

To: **Mayor and City Council**
Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
From: **Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director**
Date: **June 22, 2020**

Art Park Project Review

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee began working on this project to bring public art to West St Paul in early 2019. The group wanted to come up with some sort of project for the “Art Park” lot at Butler and Oakdale. Through multiple meetings including a public meeting with residents in the park in July, the subcommittee narrowed in on the idea of small sculpture in the park. Knowing the City funds were scarce, staff and committee members researched multiple grant opportunities, and narrowed in on the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) Grant. The Grant application had very specific requirements that needed to be met including; having an artist and project already selected, reaching underserved populations in the community and including the public in the process and creation of the project. Several local artists were interviewed and artist Lori Greene was chosen with her idea of a mosaic column sculpture. Mosaic art columns can take many forms. A few different ideas are included, but ultimately the final design will be developed through the public process, by residents. There will be 3-5 public meetings in which residents will: receive education about the art project and provide input to help shape what form and look the project takes, partake in the design of the project, and help with the actual creation of the sculpture. The artist will do the final construction of the whole project and finally a public installation of the finish project will take place. Residents will be informed of the public meetings in numerous ways. All flyers will also be translated to Spanish to reach the Hispanic community. The original plan was to also hold at least 1 meeting with our older population at the Thompson Park Activity Center, although due to the current pandemic, that may need to be modified. The pandemic has caused our whole schedule and timeline to be shifted. The hope is to kick off the project with the first public meeting this July, and hold the finished installation in May or June 2021. It should also be noted that the \$10,000 grant requires a \$2,500 match, of which \$500 has already been donated by SRSBA. Committee members plan to raise the remaining \$2,000 through local business donations, but need to have time to begin this fundraising campaign. This project is intended to be a true first step of public art in West St Paul. If successful, the committee plans to research other opportunities, such as murals in the bike tunnel under Charlton and the future Robert St tunnel, as well as other sculpture forms in other parks.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Provide direction to staff for the project.

Attachment: Sculpture Examples