

CITY OF ST. PAUL PARK
ST. PAUL PARK, MINNESTOA
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

May 9, 2024

Meeting called to order 5:34 pm

Those present:

Char Whitbred-Hemmingson, City Council Liaison

Tim Conrad, Council Member

Cindy Domeier, Secretary

Jeff Dionisopoulos, Public Works Supervisor

Guests: Boy Scouts Troup 83 Members: Ian Savolainen, Carter Shingledecker, Jay Halstead-Delgado,

Malaki Shingledecker, Connor Shingledecker, Caleb Shingledecker

and Leaders, David Savolainen, Margaret White, and Mr. Shingledecker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Conrad, second by Whitbred-Hemmingson, for approval of January 10, 2024, minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

SPECIAL DISCUSSION: Boy Scouts and Leaders present to further discuss individual Eagle Scout Projects:

Connor Shingledecker: Fall 24 Project. He wants to pursue the Butterfly and Bee Garden idea in the prairie area (to right of entrance sign) at Riverside Park. This will include path with benches and plants along the way. Commission is in agreement with this project. Jeff Dionisopoulos was present at the meeting agreed and offered his help in any way.. Connor will consider possible funding ideas including Rumpca. Jeff D. can help with sign/plaque which will identify what the area is, who constructed and when. Possible easy bench suggested is with cinder blocks for base and 4 x 4 for bench.

Ian Savolainen: (651-442-2195). Looking to complete his project ASAP. He is waiting for input from Chief Kramer on construction.

Carter Shingledecker: Summer 24 Project: Fire Ring for Veterans Park Memorial Burn Pit. He has taken dimensions and considering construction which will include venting. He will review plan with Jeff D. to ensure meets requirements. Carter will reach out to Tennis and he was suggested also to reach out to Legion for funding.

Jay Shingledecker. 2025 Project: He would like to do 2-3 bat boxes for mosquito control down at Riverside Park. Placement at entrance, in middle and backside. It was suggested to also put boxes at Lions Levee Park which he agreed. Jeff suggested placement on trees and mentioned that signage also be included at both locations stating what they are, etc. The troop has some materials, but Jeff D. offered to have them provide him list of needed materials and he can see if he has any to help. Jeff D. should be contacted when ready to place to ensure agreement.

Malachi Shingledecker: Summer 25 Project: Needs us to help with ideas.

PARKS UPDATE:

Jeff Dionisopoulos present and provided following updates:

Abdella: No updates, however, Hemmingson-Whitbred was advised from citizen that flooding occurs in chip area at playground after rain and washes chips onto path. Jeff said they are aware and that the draining was designed this way, unfortunately due to low spot of area. When upgrade done, this would be fixed. Citizen said another low area near basketball court which also gets flooded. He will check this out.

Axelrod: Wooden picnic table which was added under pavilion as temporary replacement for removed damaged permanent table, was destroyed. It had to have been jumped on to damage the way it was. Jeff will replace again in a few weeks to see if it can last until replacement of fixed table.

Dingle: Jeff provided 2 examples for signage on hammock. We agreed to one and he will order and place on hammock stand.

Heritage: Stumps being ground for removal. Construction company, McNamara, has until June 16th for final completion of project. Park sign will be reinstalled.

Bill Larson sign will also be reinstalled on post vs on wall when concrete pad is laid for additional bench around playground area and pad for sign created.

Tim asked if middle portion of burm on Lincoln side could be flattened to make easier walkway between Whitbred and Heritage Parks. Jeff agreed this could be possible and will look into this. Short discussion on full concrete walking path around Heritage and Jeff said this would be part of Master plan upgrade.

Jeff also reported that we would void tennis court resurfacing if remarked for pickle ball, at both Heritage and Abdella, Without any other option, it may be decided to remark 1 court and check usage to see if worthwhile.

Lions Levee: Concrete pads/walkway completed on both ends of new stairway installed last summer. PW plans to add in a couple more picnic tables and benches in this area which is used frequently for lunchtime breaks. Trash bins now available both above and by the river. Porta-potty was not relocated.

STS is currently working on island to clear trees and brush. Jeff said okay for people to either take wood or use for small recreational fire. STS to also clean and stain the bridge.. Goal of replacement to a structural bridge is being looked into as part of a larger project for Lions Levee.

Sittlow: No update.

Veterans: No updates by Jeff D. Tim reported that there is resident who wants to add a memorial bench. Jeff is open to adding concrete pad when once the bench is ordered and placement will be done in consideration that more benches may be added

Whitbred: Hockey rink was repaired and repainted by PW. Replacing lights is down the road.

Master Plan: Jeff received approval on redesign options project and suggested Lions-Levee, Heritage, and Whitbred and asked for Commission input. Commission agreed but would want to know if School District would be willing to sell the area that they own to expand usage for possible skateboard park or other suggested idea. Jeff said there could be potential grant options, e.g. Tony Hawk Foundation. Jeff will look into what would be needed to approach School District.

MULCHING: Whitbred-Hemmingson asked Jeff D. about mulching around park signs and at Community Garden. Jeff D. confirmed it is in the plans after stump grinding at Heritage is done.

HERITAGE AND VETERANS PARKS MURALS: Idea for butterfly mural on Heritage Park building was approved at Council Meeting. Artist met with commission to confirm location and ideas for both Heritage and Veterans Parks. Heritage will be completed asap and Veterans following. Funding for these murals was raised from Bunco nights. Jeff D confirmed PW can power wash to prep and prime if needed, however, if any concern re not doing it right, then cost may be worth it to have artist prime.

TREE GRAVEL PIT: Jeff D wants to install gravel bed nursely to aid in replacement of removed diseased trees. He has 2 locations he's considering: one is at Dingle Park near well house and other is near Community Garden, closer to hill to right of Garden shed. Both work due to available water source. Commission preferred Community Garden location but concerns about known FD desire to expand parking. Jeff D will talk with FD Chief to determine their plans and if both could be possible.

VETERANS PARK MEMORIAL WALL: Conrad provided photos for suggested idea for Memorial Wall at Veterans Park. It's a curved concrete wall with small concrete awning for protection of plaques. Commission and Jeff D agreed this was good plan. Conrad to get cost estimate. As our Veterans Park is the main memorial park for our area, CG, Newport and SPP, this could help in funding.

MOVIES IN THE PARK: Whitbred-Hemmingson and Domeier to consider dates for summer movie event. Domeier also to reach out to Movies by Moe to see if possible for date in SPP.

COMMUNITY GARDEN ART AND GARDEN EVENT: All ready for May 11 garden event with bouncy houses donated by South Suburban rental, Skoolie bus, Masons with popcorn, hot dogs and drink for freewill donation, kids craft and games, candy, MN Watershed Conservation District with free soil testing; Wash County Dept. of Public Health and Environment with info on new food scraps recycling program, Boy Scout booth and as volunteers, Jill (Master Gardener) and Mark O'Boyle to assist in planting, Pineridge Garden Club, Butch Lyons for Ask a Gardner, 3 vendors, and 2 high school volunteers.

WINTERFEST: We were unable to hold Winterfest event due to unseasonably warm weather.

COMMUNITY GARDEN INDIVIDUAL PLOTS: Commission discussed need to amend the policy. It was agreed:

City Hall to start accepting applications effective March 1 for up to 2 plots each

March 1-15 - Return gardeners only

March 16-31 - Open for all residents and workers or volunteers for City of SPP

April 1 - Open to all applications

Opening date for individual garden plots is May 1, weather permitting for attachment of hose

Additional plots (beyond 2) will be available after Art and Garden event which is held the Saturday before Mother's Day.

Meeting adjourned 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Domeier, Secretary