

**Meeting Minutes**  
**New Prague Park Board**  
**Tuesday, June 13, 2006**  
**6:30 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Chairperson Jim Westall. Members present were Stacey Witty, Amy Jirik, Kay Wilcox, J.C. Ingebrand and Jim Westall. Absent were Kristin Guerrette, Dominic McConnell, Mark Remfert and Katie Trewartha. Staff present was Ken Ondich – City Planner, Jim Calliguri – Parks Maintenance Supervisor and Dennis Seurer – Public Works Director.

**2. Review Financial Reports**

Planner Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board.

A motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by Jirik to accept the financial reports as presented, which passed unanimously (5-0).

Kay Wilcox asked for a total of the costs attributed to the Sliding Hill Skate Park Program at the completion of the project.

Planner Ondich indicated that he could provide a total at the end of the project.

**3. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Witty, seconded by Ingebrand to approve the May 16, 2006 meeting minutes, which passed unanimously (5-0).

**4. Sliding Hill Skate Park – Hockey Rink**

Planner Ondich provided background information regarding the hockey rink idea to the Park Board. He noted that option 1 from Witt Development was a hockey rink board system on grass for \$39,000 and paving the rink as option 2 would bring the cost up to \$82,000. He noted that the paving cost has gone up considerably from last month because the park construction work has progressed on the site. He noted that the City of Eden Prairie had noted problems with the board system but that the City had met with Athletica and were assured that the boards are not manufactured at the same molding facility any longer. He noted that staff supports the board system installed on grass at

this time. He noted that the engineers estimate for paving the hockey rink is now \$55,970 which is \$12,970 more than Witt's previous quote. He noted that paving the rink requires ponding and that the pond would cost approximately \$6,000. He added that he forgot to discuss lighting at last month's meeting and that lighting would be expected to cost at least \$11,000. He noted that goals would be \$975 per pair plus shipping and tax. He noted that some support letters for the hockey rink were included in the packet for review. He summarized the City Attorney's comments and noted that if the City is given the money and contracts the work on its own parts of the project would not have to be competitively bid, but that the paving and ponding work would have to be as they are a similar type of work item. He noted that \$100,000 is all the Witt Development would potentially owe for park land dedication and that the value of paving the rink and all associated costs is \$11,920 over the \$100,000 and that the City does not have other money to help pay for the improvements at this time. He ended by noting that both the City and Witt Development will need to come to an agreement on any amendment to the developer's agreement for Eastland.

Jim Westall asked if the base of the hockey rink could be ag-lime based rather than bituminous based or grass based.

Planner Ondich stated that he believed that ag-lime surface would be considered an impervious surface and therefore would trigger the ponding requirement.

Jim Calliguri stated that with blacktop you end up with a shorter skating season, especially because of melting that takes place at the north end of the rink where the sun is strongest throughout the day. He added that seal coating and crack sealing is really not an option for maintenance if the bituminous surface is intended to be used for inline hockey in the summer months because inline skate wheels would get stuck in the crack sealing.

Kay Wilcox stated that she felt that the \$100,000 for the Park Land Dedication for the Eastland Development should go to payments for land as it is intended for. She did note, however, that she sees the need for the hockey rink in the community as well. She suggested that the City could use \$39,000 for the rink boards, \$11,000 lights and \$1,000 for the hockey goals and to use the remaining land dedication money for the Athletic Complex land payments.

Planner Ondich stated that he believed that Witt Development was not interested in paying their land dedication money at this time if it were not to be used for hockey facilities and that they may not agree for \$50,000 of it to be used for land payments. He stated that another option would be to obtain roughly \$50,000 for the boards, lights and goals and to keep the remaining \$50,000 or 2 acres of park land dedication in the Eastland Developers agreement.

Dennis Seurer stated that the first thing residents will be asking for once the rink is up will be a warming house at the site. He stated that it may not be asked for the first year, but that it would definitely become an issue in the future if the rink is installed.

Jim Westall stated that he would like to see the hockey association help out with the cost for the lighting or other facilities out on the site.

Stacey Witty stated that she was on the hockey board for the past four years but was not longer on the board. She stated that the hockey players would not be the ones using the hockey rink because they spend enough time on the ice for organized hockey. She stated that she sees the new city hockey rink for “non-hockey” players who just want to play an unorganized game with their friends.

Commissioner Wilcox asked what the cost of a warming house would be.

Planner Ondich indicated that the City had not previously obtained any quotes for a warming house at the Sliding Hill Park and only provided a place to build one in the park due to lack of funding at this time.

Stacey Witty stated that the hockey association built the warming house at the community center. She added that hockey association volunteers would probably be willing to help out with the hockey rink in the winter such as flooding.

J.C. Ingebrand asked if about \$50,000 was left over from the \$100,000 for a warming house if the rink is not paved.

Kay Wilcox stated that staff should research for next months park board meeting the cost of a warming house that Witt could construct and to have some plans and estimates to present at the meeting.

Jim Westall asked for clarification on the issue. He stated that the Park Board is in favor of the hockey boards, lights, hockey goals, and a warming house. He asked that staff provide with Witt’s assistance costs for different warming house facilities for the site.

A motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by Witty to table the issue until the July Park Board Meeting to gather further information regarding the costs of warming houses that could be constructed on the site, which passed (5-0).

## **5. Field Fences at Northside Park**

Planner Ondich provided background information regarding the field fences at Northside Park. He noted that at the April Park Board Meeting it was discussed to allow the New Prague Fire Department to install fences along the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> base lines at Northside Park, but that the funding was not a done deal. He noted that since the meeting the Fire

Department did not decide to fund the full amount and are willing to donate \$200 towards the total \$2,800 for the fences with the condition that the fence would have to be installed this summer otherwise their offer will expire. He noted that the Park Board has approximately \$5,800 remaining in the 2006 Budget funds.

Amy Jirik stated that the fences are not needed, especially for the younger kids that use the field. She added that the money could better be used elsewhere.

J.C. Ingebrand stated that the field has been there 30 years and it has never been an issue before.

Kay Wilcox stated that she thought the letter from the Fire Department was a very poor way to phrase a donation to the City in that the fence would have to be installed this summer for their donation offer to be valid.

Dennis Seurer stated that he was initially contacted by the Fire Department that they might be willing to donate the money for the fences, but that it apparently had not been discussed with the full department. He stated that the issue was forwarded to the Park Board back in April for consideration to allow them to install the fences, but that there was an apparent mix up in the department about the funding.

Kay Wilcox asked how far the fences would extend.

Planner Ondich stated that they are 90' long fences.

Kay Wilcox stated that they fence project should be put off until next year because there is only \$5,000 left in the budget for the current year.

The Park Board agreed that the project was a good idea for safety purposes, but that it could wait until 2007 to be completed.

## **6. Future Park Board Trail and Sidewalk Projects Memo**

Planner Ondich provided background information regarding the future trail and sidewalk projects. He noted that the 4 specific projects were last reviewed in February by the Park board and that a memo was to be drafted by staff and reviewed by the Park Board before being submitted to the City Council for consideration. He presented the memo, project list and map of the projects for review. He noted that the trail connection from Raven Stream Village to Foundry Hill Park could be eligible for a Safe Routes to School Grant from Mn/DOT in the future.

Kay Wilcox stated that she did not expect the City Council take on all the projects in one year, but rather that one project per year could be completed. She stated that adding one

project per year onto a street reconstruction project would be the best way to accomplish getting the trails done.

A motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by Jirik to forward the Future Trail and Sidewalk Projects memo along with the cost estimate and map to the City Council for consideration that one project be done each year in combination with a street reconstruction project, which passed (5-0).

## **7. Bleachers for the Skate Park**

Planning Ondich presented a quote for the bleachers at the skate park that are required as part of the grant project. He noted that the grant had funded \$3,000 for the bleachers, but that he found a better deal than anticipated from Flanagan Sales Inc. He noted that the 4 tier, 40 capacity bleacher would be a total \$1,791.82 and that the bleacher meets all safety regulations because of their lower height.

A motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by Witty to purchase the 4 tier bleacher for the Skate Park from Flanagan Sales in from the Park Equipment Fund (grant project) in the amount of \$1,791.82, which passed (5-0).

## **8. Miscellaneous**

**A. Park Reservation Deposit Concern** – Planner Ondich noted that City staff has been receiving concerns from those reserving park shelters about the \$100.00 damage deposit about vandalism that could occur during the night or over the weekend after they have used a shelter.

Jim Calliguri stated that park staff does work on the weekends emptying trash and cleaning the bathrooms following and between shelter rental times. He stated that he did not see a concern with someone loosing a deposit check due to vandalism because the parks are generally looked at following their rental times. He did note that if rentals go late in the evening there is a chance that vandalism could occur during the night, but there was not much that could be done about that.

Planner Ondich stated that the Police Department tries to lock up shelters at night and would notice and obvious vandalism at shelters or parks.

Jim Westall stated that if someone has a problem with the deposit fee that they are welcome to come speak with the Park Board about the problem.

**B. Library Gardens Clean-up** –Kay Wilcox suggested that the Park Board clean up the gardens at the Library this year instead of Philipps Park. She asked the Park Board to discuss a time to conduct the clean up.

It was discussed that sentence to serve could be used for cleaning up the garden area or possibly even the ladies that tend the flowers at the golf course.

The Park Board decided that Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM would be a good time for the cleanup at the library garden.

Planner Ondich stated that he would send out an e-mail to the Park Board as a reminder.

**C. Berm Along County Road 15 north of Heritage Estates** – Kay Wilcox asked who is responsible for mowing the large berm between Heritage Estates and County Road 15.

Dennis Seurer indicated that he did not have an answer and would look into the matter since it was adjacent to the County Road.

**D. Heritage Pond Trail** – Kay Wilcox asked when the Heritage Trail over the island in the pond would be getting completed.

Planner Ondich indicated that Witt Development has decided not to install the improvement. He added that the trail and improvement on the island was not a requirement of any plat process and that they had asked last year about installing the trail and improvements over and above what they were required to.

**E. White rocks by Golf Course Parking Area** – Dennis Seurer stated that some of the white rocks by the new parking area by the Park Ballroom and Golf Course would have to be moved or removed because the area never previously had curb and gutter and he asked the Park Board for input on the matter.

The Park Board stated that the ones around the actual park area should be left but that the ones that need to be moved can be moved to other places in the park.

**F. Sidewalk Connection to Greenway Park/Brahna Area** – J.C. Ingebrand stated that the sidewalk connect from the Main Street sidewalk to the Greenway Park/Brahna area is difficult and is not a smooth transition. He also noted that the wood timbers around the parking area there look bad and could be removed.

**G. Dead Trees in Parks** – The Park Board noted the dead trees in the parks.

City Staff noted that a likely cause of some of the tree deaths was the weed killer that was used at the base of trees in the past couple of years which is currently not used. It was noted that the salesperson for the chemical said it was safe for trees when in fact it was harmful.

## 9. Adjournment

A motion was made at 7:45 PM to adjourn the meeting by Ingebrand. Chairperson Westall ordered the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Ondich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "K" and "O".

Ken Ondich  
City Planner