

**Resolution # 18-20**  
**Parkland Diversion At 420 Portland Avenue**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The owners of 420 Portland Ave have requested to purchase a portion of the parcel containing Nathan Hale Park. The purpose of this request is to increase the size of their narrow front yard and “square off” their parcel.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

The City of Saint Paul acquired Nathan Hale Park for park purposes in 1913 for a price of \$5,000 (\$126,000 in 2018 dollars). The applicants purchased their home adjacent to Nathan Hale Park in 2016. The applicants installed a fence and landscaping in 2017 in their front yard and the adjacent parkland. Parks and Recreation was notified about the encroachment through an anonymous neighbor complaint. The applicants were ordered to remove the portions of fence and landscaping in the parkland. A deadline was established to remove the encroachment and was subsequently extended to October 31, 2018. The applicants have proposed as an alternative to purchase the parkland in question. A proposal was brought to the Commission at its September meeting which failed on a 3-3 vote. This is an updated proposal that reduces the requested diversion from 1,322 square feet to 745 square feet. Even with this update, staff does not find in this application a level of hardship usually advised in cases of selling outright portions of public parks. Staff recommends denying the proposed diversion.

**REQUEST OF THE COMMISSION:**

Do not approve the sale of 745 square feet of parkland adjacent to 420 Portland Ave.

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS:**

No community concerns have been received on the proposal, however a resident complaint about the park encroachment was received. A letter of support was received from the Summit-University Planning Council.

