

## Eastview Tennis Courts and Play Area Community Meeting

### Minutes

May 14, 2018 from 6:00 – 7:30 PM  
Eastview Recreation Center, 1675 East 5<sup>th</sup> St.

Attendance: Jane Prince (Ward 7 City Council), Brandon (SPUT), Song (SPUT), Kevin T., Jessica, Joyce W., Katie R. (SPUT board), Emily B. (SPUT board), Stephanie (Ward 7 City Council), Kathy (Harding), Mike W. (City Rec), Diane V. (City Park Operations), Mike C. (City Park Operations), Brett (City Parks & Rec), Liz (City Parks & Rec), Lee (District Council 1), Brittney, Vicky, Sarah (SPUT), Patrick, Leland G.

Attendees were asked to provide written feedback by writing the plans or in our comment box

These minutes will stand as recorded unless edits are sent to [liz.hixson@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:liz.hixson@ci.stpaul.mn.us) by 5/31/2018

*Goal: Discuss two layout options for additional tennis courts at Eastview  
Discuss play area improvements including timeline and process*

- 1) 6:00 – 6:10 PM Welcome and introductions
  - a) Existing project update: construction began last fall and restarted today, should be done by June 1<sup>st</sup>. They are building two full tennis courts, a half-court basketball, and a bounce board with two practice tennis areas (one on each side of the board).
  
- 2) 6:10 – 6:40 PM Proposed courts, field, and play area improvements (St. Paul Parks & Rec)
  - a) Overview of project – St. Paul Urban Tennis (SPUT) has re-opened Eastview, and they would like to expand their program. Without SPUT, Eastview would have remained closed because the City doesn't have the ability to staff the rec center. SPUT came to the city with a proposal to add tennis courts, and City Parks & Rec is working with SPUT to adjust their proposed courts to maintain balanced access for the community.  
So long as SPUT raises the funds in time, the 5 additional courts shown in today's meeting will be built later this summer (2018).  
Potential new walkway from Rec Center back door to 6<sup>th</sup> St E
  - b) Two layouts, discuss pros and cons of each – both options add 5 tennis courts, making the total number of full tennis courts 7. Existing softball outfield overlap – so the areas we show as overlap are not new.

Questions and comments:

Neighborhood wants full court basketball. Nearby school has full court basketball but is kept locked after hours, want a full court with no fence. Full court would bring teams and more people to the park. Why half court?

Response: A half court is proposed in the 2010 Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Systems Plan. SPUT doesn't have staffing to regulate a full size court at this time. The proposed basketball court was designed to accommodate a second hoop and full size court in the future.

Wall at tennis blocks sight lines, concern for people hiding behind it. Want full court basketball and no practice wall/bounce board. Can bounce board go in a different place, can this be relocated?

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Response: Relocating the wall will only create obstructed sight lines at another location.

Need gates on fence around tennis courts. Will courts be locked?

Response: Gates will be included on the exterior perimeter. Courts will be locked over winter and reopened in the spring. Park tennis courts typically remain unlocked in the summer, parks will confirm with SPUT regarding their plans for the gates.

Want 3 softball fields – or at least the ability to have many team sports at the same time.

Response: Harding High School only requires two softball fields. Adult softball is trying the fields at Hazel Park for their games.

Can the slope be adjusted along the alley?

Response: While mowing can be challenging, the slope cannot be easily adjusted and there is no funding for a retaining wall.

Can posts be added along the alley to keep cars from driving up the hill and onto the fields?

Response: we will consider options to reduce off-roading vehicles including speed bumps. Posts would present an obstacle to mowing, but we can ask Parks Operations.

Could a guardrail be added at the boulevard to keep kids and balls from running into the street, and keep cars out? Response: See previous response.

Soccer field is used, we think Twin Cities Academy was using the field but perhaps they built their own field.

New sports coming in – they should schedule with SPUT

Volleyball often two teams at a time, will this be accommodated?

Response: Proposed layouts allow space for 2 to 4 volleyball nets.

Keep fence at edge of alley to stop balls in – 10 ft height ideally.

Response: Operations can consider a high fence behind the soccer nets to prevent ball from traveling into the alley.

Cars turn off White Bear and cut down 6<sup>th</sup> and through the alley, driving very fast. Can speed bumps be added to the alley to slow traffic down?

Response: Speed bumps are the responsibility of public works.

Will be good to have new surface and paint here at Eastview courts. Please keep commitment to neighborhood programming.

People kick and throw things against the fences and walls, it makes a loud noise, how can we stop this?

Response: Signs on fences can be posted.

How do we provide programming and services for kids in off hours – early morning, or later evening? Eastview Rec Center used to provide this.

Response: SPUT asks the community to work with them. Ask for programs, come talk to Song, Sarah, or Brandon. Want to grow, support, and contribute to the community. SPUT is working with a youth council group (youth voice), and has created the Warrior Leadership Academy program to engage teens.

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Could full court basketball take over grass area closer to the building?

Response: We want to keep that green area for seating and picnicking.

Can we add a fence at the basketball area to reduce conflict between tennis and basketball It is challenging to play at same time right now. Response: We will review this scenario. It would require posts that would interfere with a future full basketball court.

Want lights on the courts for safety.

Response: SPUT currently does not have the budget but lights can be add during future phases when funding becomes available.

- 3) 6:40 – 6:50 PM Discussion of upcoming play area improvements
- a) Project timeline – community meetings will be held this fall into early spring 2019. Construction will take place next spring/summer 2019.
  - b) If you are interested in giving feedback on play area layout, please sign up for the Design Advisory Committee (with sign-in sheet)

Suggestions:

- Please don't move the play area – current location has good sight lines
- Play area – don't put sand back in, or if possible put some sand in and as budget allows replace with resilient surfacing.

Questions:

Are you removing the horseshoe courts? They are not used. Want seating in that area.

Response: Removing the courts will need to be a public decision. If approved, it could be completed during the play area improvements.

- 4) 6:50 – 7:00 PM Wrap-up
- a) Next Steps and Schedule
  - b) Questions

Written comments:

We want to be a part b/4 decisions are made – all is taken away from us

Please let us know @ Harding if you decide upon fewer than 2 softball fields. Having 2 is critical to our programming. Thanks for all your hard work – Kathy J., Harding A.D.