

From: Leslie McMurray [mailto:d5-director@visi.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2013 5:22 PM
To: Humphrey, Robert (CI-StPaul); Meyer, Brad (CI-StPaul); Lee, Chai (CI-StPaul)
Subject: RE: DSI & Parks Response re. 676 Wells Petition

Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council , Community Planning & Economic Development Committee (CPED)

Chair: Jonathan Bohn

August 7th, 2013 at 6:30 PM at 722 Payne Avenue (Eastern District Police Station).

From: Humphrey, Robert (CI-StPaul) [mailto:robert.humphrey@ci.stpaul.mn.us]
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2013 3:36 PM
To: Leslie McMurray (d5-director@visi.com); Meyer, Brad (CI-StPaul); Lee, Chai (CI-StPaul)
Subject: DSI & Parks Response re. 676 Wells Petition

Thank you for submitting the petition and expressing your concern and feedback. Public safety is always the first priority of the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department (Parks) and the Saint Paul Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI). Prior to Parks and Recreation officially becoming the land owner last month, the materials at 680 Wells were constructed without any permits or authorization from the City on City-owned property. DSI became aware of the materials and inspected them for safety. At the inspection, DSI determined that the wall itself and much of the material on site were significant hazards to passers-by. The DSI Building Official also determined that the handrail and other portions of the site offered a degree of false protection and could easily fail at any time for any reason. Following the inspection, the Parks and Recreation Department was notified by DSI of its findings of significant public safety hazards and was made aware that those materials need to be removed.

As I am sure you can appreciate, it is of the utmost importance that the city have safe, stable structures on its property and those that are deemed unsafe or unstable – in this case, 680 Wells – are addressed.

As a supporter of public art, the Parks and Recreation Department has embraced its growing popularity and demand throughout the city. The department is always open and willing to have meaningful discussions with the community about public art (much like was done and accomplished at the neighboring Eastside Heritage Park a few years ago). So, to address the community's concerns about this property, and have a meaningful discussion about the remaining materials on the site that haven't been deemed hazardous, staff from the Parks and Recreation Department and DSI have agreed to attend the Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council's monthly Community Planning and Economic Development meeting on August 7.

We hope this information is helpful to you, and are looking forward to having a productive dialogue on August 7. If you have additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mike Hahm, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

Ricardo Cervantes, Director
Department of Safety and Inspections