

**MINUTES**  
**WEST ST. PAUL PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 8, 2019**

**Park & Rec. Members Present:** Bonnie Bellows, Brad Erickson, Dave Lynch, Mike Petrasek

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

**1. ROLL CALL**

**2. ADOPT MINUTES**

Chair Petrasek called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

The committee approved the minutes from the September 10, 2019 meeting.

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Master Plan Park Update- Emerson and Dodd**

The committee resumed their review of the Master Plan. Petrasek admitted to serving on the committee when the Master Plan was written. Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Schletty exclaimed, "You weren't even new!" Schletty reviewed Dodd Park's description, features and possible improvements from the Master Plan. Dodd Park is classified as a mini park; it is less than an acre big. It is located next to the Doddway Shopping area. There is no expansion possible without removing a neighboring house. Schletty said it would be very hard to correct the brown lawn in the park because of the skating rink.

Member Bellows mentioned the rear entrance to the park with the wooden steps and a rope leading to an adjacent property. Schletty said the steps and the rope belong to the property owner. Bellows said that the barbecue grill cover appears to be broken. It will not come over the top of the grill. Schletty said he will have park maintenance look at the grill. Petrasek said the equipment at the park "still looked good." Member Erickson said everything works and that "It's a good looking park." Bellows asked how the mulch is renewed. Schletty replied the mulch is not renewed but "added to." It is replenished every other year to ADA standards. Bellows asked about expanding the park by not flooding the skating rink. Schletty said it is possible; the City could look at relocating the skate rink. Schletty said that the skating rink still gets "decent use." Lynch likes the bus shelter idea for skaters is a good idea. Bellows said it would be nice to have a bench next to the skating rink. Erickson said emphatically that the present "shelter needs to go." Schletty said that the playground is set to be replaced in a few years; replacement can be deferred if the equipment is still in good shape. Parks has made a big effort to add recycling receptacles in the parks; some of it does get contaminated with trash. Member Gausman remarked that he hoped the City would be open to revising the park according to historical changes. He wondered about the use of the parks and updating the playground equipment. Bellows suggested asking the neighbors of the park about the current use. Petrasek said that it was not a bad idea. A design questionnaire sent to neighbors to ask their opinions would be helpful. It would be a shame to replace playground equipment if it were not being used.

The committee discussed Emerson Park. Schletty related that Emerson is not much bigger than Dodd Park. It had a pleasure skating rink has since been removed. It was very hard to flood because of a low-pressure fire hydrant. There were no complaints when the skating rink was removed. Improvements in 2004 included new playground equipment, new park signs, and new trash enclosures, the courts were resurfaced in 2011. The courts have been lined for pickleball. Schletty said that court surfacing has a lifespan of 10-12 years. There is a new technology that fixes only the cracks. The "fix" lasts

twice as long as resurfacing the courts, but costs twice as much. Committee members talked about the cracks in the court surfaces. Bellows noted that there is now parking along the alley next to the park. Schletty said that the alley was redone to allow parking; previously visitors were parking on the park grass. Bellows said that the picnic tables are rusty and there is graffiti on the tables. Four ash trees in the park are not in good condition. Erickson said it is a kid-centric park. He saw a couple of groups of children in the park, young children and teenagers. Lynch said he really liked the park; it is well-used and well-designed. Petrsek talked about the surface of the tennis and basketball courts. The City should talk to the neighbors before resurfacing the courts. Erickson asked about the warming house building; Schletty said the City will get rid of it. Lynch suggested adding a rebound board to the court. Schletty said it could be added. Petrsek asked about the playground equipment. Schletty said that it was replaced in 2004; the equipment is showing its age more than the equipment in Dodd Park. Petrsek said examination of the parks is a good exercise for the committee. Gausman said that a gazebo is on his wish list for the park. Lynch said he liked the flat area in the park because it is surrounded by a berm. It is good for soccer play. Bellows said the playground upside down horn is broken. Schletty said there is a second horn in the park; the pipes that connect the horns may have collapsed. The committee decided to review Southview and Oakdale Parks at their next meeting.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Halloween Extravaganza 2019 Update**

Schletty reported that things are progressing. The City already has six sponsors for the trick-or-treat trail. He hoped that six more businesses would sponsor the event. The coloring contest page was sent out through the City website and social media. Schletty would like to send the page to some schools as well. The coloring contest works as an advertisement for the event and an incentive to participants. Schletty has not received any donations for the event yet. He will contact Commercial Club. Petrsek said that he could also ask the Hockey Boosters. He did not get anything for Easter from them. Schletty will send out a reminder of the event to committee members. He will work on getting more volunteers for the event. Clpn. Berry said she would be there with one four-year old volunteer and one one-year old volunteer.

**b. Art Park Update**

Schletty said that the subcommittee has not met since the last committee meeting. Kevin Hendricks spoke to Schletty saying that in order to apply for grant funding, an artist must be chosen first. Hendricks has contacted Lorrie Green and other artists to consult before writing the grant.

**5. OTHER**

**a. City Council Update**

Berry asked Schletty to share the usage report made for Council consent agenda showing the year to date hours of use of park fields and indoor spaces. The numbers of hours of use is very high. The report was made in response to a resident complaining of the parks not being used.

**b. Staff Updates**

**i. Thompson Oaks Development**- Schletty showed the proposed plan for the new apartment complex at the former golf course. The new complex will have 153 market rate apartment units.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The committee members adjourned at 6:29 pm. The next Park and Recreation Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon G. Hatfield