

**MINUTES- DRAFT**  
**WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**May 14, 2019**

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

**Non-voting Members Present:** Wendy Berry, Councilperson, Sharon Hatfield, Administrative Specialist, Dave Schletty, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

**Guest:** Kuper McNamara

**1. ROLL CALL**

**2. ADOPT MINUTES**

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

The committee approved the minutes from the April 10, 2019 meeting with the corrections.

**3. NEW BUSINESS- NA**

**a. Mud Lake Volunteer Opportunity**

Assistant Parks Director Schletty said there is interest in reestablishing the trail around Mud Lake. He would like to hold an event to give volunteers the opportunity to [clean up] the trail. Volunteers should bring wheelbarrows and shovels to do the work. He has spoken to the neighbor on the corner whose garden encroached the city right of way. The neighbor has removed the plantings.

The City will provide woodchips for the work and instruct volunteers on where to put the chips and pile the brush. The committee decided that June 8 would be a good date for the event. Member McNamara asked if students from the Academic Arts volunteered for the cleanup. Schletty said no one has contacted him from the school. They can volunteer and adopt the park or contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Diane Erickson.

**b. Egg Hunt Recap**

Petrasek said, "They came. They Found. They left." Committee members commented, "Alisha [McGraw] did a great job." Member Lynch talked about the hunt and changing the entrance for safety issues. There was a rush of children once the gate was open. Schletty said Recreation Coordinator McGraw and he talked about the issues and said that next year they will keep the fields locked and there will be volunteers and caution tape in the fields to keep "creeping" children from rushing the egg hunt. The turnout for the event was "huge"- over 300 children. Lynch said the kangaroo was cool.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Basketball Hoop Update**

Schletty said that Council in its OCWS last night had a good discussion about reinstalling the basketball hoops. The majority are in favor of putting them back up; however, the representatives from the respective wards are in not in favor. Dick Vitelli was [in office] when the hoops were brought down. Council will likely vote on the hoops at its May 28 meeting. Park maintenance said there might be some hoop equipment in storage. Clpn. Berry acknowledged that the committee is doing all the work, and Council can build on it. The next time the committee meets, the committee may talk about ordering the equipment.

**5. OTHER**

**a. Park Committee Work**

Member DeLaRosby made a general comment about the work of the committee. Members are here as volunteers and there for benevolent reasons to do good things for the parks. DeLaRosby would like the work to be honored and respected. Sometimes the work does not make it to the appropriate people, either Council or the general public. The committee has to restart conversations repeatedly and supply background information because communication has been lacking. For example, DeLaRosby tried to contact the Chief of Police about obtaining more data. [Bellows had requested the original meeting.] DeLaRosby was informed that he was operating outside the chain of command and the proper way of obtaining the information. The committee needs to be deliberate and specific in requests for information. The committee did not give the best data to Council members for this decision. The committee cannot ask Dave for the information; he cannot guess. Instead of facts, the committee is relying on people's memories and emotions to guide decisions. The committee needs to do the right work for Council so that the recommendations are thorough and detailed. Council should not need to dissect [the recommendations,] and spend several open council work sessions on them. The committee is doing good work and it is difficult to see it reduced to people's opinions.

Petrasek said he appreciated DeLaRosby's comments. He said Council (specifically regarding the basketball hoops) the first time, Council did not have enough time to discuss the issue. Last night there was enough time to discuss it. It seemed to have advanced in the right time. Schletty clarified and said there were a few things that needed to be more accurate. Bellows mentioned that the City of St. Paul did not get back to Schletty. Schletty said that St. Paul is a huge department and every one works under their own jurisdiction. Schletty related that the City Manager said that some council members did not know, for example, that there were basketball courts in Marthaler Park. Schletty was asked to put together an aerial map of all basketball and the proximity to residents.

- b. Garlough Park**- Lynch thanked the Greenway project for their cleanup of Garlough Park. There is some brush that needs to be picked up by maintenance staff. An Eagle Scout would like to build a bridge in Garlough Park. Schletty said that the scout should either come before the committee to present his project or contact Schletty directly.
- c. Boy Scout Camp Out**- DeLaRosby asked about the possibility of the Boy Scouts having an overnight camping event in one of the parks. Schletty said he would check the City's ordinances regarding this type of event.
- d. Art Park**- Schletty reported that an Eagle Scout will do his project in the Art Park. He will plant a pollinator friendly garden in the upper tier of the plot. (Bellows first developed the garden years ago.) The Eagle Scout will till, mulch, add a border, and water the garden for 2 weeks.
- e. River to River Trail**- Lynch asked for an update of the project. Schletty said that the planning is progressing. He went to a meeting to discuss the crossing at Robert Street. The next phase of the project will be the park improvements. Bellows asked if the holding pond on Wentworth was part of the improvements.
- f. Community Garden**- Member Gausman asked about the Community Garden. Schletty said that the City is no longer having a community garden because of the lack of interest. In the last two years, the City only sold 4 plots out of 20.
- g. Committee Meetings/ Summer Months**-Schletty said that the committee may not meet in June or July because of a light agenda. He will send a notice if the meeting has been cancelled.
- h. Mud Lake**- Bellows asked if Mud Lake would be treated this summer. Schletty replied yes.
- i. City Council Updates**- NA

**j. Staff Updates-NA**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The committee members adjourned at 6:02 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon G. Hatfield