

MINUTES
WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 8, 2019

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

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

1. **REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES**

Chair Petrasek called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The meeting minutes from October 9, 2018 were approved.

2. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Bylaws and Committee Elections

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Schletty talked about the new bylaws and the committee member expectation documents. The city attorney composed the documents last spring in order to consolidate committee [paperwork.] Previously, city committees had different commission timelines and different sets of rules. Schletty said that there is no need to approve the by-laws. They do not change unless Council changes them. Member Bellows asked how the by-laws would be changed; Schletty said that it would be done through the Council liaison. Schletty added, "There is no longer a need for secret elections."

Schletty asked the committee if there were any questions. Member DeLaRosby talked about the committee discussion last summer regarding concern over the wording of the committee expectations. DeLaRosby wanted to know if there was any Council feedback regarding the committee's concerns. Schletty said, (as far as he knows,) no changes were made. Bellows said that section four, number six has been changed to be more general. DeLaRosby said he would like to address the code of conduct signature and the need for a volunteer to sign. The legal document is problematic to DeLaRosby. Schletty said that he does not think that any committee member has signed the document. He said that Council did adopt a similar code of conduct. (Clpn. Berry said that she did not sign the document.) Schletty said that the document was only an informational piece. Petrasek said, "It's out there, loosey goosey." DeLaRosby said that [perhaps] it is a guide. Bellows said the Parks and Recreation Committee has been able to work together well; the document is mostly for other committees. Schletty said the document is[really] meant for new committee members. He will get an answer from council [regarding feedback.]

Schletty said there are four committee members whose commissions end in March: Bellows, Gausman, Lynch and McNamara. He asked if they would like to continue on the committee. Everyone replied yes. Lynch said that they still had valuable work to be done. Schletty said that he would inform members renewing their commission if they need to reapply to the committee.

Petrasek asked if anyone would like to take his place as chair of the committee. He mentioned, "a lot of pressure."

A motion was made to have Petrasek and Lynch continue as Chair and Co-chair respectively of the Parks and Recreation Committee. The motion carried. All Ayes.

b. Introduction of New Council Liaison, Wendy Berry

Wendy Berry introduced herself to committee members. She lives near Harmon Park and said that the park was a big selling point for her and her children. Committee members introduced themselves to Berry.

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Discussion of Halloween Extravaganza**

Schletty said it was a cold night but it had a decent [turnout.] The hotdogs lasted about an hour. DeLaRosby said there were some repeat [hot dog] offenders and hot dog fights. DeLaRosby said they could have started cooking a little bit earlier. The trail with the businesses set up in the field worked out well. “They were easier to control,” and “have room to grow.” There was no negative feedback from the business owners. Lynch related that a preacher joined the event; he was “anti-Halloween.” He had a bullhorn; the police moved him.

Gausman suggested having more hotdogs at the event. Erickson said that the right amount was ordered. Schletty said that if the event falls on a another night (i.e. the weekend,) he will order more. Lynch said it was nice to have an [extra] fire ring. Schletty said that the ring came from the Dodge Nature Center. Dodge Nature did not have a Halloween event and the West St. Paul event may have gotten more people because of this. Bellows asked if Alisha [Blaydes, Recreation Coordinator] had any comments. Schletty said she did not have any expect that she was spread a “little thin.” The costume and photo program went well. Blaydes may need a few more volunteers next year. Lynch commented that there a couple volunteers that needed more direction

b. **Mud Lake Update**

Schletty said some deep cleaning (buckthorn removal) was completed in the southwest corner and western side of the lake. Cleanup was also done in Marthaler and Garlough Parks. The bobcat equipment had some problems with the ground conditions in Mud Lake. It could not work in the wet snow and incline around the lake. It worked in flatter areas. . The maintenance staff planned to clear a wooded area on the southeast side at a later date. Schletty planned to also contact residents for a spring cleanup. Treatments are planned to curtail lily pads and cattails. A separate company does the treatments for the City; the company applies for the permits to perform the treatments each year.

4. **OTHER**

a. **Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and Capital Equipment Plan (CEP)**- At next month’s meeting, Schletty will review the 2019 CIP/ CEP in depth with committee members. Lynch asked about how the funds work; Schletty said equipment deals with items like trucks and other vehicles and improvements could cover something like an overhaul to a park trail. Petrasek asked how much money was in the fund. Schletty said that there was a few hundred thousand dollars; it was used in the Sports Complex renovation.

b. **Mud Lake Question**- Bellows asked if the silt had been removed from Mud Lake. Schletty said no; that part of the park is over grown and in a sloped area. The city has a “watershed” volunteer through Dakota County that will be testing the lake. Bellows mentioned building a pier for canoes in Mud Lake. Schletty said that the city will have to “think about it.” The pier would give geese a landing pad.

c. **Foot Golf**- Petrasek mentioned that the local papers said that the YMCA will be running through summer; he wanted to know if the foot golf would still be open. Schletty said that the city is very close to having a deal with a new developer. It could easily come

together and work could start in early summer. He did say that the foot golf course “struck even” last year.

d. Basketball in West St. Paul Parks

DeLaRosby talked about reestablishing basketball courts in Oakdale and Haskell Parks, (northern part of the city.) He would like to add the discussion to next month’s agenda. The money for the equipment could be raised privately. Bellows mentioned contacting the police for their input.

e. River to River Trail- Schletty said that the proposed alignment trail [plan] is in place for Garlough and Marthaler Parks. The city needs to obtain funding for the trail. Dakota County has committed five hundred thousand dollars for the project. The tunnel by the YMCA is the “first big piece.”

f. Playground Equipment- Gausman suggested adding swings for people in wheel chairs. Schletty said the city planned to do improvements in the playgrounds this summer.

g. Parks Brochure- Bellows asked about updating the parks brochure pamphlet. DeLaRosby said that the city website has been revamped. Schletty showed the updated parks location page. A committee member suggested adding the playground age ranges to the pages.

h. Council Update-Berry will begin the updates at the next committee meeting.

i. Staff Update- Schletty said most funding would be put into the tunnel. A couple of playgrounds will be updated this year and the Ice Arena will have some work done. The Marthaler Park reconstruction may happen over ten years.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The committee members adjourned at 6:18 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 12, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon G. Hatfield