

APPROVE REPLACEMENT OF POLICE VEHICLES

Deputy Police Chief Shaver reviewed his memo dated April 7, 2005 regarding the replacement of two marked squads and the purchase of an administrative vehicle. He noted the purchase of these three vehicles amounts to \$17,250 less than the 2005 budgeted amount.

ON MOTION of Clpn. Tessmer, seconded by Clpn. Wright, resolved to authorize the purchase of two marked patrol vehicles and one administrative vehicle plus the cost for installation of the necessary communication and emergency equipment at the estimated total cost of \$80,850.00. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

HASKELL PARK MATTER – Clpn. Englin

Clpn. Englin related an incident he observed that occurred at Haskell Park where a group of individuals were causing a problem on the basketball court. He noted that the park is being used more and more by people outside the city limits. He read a letter from Coleman and Josie Kelly who live near Haskell Park regarding the use of the park by young criminals using bad language, littering, and staying in the park late at night with the noise preventing them from using their deck and leaving their windows open. They also observed the gangs taking over the basketball court so that local youngsters cannot use it. They also stated in their letter they and their neighbors were afraid to frequent the park for fear of the gang activity going on. The police had been called from time to time, but that has had little effect on the frequency of the park's use by these gangs. Clpn. Englin suggested that this is a growing problem and he would like the basketball hoops removed to see if the gangs will move on. He would be willing to monitor the situation to see if that has any effect.

Mayor Zanmiller suggested that the gang may just move to the next park that has a basketball court and we would just be shifting the problem.

Clpn. Englin agreed that may happen and if it does, that would answer our question, but stated something needs to be done immediately to alleviate the problems at this particular park while we research a permanent solution to the problem.

Clpns. Wright, Lewis and Tessmer supported removing the basketball hoop and monitoring its effect on not only Haskell Park, but the neighboring parks.

Clpn. Juarez related an incident where the basketball hoop was taken down as a result of a drive-by shooting in another city and it made a difference in the clientele at that park.

ON MOTION of Clpn. Englin, seconded by Clpn. VanMoorlehem, resolved to direct the Parks Department to remove the basketball netting, hoops and backboards at Haskell Park for a period of time not to exceed 180 days; to evaluate this effect on the activity in the parks; and monitor this action during the 180 days. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

FIRST READING/ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 600.03

REGARDING THE USE OF OUTDOOR STORAGE CONTAINERS – Clpn. Wright

Asst. Community Director Strauss indicated that Council had directed staff to research restricting the parking of temporary storage containers and reviewed the ordinance prepared by staff and the City Attorney.

Clpn. Lewis asked what the cost of the permit fee would be and Asst. Director Strauss replied that staff was looking at a fee of probably \$40.00, similar to a temporary sign permit.

ON MOTION of Clpn. Wright, seconded by Clpn. VanMoorlehem, resolved to pass First Reading of An Ordinance Amending the City Code Section 600.03 Regarding the Use of Outdoor Storage Containers. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

FIRST READING/ORDINANCE AMENDING CITY CODE SECTION 2005.21

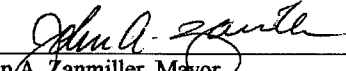
REGARDING PARKED OR STORED MOTOR VEHICLES – Clpn. Englin

Clpn. Englin indicated that this Ordinance Amendment removes the word "motor" to improve both clarity and efficiency of implementation of this section of the Ordinance. This would alleviate any questions as to the types of vehicles affected by this section.

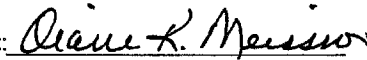
NOW, THEREFORE, we do hereby establish the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the City of West Saint Paul standard for incident management; and FURTHER, the City Council of the City of West Saint Paul reaffirms Resolution No. 01-58, RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING DISPATCH AND USE OF CITY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES BY CITY MANAGER IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, passed November 13, 2001.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West Saint Paul, this 10th day of October, 2005.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0



John A. Zannmiller, Mayor

Attest: 

Diane K. Meissner
Deputy City Clerk

HASKELL PARK BASKETBALL COURTS

Acting Parks Director Kasal indicated that the issue of the removal of the basketball hoops at Haskell Park was discussed at the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee meeting after a meeting with residents living directly adjacent to the park on September 19th. It was the general consensus of the neighborhood to leave the basketball poles as is with no hoops or nets. The hoops and nets were originally removed to discourage gang presence in the park. The Advisory Committee agrees with the neighborhood and recommends that the hoops and nets not be reinstated, but that the surface maintenance of the courts be performed.

The Council concurred and took no action.

DONATION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT TO ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

Acting Parks Director Kasal explained that at the September 19th Haskell Park neighborhood meeting, they were approached by a representative of St. Michael's School asking what happens to the old playground equipment when it is replaced. She asked if the City would be willing to donate the old equipment to St. Michael's. This was discussed by the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and they recommended that the City donate the old equipment to St. Michael's. She noted that a waiver will be signed by St. Michael's releasing the City from any liability once the equipment is on their property.

On Motion of Clpn. VanMoorlehem

Seconded by Clpn. Lewis

RESOLUTION NO. 05-118

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY
SURPLUS, AND AUTHORIZING SALE AND/OR DISPOSAL THEREOF

WHEREAS, certain property is no longer needed for public service, and can be offered for sale and/or disposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA:

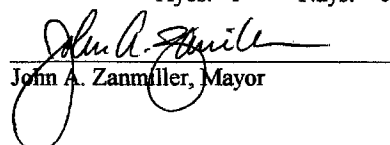
The following material is declared surplus and authorized to be donated to St. Michael's School in the City of West St. Paul:

Replaced Haskell Park Playground Equipment

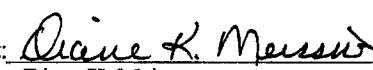
And it is further resolved, that St. Michael's School will provide the City with a waiver of liability on the City's part once the equipment is on St. Michael's property.

Adopted by the City Council this 10th day of October, 2005.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0



John A. Zannmiller, Mayor

Attest: 

Diane K. Meissner
Deputy City Clerk

in turn lower the deficit and result in a better percentage figure and terms. Once the committee has this information, a special meeting can be scheduled where a recommendation can be made to Council. ALL AYES.

Closing Thompson Oaks & moving the Sports Center fields over to the golf course was briefly discussed. Ramisch said he wasn't a golfer, but it would be a shame to lose this golf course. Englin said he personally likes having a golf course. Creamer commented that the golf course would have a positive cash flow in the future, and it would make more sense to keep it rather than rework the course at a cost of a couple of hundred thousand dollars. Kasal added that the holding ponds would have to be filled in and another place in the City established for them. Englin strongly advised the committee to call people and have them show their support for the course.

OTHER/MISCELLANEOUS

Haskell Park – Englin recounted the events that took place with regard to the problems which occurred at Haskell Park, resulting in the elimination of the basketball boards and rims for a maximum 180 day trial basis. To summarize, there was an unwelcome group of young adults that were violating the rules of this park (using profanity, public urination, drug dealing and sexual harassment to park visitors.). This had been going on for some time and was making it impossible for the neighborhood families to utilize this facility. After explaining the situation and his reasons for acting on this situation quickly, he asked members for their input/opinion. Members supported his decision and all agreed that a park is for children and their safety is important. Lewis asked if the City would be prepared to take action at another park. Englin's answer was affirmative.

Soccer – Englin inquired about the Recreation Department's soccer program & what ages were included. A discussion on the West St. Paul Youth Athletic Association then resulted. Recreation staff was asked questions about different sports and age groups. After some discussion on how the Recreation Department assists the WSPYAA, staff was directed to identify services and expenses and report back to the committee. It was also suggested that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee invite members to a meeting in the near future.

Rain Garden at Marthaler – Cliff Timm reformed members that Jay Riggs from Dakota County had taken a new position with Washington County. He said he received a call from a Bryan and was told he would be contacting the City with regard to this project.

Cliff Timm again mentioned the goose problem at Marthaler. The committee decided to invite Bud Shaver to the next meeting and a copy of the Goose Management Plan and Options which Terry Cook, previous Chief of Police, drafted would be mailed with the next meeting's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Fromm, seconded by Creamer, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Newhouse, Secretary
WSP Park & Recreation Advisory Committee

Members inquired as to why the games were all played on West St. Paul fields. Einberger responded that this was because the City's fields were lighted. Iago commented that the WSPYAA should be held more accountable with regard to notification as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred by the City for their sports programs. Petrasek was asked and agreed to send a letter to the WSPYAA expressing the committee's concerns.

Halloween Bonfire at Harmon – Staff asked members to come between 5:30 & 5:45 PM to assist with the preparation for the bonfire. Stradtman said she was looking forward to helping, since this would be her first time.

OLD BUSINESS

Haskell Park – Clpn. Englin requested that this agenda item be moved up so he would be present. Englin related the position of the residents attending the neighborhood meeting on September 19, 2005 at Haskell Park which was no basketball in Haskell Park. He added that Don Einberger had come up with good alternative ideas such as hopscotch, four square & funnel ball, but the residents remained firm in their decision of no basketball boards or any form of basketball in the park. Fromm commented that they did want the poles to remain in case they decided to try again to offer this sport sometime in the future. A motion was made by Stradtman, second by Fromm recommending City Council approve maintaining status quo of the present structure of Haskell Park with regard to basketball goals. Surface maintenance of the courts would be performed as scheduled. ALL AYES.

Revision of Capital Projects for Years 2006-07 – Englin said the revision of the capital projects was more palatable. Einberger was asked at the last meeting to prioritize the list and divide projects between the two years to equalize the numbers. The total for 2006 was previously \$154,400 & \$31,200 for 2007. After the changes were made, 2006's total is reflected as \$76,800 and 2007's is \$108,200. Englin mentioned that the City is expecting to receive approximately \$195,000 from Lowe's for park dedication fees in 2007. Lewis commented there should be more money collected from smaller projects as well. Iago commented that modifications to the capital improvements should come back to the committee for professional input. Einberger remarked that there are major maintenance issues which included the roof on the horseshoe courts; fencing; playground shelters at Marthaler, to name a few. Members asked him to generate a list of these items. Einberger informed the members that he was approached by MaryAnn from St. Mike's School regarding the City donating the old playground equipment from Haskell Park. He said if the City did donate this equipment, St Mike's would have to sign off to ensure the City is not responsible for any liability issues when the playground equipment is located on St. Mike's property. Petrasek said donating the equipment to St. Mikes would be good PR and Iago said it was a great idea. Iago added that staff should extend this offer to Tiny Tots for the Oakdale playground equipment when it is replaced.


WSPYAA Reimbursement for 2005 – Newhouse reported that Barb Kasal had received a letter from John Deininger, WSPYAA President with regard to 2005 field usage. Newhouse related the contents which included the breakdown of the money for sports programs that they could

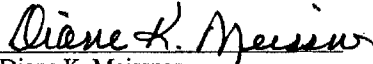
WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 requires that all grants be accepted by the City Council via the adoption of an appropriate resolution,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council accepts the grant of \$15,000.00 on behalf of the City of West St. Paul.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of West St. Paul this 22nd day of May, 2006.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0


John A. Zannmiller, Mayor

Attest: 
Diane K. Meissner
Deputy City Clerk

APPROVE CONSULTANT CONTRACT FOR SANITARY SEWER I/I STUDY

Parks, Recreation and Public Works Director Saam indicated staff has solicited RFP's for the preparation of the Sanitary Sewer I/I Study, and received three proposals, SEH, Bonestroo, and WSB. Staff recommends that the Council approve the contract with SEH as the low bidder.

ON MOTION of Clpn. Lewis, seconded by Clpn. Wright, resolved to approve a consultant contract with SEH in the amount of \$84,600 for the preparation of a Sanitary Sewer Infiltration/Inflow Study. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

BASKETBALL HOOPS AT OAKDALE PARK - Clpn. Englin

Clpn. Englin explained that the criminal activity has been increasing at the smaller parks with basketball hoops. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee met on May 2, 2006 and the neighbors living near Oakdale Park were present to discuss the problems they have been experiencing at the park. The City did a 180 day trial taking down the basketball hoops at Haskell Park and the activity decreased at that park. He is proposing that the same thing be done at Oakdale Park for 180 days and after that time has elapsed, meet again and assess the results.

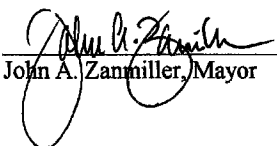
Clpn. Tessmer requested the Police Chief to monitor Emerson and Harmon Parks after the hoops are taken down at Oakdale to see if the trend is to move the criminal activity into another park.

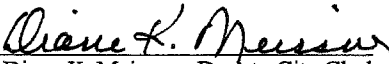
ON MOTION of Clpn. Englin, seconded by Clpn. VanMoorlehem, resolved to direct Parks and Recreation Department staff to remove the basketball hoops, nets, and backboards at Oakdale Park for a period of 180 days (6 months) and revisit the issue at that time to assess the results. Ayes: 6 Nays: 0

ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION of Clpn. Wright, seconded by Clpn. Lewis, resolved to adjourn the regular City Council meeting of May 22, 2006 at 8:12 p.m. until it reconvenes for the next Regular City Council meeting to be held on Monday, June 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center, 1616 Humboldt Avenue.

ALL VOTED IN FAVOR THEREOF.


John A. Zannmiller, Mayor

Attest: 
Diane K. Meissner, Deputy City Clerk

Mrs. Drkula – she said she was concerned with the noise factor, clanking of the goals, screaming and hollering from the players. Lynch said the noise would be minimal and there shouldn't be any noise after dark.

P & R Advisory Com. Mtg.
May 2, 2006

Allen Ruvelson, 102 W. Kraft – he said he doesn't have a position with regard to disc golf but was concerned about the plans for the northern urban regional trail system for a bike route. He is hoping that the committee as well as Council will take into account the expected future usage and development of that trail system. The potential increased usage of Garlough Park and the potential for users of that trail system to park in the Garlough School lot and Charlton, which are areas that are proposed to be utilized with disc golf, may be conflicting. He said he realizes that the trail system is slow to develop but it is something that is planned for by all unison government and people in Dakota County.

Englin asked Don Einberger, Parks Maintenance Supervisor to address the problems with brush, facilities, trash & how the City's parks maintenance crew will play a part in all of this. Don Einberger said he is a city resident as well as employee and he agrees that Garlough is a nature area. He feels that the City has dealt with problem areas before i.e., WSP Swimming Pool, Mud Lake, and Haskell Park. Once these troublesome groups discover a niche that is where they are going to hang out. He added that he has been with the City for 31 years and has three full-time park keepers (this staff has never been increased) and they are strapped with regard to the workload. This project will definitely increase their responsibilities. He added that in his opinion, the park should be left as is.

Iago then made a motion that this topic be tabled until the Committee can address several unanswered questions – parking, restrooms, and identification of size, type & removal of trees. He said this issue requires further study until such time as the Committee can appropriately answer these questions to the residents satisfaction. This motion was seconded by Deustermann. ALL AYES. Petrasek suggested that the Committee members walk the proposed course to familiarize themselves with these issues. He added that when David Lynch approached this committee, the idea of a family sport which wouldn't be intrusive to the park seemed like it might be a good amenity to the City as well as the school because of the close proximity. He said he had no idea that there would be any opposition. Stradtmann commented that when Mr. Lynch approached the Committee, she had concerns about the usage and what kind of clientele it would attract. No matter what you put out there, you will have the good with the bad. In her estimation, the good outweighed the bad because she liked the fact that amateurs would have an opportunity to play & that she could participate with her children & future grandchildren. It keeps the West St. Paul children in West St. Paul and seems like a family-oriented activity with low fees. She agreed that the Committee should walk this course. Petrasek said disc golf would be on the next Park & Recreation Committee agenda and they could decide whether to advance this proposal or not to the City Council. Pete Cleary from Dodge Nature Center asked that special consideration be given to the buckthorn and the natural habitats when the members walked the proposed course at Garlough.

OAKDALE PARK ISSUES - Several neighbors were present and spoke about the problems they were experiencing as neighbors to this park: Judy Melville; Luke Lopez; Polly & Bo Saatzer; Ann Enright; Marge Palomo & Mike Stringer. Their concerns included profanity, fighting, public urination, trash, disregard for their property, rudeness, fear for their children & themselves, negative influence on the younger children in the neighborhood, harassment, retaliation, noise, excessive traffic & the destruction of park equipment. They were all in agreement that the elimination of basketball equipment at this park

would alleviate/eliminate this problem. Neighbors mentioned that there is never a problem in the winter time and problems began when basketball was introduced in this park.

P & R Advisory Com. Mtg.
May 2, 2006

Police Chief Bud Shaver spoke to the neighbors regarding police support on this problem. He said he is looking at ordinances against littering and smoking in the parks. These are tools that could be used to allow officers to approach these problem groups. He then introduced Maryan Saad as the newly hired Crime Prevention Specialist. Shaver said she will be maintaining and developing relationships in the Community. Maryan shared information on her background, experience and education & the told the neighbors that she would be available to assist them in any way she could. Her comment on removing the basketball nets was that it might be dispersing this problem to other areas & parks. She told the neighbors if they were experiencing problems, they shouldn't hesitate to contact the police.

A motion was made by Fromm, second by Stradtman, requesting Council to consider removing both sets of basketball nets, hoops & backboards at Oakdale Park for a period of six months and to revisit this issue with the park neighbors after this period of time. ALL AYES.

OTHER

Staff reminded members of the West St. Paul Days Parade. An e-mail will be sent when details become known.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Fromm, second by Stradtman, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 p.m.
ALL AYES

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Newhouse
Parks, Recreation, & Public Works
Dept. Secretary