

WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
5:30 PM, Tuesday, January 10, 2022
West St. Paul Council Chambers

Park & Rec. Members Present: Chair Dave Lynch, Luke Abrahamson, Bonnie Bellows, Teresa Smock, Emily Vergin

Non-Voting Members Present: Council Liaison Wendy Berry, Parks and Recreation Director Dave Schletty

1. Roll Call

2. Adopt Minutes

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. The December 13, 2022 minutes were approved by the Committee.

3. Citizen Comments-NA

4. New Business

a. Approve Committee Bylaws

The Bylaws were approved by the committee. Members Lynch and Bellows were voted in as Chair and Vice-chair respectively.

b. Committee T-shirts

The Committee chose the hi-vis color and the logo for the committee T-shirts. .

5. Old Business

a. Marthaler Playground Evaluations

Parks and Recreation Director Schletty reported that About 50 children from field trips conducted by the cities of Mendota Heights, Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul and West St. Paul gave their opinion of the playground features/options/choices. Schletty said Member Blair also conducted a survey with some children in an afterschool program. The children's preferences were for the net climbing structure, the zipline and the tall tower feature with the big slides.

The committee discussed the preferences and asked if the playground vendor could provide the preferred features if another feature (i.e. the swing bay) were decreased. Color choices were also discussed. Schletty will speak with the vendor about the committee's requests.

b. Continued Core Values Discussion

Member Abrahamson "took a stab" at further defining the core values. He will send the document to Schletty to add to the next committee meeting agenda.

c. Explore West St. Paul Days-Update –Schletty reported that this Thursday would be the internal staff kickoff meeting for 2023. The plan is to restart the event website for outreach to groups who wish to participate in the parade and other aspects.

d. Naming of Unnamed West St. Paul Parks

Lynch reported on the subcommittee work. They are in the middle of naming the art park and the West St. Paul pool park. Lynch spoke with Historian Lois Glewwe regarding the naming of the parks. She suggested some names that fit in with the West St. Paul naming criteria.

6. Other

a. Council Updates

- i. Committee Openings-**Clpn. Berry said there are presently two openings on the committee. She encouraged residents (especially from Ward I or Ward II) to apply to the committee.

b. Staff Updates

- i. Ice Rink/Warming House** –Schletty said it has been difficult maintaining the ice on the park skating rinks this year. Park staff is working on building up the ice rinks. The rink in Orme Park recently opened. The rink in Haskell Park is open as well and can be used for hockey practice at night. Staff is working on Southview and Weschcke Parks; they are close to having skate-able ice.
- ii. Thompson Oaks Update-** Schletty reported that last fall, the new trail system was being built; there was reclamation of some of the land. The soils reclamation process was not as “bad” as predicted; some funding was saved. The grading and the base course were done for the trail. The plan is to finish the trail in spring. Excavation of muck and sediment from the pond on the west end/library side is being done this winter. Storm sewers are going to be built through the former YMCA property. The storm sewer work may delay that section of the trail system. Otherwise the timeline for the boardwalk construction is on track.
- iii. Proposals for the Park Master Plan-**The City received proposals from seven different firms. Staff evaluated the proposals and chose the top two. The two proposals are the ones sent to the committee. The plan is to have staff interview the two firms in two weeks. Staff will then present the best proposal to Council. .
- c. Environmental Committee Liaison-**Member Vergin reported that the committee did not meet this month.
- d. Art Park Subcommittee-**Vergin reported that most of the discussion centered around planning for Explore West St. Paul Days. The subcommittee also discussed plans for statues [contest] and art installation. It may not be possible this year because of timing issues. Subcommittee members are trying to garner more interest in an art installation for 2024.

7. Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon G. Hatfield
Administrative Specialist