH HABITAT
- OUTCROP FEATURES FOR SHORE-FISHING
- SHORELINE RESTORATION
- ACCESS FOR ICE SKATING

REGIONAL TRAIL:
- RIVER TO RIVER CONNECTION
- TRAILHEADS WITH RESTROOMS
- WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
- BIKE REPAIR STATION

CENTRALIZED PLAYGROUND AREA:
- NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- AGE SEPARATED PLAY CONTAINERS
- Adjacent Tables and Benches
- Possible Nature Play Area / Wetland Overlook

MULTI-PURPOSE PARK BUILDING:
- Large, Reservable Shelter with Restrooms to 100 People
- Potential Enclosed Area for Kitchen / Restrooms / Storage
- Stone and Wood Material for Rustic Park Aesthetic

SLEDDING HILL IMPROVEMENTS:
- CLEAR OVERGROWN VEGETATION
- REMOVE EXISTING PARKING AND DRIVE
- NEW OVERLOOK / OBSERVATION DECK AT TOP OF HILL
- PICNIC SHELTER AT BOTTOM OF HILL COULD DOUBLE AS WARMING HOUSE FOR SLEDDING AND SKATING

OPEN PARK IMPROVEMENTS:
- ACCESS TO TRAILS, PICNIC AREA, PLAY AREA, AND POND
- PARKING LOT (+/- 60 STALLS)

CENTRALIZED PLAYGROUND AREA:
- NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
- AGE SEPARATED PLAY CONTAINERS
- Adjacent Tables and Benches
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Open Park Improvements:
- Access to trails, picnic area, play area, and pond
- Parking Lot (+/- 60 Stalls)
Recreation Updates

**Light Up the Night Glow Dash** 09/18/2021 - Garlough Park. Nearly 75 attendees routed through Garlough and Marthaler trails on a guided 1.50 mile loop. The evening was filled with neon colors, glow bracelets, yard games, and dancing to tunes played by DJ Kidsdance. This event is in partnership with Mendota Heights Parks and Recreation.

**Dodge Nature Center - Fire Building Basics** 9/30/2021 - Dodge Nature Center, West St. Paul Property. This family-friendly program teaches fire-building techniques – bow drill, flint and steel, and modern ferrous starters to build a fire. Participants will enjoy a snack cooked over their very own fires. Staff hopes to continue this partnership with quarterly program offerings. This program is in partnership with Dodge Nature Center, Inver Grove Heights, and Mendota Heights Parks and Recreation.

**School Year Tour de Rec** Remaining schedule: 10/7 - Dome, 11/4 - Thompson Park Activity Center, 12/9 - Harmon Park Neighborhood Center, 1/6 - Southview Park, 2/3 - Marie Park, 3/3 - Garlough Gymnasium, 4/7 - Mendakota Park, and 5/5 - Mendota Elementary Gymnasium. After a successful summer of Tour de Rec, the program has expanded the school year. Staff set up activities and provide equipment for youth and families to enjoy. This is a free-play environment with opportunities to participate in games, sports, crafts, and more. This program is in partnership with TriDistrict Community Education, District 197, and Mendota Heights Parks and Recreation.

**Fall Sports - Gymnastics and Peewee Sports (T-Ball and Soccer)** Varying schedules. Registration full/closed. One session of Peewee Sports is running Tuesdays and Thursdays. Two sessions of gymnastics are running on Saturday afternoons at Harmon Park. This fall was a trial for what Staff hopes is a start of more fall youth sports programming in the future.

**Halloween Extravaganza** 10/31/2021 - Harmon Park - 6:00-8:00pm. Halloween festivities are kicking off shortly with a coloring contest. Last year over 50 pages were submitted! The coloring page will be available on the City website and at City Hall in the coming weeks. Prizes will be awarded to winners of four age groups.

The community is invited to join in the fun on Halloween evening – free hot dogs, costume contest, games, photo booth, bonfires, and a Trick-or-Treat Trail. Over 50 letters were mailed to local businesses inviting them to partake in the Trick-or-Treat Trail. New this year, businesses and organizations that are interested can register their table on the City website.

Staff is seeking volunteers to help cook and serve hot dogs, run games, monitor bonfires, and more. If anyone on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee is interested, please connect with Sam Murphy at smurphy@wspmn.gov.