

**WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
5:30 PM, Tuesday, February 14, 2023
West St. Paul Council Chambers**

Park & Rec. Members Present: Chair Dave Lynch, Sara Blair, Kelly Hagler, 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 January 10, 2023 minutes were approved by the Committee.

3. Citizen Comments-NA

4. New Business

a. Possible Meeting Time Change

Committee members discussed changing the meeting start time to 6pm to enable members to have more travel time after work hours to get to the meeting, and have time for family commitments. Schletty will email all committee members and ask them about the possible time change.

5. Old Business

a. Explore West St. Paul Days- Update

Parks and Recreation Director Schletty showed the flyer inviting vendors to the Arts and & Environmental Fair during the West St. Paul Days celebration. Member Vergin reported that the Environmental Committee is going to have Arbor Day and Migratory Bird wrapped into the West St. Paul Days events. The Environmental Committee will have a truck in the parade and have a tree planting in Harmon Park. The Environmental Committee will also have a booth set up in the park.

Schletty asked committee members if they had interest in having a float in the parade. Lynch suggested having a more formal discussion on their participation.

b. Committee T-shirts and Park Assignments Update

Schletty showed the design of the new T-shirt for the committee. Instead of saying the committee name, the shirt would say "Volunteer". The color of the shirt would be different for each committee. The discussion regarding color choice was tabled until the next committee meeting.

Members reported their park assignment preferences. Schletty said he would send out an email to members asking to bring their top three preferences for park assignments to the next meeting.

c. Continued Core Values Discussion –

The discussion was tabled for the next committee meeting.

d. Naming of Unnamed West St. Paul Parks

Vergin reported on the subcommittee work. There is an effort for the new park names chosen to be "mindful". The names will be presented to Council and the community.

The subcommittee has some good suggestions from a local historian. The names must be more fully researched and “okayed” by family members. The Open House and the Art/Environmental Fair will be used to get community involvement in the naming process. The Art Park subcommittee will be involved with the naming process as well.

6. Other

a. Council Updates

- i. Pool Contract/YMCA-Clpn.** Berry said the city would once again be contracting the YMCA to manage this pool this year. Clpn. Armon asked that the YMCA do more marketing for the pool.
- ii. RFP for Park System Plan-**At yesterday’s meeting, the consultant contract was reviewed by Council. The plan will report on the West St. Paul community’s wants and needs.
- iii. Park Activities Program-** Registration opens up in two weeks. There is lots of cool stuff for children five years old and older.

b. Staff Updates

- i. Marthaler Plans**–Schletty is meeting with the consultant tomorrow. They will discuss the completed plans that will be out for bid in March.
- ii. Buckthorn Clearing in Marthaler & Garlough Parks-** The city has been removing buckthorn and restoring native pollinator plants along the trail in Marthaler and Garlough Parks. The city’s contractor has also cleared the buckthorn in the forested areas of the park. It is a dramatic change.
- iii. Park System Plan-**The “kick-off” meeting with the consultant happened today. There was a visioning exercise and a two-hour park tour.

- c. Environmental Committee Liaison-**Member Vergin reported that a grant is being submitted for a community garden at Heritage School. The school would like to do outreach to residents that do not have access to garden space. The committee talked about preparation for Arbor Day and about their core values. They are also moving forward on the GreenSteps Cities program.

7. Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Sharon G. Hatfield
Administrative Specialist**