

WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
6:00 PM, Tuesday, June 13, 2023
West St. Paul Council Chambers

Park & Rec. Members Present: Chair Dave Lynch, Luke Abrahamson, Sara Blair, John Cronin, Kelly Hagler, Emily Vergin, Nadine Wenzel

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

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Citizen Comments-NA**
3. **New Business**
 - a. **Adopt May 9, 2023 Minutes**

Chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The May 9, 2023 minutes were approved by the committee.
 - b. **Field Reservation Policy- Draft**

Parks and Recreation Director Schletty reviewed the draft with the committee. The committee decided to table approving the draft until next month's meeting.
4. **Old Business**
 - a. **Park Naming Update**

After some discussion, the committee chose to remove the two least popular names (from the West St. Paul Days event input) and add two new suggested names to the list. The new list of names will be posted on social media and in pop-up events to have more citizens to votes/ and voice their opinions. The "soft" deadline for the final choice of names to submit to Council is at the end of August.
 - b. **Possible Disc Golf Course Expansion**

Lynch said that there has been discussion regarding expanding the disc golf course, especially after the removal of the buckthorn plants. Lynch met with Chuck Kennedy, a premier disc golf designer. They came up with a draft proposal for an expansion of the course. The new course would be suited for younger people with shorter throwing power. The whole course itself would still be designed for shorter holes and more casual play. The capital outlay to increase the size of the course would not be a large investment.
5. **Other**
 - a. **Council Updates**
 - i. **Explore West St. Paul Days-Clpn.** Berry said every part of the event she attended was great; she asked members to provide feedback to Dave Schletty or Sam Murphy. She asked members to thank Murphy for the event.
 - b. **Staff Updates**
 - i. **Marthaler Park Update-** Schletty reported the city is waiting for a state permit to start utility work. After the utility work, the contractor will start tree removal.
 - ii. **Former Thompson Oaks Golf site-**The trail and the bridge are completed at the former golf course site. However, there is a gap in the trail at the former Hy-Vee site that needs to be paved. Some storm sewer work must be done first. The trail near the roundabout is also under construction.
 - iii. **Park system plan-** Schletty said the plan is moving along. After the meeting, there will be a training for park "pop-up" sessions conducted by Mend Collaborative.

iv. Harmon Park Neighborhood Center-Issues- Schletty related that a renter left the front door unlocked at the Neighborhood Center on the Memorial Day weekend. Children realized the building was unlocked, and there was a [vandalism] “free for all”. Additionally, the park’s timed bathroom locking system has been malfunctioning. The city IT Department had updated the locking mechanism scheduling to exclude Harmon Park from holiday schedule changes. However, the update did not work. The city has contacted a software developer for an audit of the city’s computer system to troubleshoot these problems.

c. Environmental Committee Liaison

Vergin reported that Environmental Committee spent a lot of time at their last meeting coordinating their participation at the West St. Paul Days event. They also talked about the community garden at Heritage Middle School. A tree was planted near the splash pad in Harmon Park as part of the Arbor Day event.

d. Commissioners’ Park Updates

- i. Sports Complex-** Abrahamson visited the Sports Complex. He did make the children pick up garbage after themselves.
- ii. Emerson Park-** Lynch played pickleball at the park. He suggested installing a backboard for pickleball practice.
- iii. Explore the Doors-** Vergin mentioned a Google Map function that can add pins to the location of the fairy doors in the parks. She would share the link with committee members if there were interest.

6. Adjournment-The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon G. Hatfield
Administrative Specialist