



CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA AGENDA AND NOTICE OF MEETING

Regular Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of October 20, 2014
7:00 p.m.
Community Center – Senior Center

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. VISITORS

- A. Scheduling of Visitor Comments on Agenda Items
- B. General Visitors Comments

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Vets Field & Ramsey Park Upgrades Changes
- B. Veterans Memorial Update
- C.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. St. Peter Softball Association – Keith Hanson
- B. Outdoor Sports Facility Tournament Policy – Jane
- C. Review of updated Draft Master Plan

VII. REPORTS

- A. Department of Recreation and Leisure Services Update
- B. Department of Public Works
 - 1. Play Structure at MVED, 801 Davis Street
 - 2. Update on Washington Avenue Link Project/ Ramsey Park
 - 3.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

LGG/amg

Director of Public Works
Lewis G. Giesking

**DRAFT
CITY OF SAINT PETER, MINNESOTA**

MINUTES OF THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

September 15, 2014

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City of Saint Peter Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was conducted in the Conference Room of the Department of Public Works on September 15, 2014.

A quorum present, Chairperson Stu Douglas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following Board Members were present: L. Lee Alger, Steve Alger, Charles Burgess, Stu Douglas, Bill Kautt, Michael Looft, Larry Potts and David Ringler. The following Board Members were absent: Jeff Brand and Mike Meffert. The following ex-officios were present: Jane Timmerman, Recreation & Leisure Director.

Approval of Agenda – Larry Potts made a motion, seconded by Steve Alger, to approve the agenda. With all in favor, the agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes – Lee Alger made a motion, seconded by Charles Burgess, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2014 meeting. With all in favor, the minutes were approved.

Visitors – Jeff Knutson, representing the Saint Peter Baseball Association, presented recommendations for upgrades to Vets Field. The upgrades include; creating the existing bull pen for pitchers higher by making it 10 feet taller, creating a patio area along first baseline for lawn chairs and lower the fence 3 feet down for viewing, creating sidewalk within the baseball field complex fencing to access the restrooms easier. The Advisory Board voted and approved for the St. Peter Baseball Association to do all of their recommended upgrades. Discussion was made and the Advisory Board voted to amend the current vote and re-voted to approve pending city ordinance standards the upgrades to the batting cage and the patio seating area be approved, motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Review of Master Plan – The Advisory Board will review a first draft of the updated master plan at their next regular meeting.

New Business

- A. Proposed School/City Facilities Recommendation to the Council.
The Board discussed the priorities for the new community park proposed to be a joint School/City facility and made modifications to the resolution from October 18, 2004. The Board voted and approved the new resolution recommending an updated list of amenities, which will go to the Council.
- B. Veterans Memorial. The Advisory Board tabled this until the next regular meeting.

Reports

Jane Timmerman shared an update from Recreation & Leisure Department.

1. Summer Recreation Report – a handout was given showing the registration numbers for summer programs
2. Adult Softball Report – a handout was given showing the registration numbers
3. Blending Journey Program – a new pilot program helping immigrants with connecting within the community.

Tim Mayo reported on:

1. Area Clean up – Tim Mayo updated on all the great volunteers in the community that have been doing city clean up and Parks clean up.
2. Upper Rink for R/C Car Racing – An update was given and this activity is now done for the fall.
3. Play Structure at MVED, 801 Davis Street – The City and School are working to install play equipment by this fall.
4. Update on Washington Avenue Link Project – Shared with the group what is currently happening on the construction.

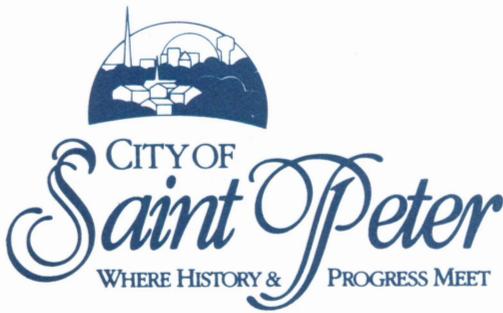
Adjournment – Lee Alger made a motion, seconded by David Ringler to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Stu Douglas, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Larry Potts, Recording Secretary

Note: Secretary signs when approved at next meeting, whether or not secretary was at the actual meeting. Chairperson attests to the signature.



Memorandum

TO: Park and Recreation Board Members

DATE: 9/16/2014

FROM: Todd Prafke
City Administrator

RE: Veteran's Memorial

ACTION/RECOMMENDATION

For your use, as directed by the Council, in review of the Saint Peter Veteran's Memorial submittals. The submittals should include site plan, sketch plan, rules for placement of names and a maintenance plan which includes funding.

BACKGROUND

Parks Board members may know of the many discussions held by the City Council on this issue. The intent of this memo is to provide general direction and a framework for your review of the proposed memorial to be located at the corner of South Minnesota Avenue and West College Avenue in the northeast corner of Minnesota Square Park.

This issue is particularly emotional for many and justifiably so. While we are not discussing Veterans and their valued service, we are discussing something that represents their efforts, commitments, and sacrifice. It can be very hard to separate the two.

Maybe this quote can serve as a bit of inspiration for this overall thought. (This is not a suggestion for use; just a quote that I think gets to the point well.)

'The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.'

Douglas MacArthur

The Council's established goal, because the location is in a City park, is to give the Parks Board and the Veterans Memorial Committee both imagery and some practical guidance on what the Council wishes to see. The Board should review the application based on the principles and criteria listed below, make suggestions as needed, and provide a recommendation to the Council related to approval of the final design, rules and policies including maintenance.

Principles:

"Freedom and Peace" (used by me) as compared to "Liberty and Freedom" used by the Veterans Memorial Chair in his comments from their visit to the City Council in mid-August. The concept of Freedom and Peace is highly suggested as it represents what we as a people want

to see and have. It is well worded by MacArthur in the quote used above. The Veterans Committee does not want to glorify war; rather they hope to provide recognition to those who served for these two purposes - Freedom and Peace. Additionally, this brings home the overarching thought that any local memorial is about people and not about branches of service, the materials of conflict or the organizations or war.

Subdued (used by both the Veterans Memorial Committee Chair and I at the August Council Workshop) - This means that we should avoid the feel of a roadside attraction. It should be reverent and not a place where we just stop to stretch our legs, let the kids out of the car, or maybe eat a bite. We recognize that war is a critical piece in the service experience of many Veterans. War is a highly emotional topic. Reactions to war range from pride to patriotism to grief to frustration to fear. All of these are deeply personal, acceptable reactions and as such a Veteran's memorial needs to provide opportunity for all to honor in the way that is most meaningful to the visitor.

Human Scale - This is meant to describe that it is not tall or wide or monolithic. One of the predominate things I hear repeatedly about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial's powerful impact is that visitors can touch each and every name. There is something about the sense of touch that is powerful for us. I believe that failing to make each name "touchable" or "traceable" would diminish any monument's ability to be personal and intimate. It is that intimate experience we seek when we look to commune with others in a way that the term "memorial" suggests.

"Simple" - We may not need tremendous imagery, pictures, visual reminders, or structures representing war or people. We each have our own imagery stored away for our own use that will be brought out as we interact with the memorial. We store the picture of our brother, father or sister within us. That image, shown as we want, as we want to see it, and the opportunity to not be told how to see it, should be preserved. If you close your eyes and see them, that is all the image that is needed. Beyond that we should strive to allow for simplicity of location and design so as to not to take away from each users opportunity to see what they want to see. I would also offer that a memorial is not really for those that have gone before us. It is really for us, for each of us who are still here, and we don't really need to be told how we should see things. This memorial is a framework for the experience of communing with others both here and those we still carry within us.

"Focus on individuals" - This means that the highlight should be about our local service men and women rather than the materials or organization of conflict. They have their own places where those very important institutions are recognized. Our goal should be to recognize our friends, family and neighbors who served. They should not be overshadowed by these other things. The memorial should be inward-looking towards the park, in keeping with its emphasis on locals honoring locals and the important use as part of Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veteran's Day celebrations.

"Accessible" (used by both the Committee and me at various times throughout the discussion) Certainly this memorial should be Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, but this thought also goes to it being open all the time, if illuminated only in a way that allows for use, not in a way like a billboard is illuminated. If there is to be a lit focal point, maybe it is the flag or any central art or statue that is put in place. All parts of the memorial can be used by all people, possibly incorporated into the current sidewalk and certainly attached to the current sidewalk so anyone can pass through it. Lastly, this refers to some of the other terms used such as "touchable". This should be a place that is not, figuratively speaking, behind a fence or in a

glass case. It needs to be designed in a way that allows for more than viewing. It must be alive and experiential in nature. You must feel something when you pass through it.

Specific Criteria:

- Located at the corner of South Minnesota Avenue and West College Avenue in the northeast corner of Minnesota Square Park.
- 3600 square feet in size excluding sidewalk.
- Height restriction of 48 inches, excepting flag or art (statue).
- Materials that can last for 100 years so rock, stone, and metal that is resistant to corrosion.
- Only three flags allowed - American, State and POW MIA.
- Lighting to be ground based or illuminating names, but subdued and recessed. Up lighting for flags.
- Only allowing the location name such as Veterans Memorial to have letters that are larger in size/font than the names plates. No larger than 12 inch letters for location signage lettering.
- No materials of war such as guns or tanks or planes.
- Name plates may use branch of service emblems, religious affiliation.
- Sidewalk to pavilion.
- Connectivity to both boulevard sidewalks (no trees cut down for sidewalk) or a single connection sidewalk could be placed in corner
- Maintenance fund provided that provides for ongoing maintenance to be done by City staff.
- Places to sit for contemplation
- No vertical elements within the set back (25 feet)
- Statue (if included) and base <10 ft. and a public competition for its design
- Current flag in Minnesota Square be eliminated and this location to meet that need in the future.

It is the role of the Board to receive the application and information described above. The Board should review the application based on the Principles and Criteria listed, make suggestions as needed and provide a recommendation to the Council related to approval of the final design, rules and policies.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns about this direction.

TP/bal