

**Meeting Minutes  
New Prague Park Board  
Tuesday, February 10, 2009  
6:30 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Dominic McConnell. Members present were Allen Mahowald, Dominic McConnell, Teri Hodapp, Amy Jirik, Mike Slavik and Katie Leaver. Youth members present were Kaitlyn O'Neill and Karynn Lehne. Absent was Kay Wilcox. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning Director and Jim Calliguri – Parks Maintenance Supervisor.

**2. Introduction of New Park Board Members**

All those present at the meeting introduced themselves including the new regular Park Board members Kathleen Leaver and Mike Slavik and additionally the new youth representatives Kaitlyn O'Neill and Karynn Lehne.

**3. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2009**

A motion was made by Mahowald, seconded by Hodapp to elect Dominic McConnell as Chair for 2009, which passed unanimously (6-0).

A motion was made by McConnell, seconded by Slavik to elect Allen Mahowald as Vice Chair for 2009, which passed unanimously (6-0).

**4. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Jirik, seconded by Mahowald to approve the December 9, 2008 meeting minutes, which passed unanimously (6-0).

**5. Review Financial Reports and 2008 Park Fees Summary**

Planning Director Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board, noting that during the month of December an additional \$1,082.87 and during the month of January and additional \$297.50 was added to the Park Equipment Fund from residential and commercial permits. He also noted that the 2008 Park Fees received were by far the lowest total dating back to 2001 and was largely attributed to a lack of single family home construction during the year.

A motion was made by Hodapp, seconded by Slavik to accept the financial reports as presented, which passed unanimously (6-0).

## **6. Athletic Complex Plan Information**

Planning Director Ondich stated that as requested at the December 2008 meeting, attached to the packet was a map and concept layout of the Athletic Complex Land the City owns at the intersection of CR 29 and TH 21. He stated that the City owns the east 40 acres currently and that the west 40 acres are not owned by the City but the City does have the first right of refusal. He noted that also included were some of the concept cost estimates for review. He stated that there was no formal approval process for the concept layout that is included in the packet and it was created to show what could be included on the land and what potential costs were. He noted that some of the facilities and locations can and should change between now and actual development. He noted that with recent budget cuts it is not likely the City would attempt another referendum to fund the park development and that the City and School district may need to work together on the park as it serves a regional purpose for both softball and soccer facilities.

Dominic McConnell noted that the athletic complex was related to the redevelopment of Memorial Park and the removal of a softball field. He stated that there is also a plan drawing of the Memorial Park Master Plan.

Planning Director Ondich stated that he would provide the Memorial Park Master plan at the March meeting.

## **7. Existing Sidewalk/Trails and Future Trail Map**

Planning Director Ondich stated that as requested at the December 2008 meeting, attached to the packet was a map depicting the existing sidewalks and trails in the City of New Prague. He stated that also shown on the map are the future trail corridors and connections. He stated that associated sidewalk and trail data is also regarding condition, year of construction and seal coating date if applicable.

## **8. Warming House at Sliding Hill Skate Park**

Planning Director Ondich stated since the December meeting it has come to staff's attention that Jim Kratochvil (local contractor and former Council member) has verbally offered to provide volunteer labor to construct a warming house at Sliding Hill Skate Park. He stated that the City would be responsible for paying the materials costs. He stated that at this time no price has been indicated for materials, but a possible shelter size of 26' x 26' has been discussed by the Park Board in the past. He stated that it would seem that a materials cost of \$20,000+ would be expected for a vandalism resistant block building and that no location for the building is determined at this time. He noted that associated with the warming house is the requirement to have an attendant on site. This would be an additional expense for the City to pay part time wages for staffing unless volunteer labor was utilized.

He stated that at this time staff is looking for input on the idea of having the volunteer labor for the warming house and to pick up the cost of materials from the Park Equipment Fund. He noted that member Kay Wilcox was unable to attend the meeting but noted that she supports moving forward with the planning and construction of a warming house and that Mr. Kratochvil would follow through on the labor for the project until completed.

Katie Leaver noted that volunteer groups could possibly be used for warming house attendants to save on labor costs.

Various discussion about the possible location of the warming house took place, noting that a location for use by both the sliding hill users and ice skating rink users would be ideal.

A motion was made by Leaver, seconded by Slavik, to continue to pursue the volunteer labor from Jim Kratochvil for the warming house and to further obtain a materials quote for a structure for further review at the March 2009 meeting, which passed unanimously (6-0).

## **9. Miscellaneous**

- A. 2009 Park Board Projects and Goals** – Planning Director Ondich stated that as a reminder and as new information for new Park Board Members, staff has once again included the 2009 Park Board Projects and Goals for information as we move into 2009. He stated that a priority number was assigned to the goals due to potential cuts to the Park Board Budget for 2009. He asked the Park Board if they would like to revise the priority list, but noted that it was possible that the City Council would not cut the budget for 2009. He did note that for 2010 cuts were very likely to the Park Board budget.

Allen Mahowald stated that instead of purchasing trees as noted in the budget he recommended seeking a local donation or donations instead.

Katie Leaver stated that the City could also look into obtaining trees from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The Park Board did not make any revisions to the priority of park board budget items and would revisit at a later date if needed.

- B. 2009 Meeting Schedule**– The list of 2009 Park Board Meeting dates is attached to the packet as information only.
- C. StarTribune Skating Rink Article: 1/21/2009** – Included in the packet is an article about the City of Bloomington's Ice Skating Rinks. This article was provided for informational purposes only.
- D. Sledding Hill Risk Management Article** - Included in the packet is an article regarding sledding hill risk management issues from the League of Minnesota

Cities Magazine from January 2009. This article was provided for informational purposes only.

- E. Glass in Memorial Park Volleyball Area** - Kaitlyn O'Neill stated that in the past she had noticed broken glass in the volleyball area in Memorial Park.

Staff stated that they do inspect the area and would continue to do so into 2009.

- F. Park Board Information** – Mike Slavik stated he feels the Park Board should have more presence in the Newspaper.

## **10. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Jirik, seconded by Mahowald, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 P.M., which passed unanimously (6-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Ondich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Ondich  
Planning Director