

**MINUTES**  
**WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**August 13, 2019**

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

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

**1. ROLL CALL**

**2. ADOPT MINUTES**

Vice-chair Lynch called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

The committee approved the minutes from the June 11, 2019 meeting.

**3. NEW BUSINESS-NA**

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Basketball Hoop Update**

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Schletty updated committee members regarding the reinstallation of the basketball hoops. Council revisited the issue in June, had a public hearing, and heard testimony about the hoops. Council moved forward on the project, and Assistant Director Schletty personally installed the hoops on the last Friday in June. Each park has a “Rules of Order” sign for basketball play. Schletty related that Lieutenant Sturgeon has not had any negative feedback. The hoops are a success. Schletty and park maintenance staff will monitor how, “fall and winter goes.” No money was spent on putting up the hoops. The missing equipment was found by Schletty and maintenance staff. There was a minimal cost of \$75 for the new signage in the courts. Member DeLaRosby mentioned that there is some noise/reverberation in the Haskell Court. Clpn. Berry said that there is always someone playing basketball in Haskell Park. Schletty will ask maintenance staff to look at the noise problem. Lynch thanked the committee and Berry for their work.

**b. Art Park Discussion**

Schletty reported that the Art Park subcommittee had their first meeting. Schletty shared Kevin Hendricks’s summary. They will meet again on August 27 to plan a formal presentation to the committee in September. The MRAC grant is open to all mediums of art, (even music). MRAC provides grants mostly to private organizations; West St. Paul may be a better candidate for the grant because it is a different type of applicant. Hendricks said that the subcommittee’s guiding principle is “to do something.” It may not be perfect. He would like to pursue realistic ideas for the park. He realizes this project will influence future projects.

The three ideas generated by the subcommittee:

- Large Sculpture- The sculpture would be low risk because the sculpture would be leased for one year. Franconia [Sculpture Park] installs the sculpture and carries the insurance on it. The drawback is that MRAC would not cover the cost under its grant.
- Gateway Sculpture- A permanent sign or abstract art would be installed at the intersection, and seen by cars passing by the park. It would act as a wall screen for the rest of the park. The City could get local businesses involved. The option would, however, take a lot of work and it would take time to develop.

- **Community Planters-** The planters would be maintained by the community and could be done in conjunction with a sculpture. The con is that the planters are a lot of work to make and to maintain. The planters are a safe idea, but may not inspire. They would not look good in the winter.

Member Gausman mentioned the Love Park in Philadelphia as an example and talked about the history behind West St. Paul's house building boom. Art was not part of the parks during that building boom. An art piece would make the city stand out more from other cities.

Lynch commented that he liked the idea of the [gateway] art having two different sides and screening the neighborhood from the intersection. :

Bellows suggested contacting the art teachers from the schools again. The grant may make it possible. McNamara suggested contacting Academic Arts High School.

## 5. **OTHER**

### a. **Council Updates-**

- Mud Lake** Berry commented about the condition of the trail around Mud Lake. Schletty said that at this time of the year, the trail becomes over grown. Lynch said he is organizing a cleanup this fall. Schletty talked about a grant he is working on to obtain funding for tree replacement. The city lost some trees in Marthaler Park and along Wentworth Avenue. He added that typically the city does not replace trees in the parks unless they provide screening for residents.
  - Role of Parks and Recreation Committee-** DeLaRosby opened the discussion regarding the role of the committee and the inventory of the park system. He talked about being reactive and proactive with the park system's amenities. He referenced the City pool and the closing of the YMCA. Schletty said that the current council is keeping the pool open indefinitely even once the school district gets their new pool built. He explained that the YMCA manages the pool for \$39,000 of the revenue it generates. If there is more than \$39,000, the YMCA splits this with the city. The arrangement with the YMCA is a better budget loss, (\$50,000 as opposed to \$150,000 per year.) The YMCA still wants to manage the pool even if it moves its location out of West St. Paul. West St. Paul performed a master plan for the park system about 20 years ago. It may be time for another inventory to be done. Lynch suggested talking about one park in depth at each committee meeting. Schletty said he could provide an outline for each park inventorying its features.
- ### b. **Staff Updates**
- Golf Course Redevelopment** Schletty reported that a development agreement is in place for an apartment complex to be built at the former golf course. More soil borings are being taken and plans are moving forward. The plan will coincide with the trail/tunnel development and the new Hy-Vee building.

## 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The committee members adjourned at 6:13 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon G. Hatfield