

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, January 9, 2007
6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ingebrand, seconded by Jirik to approve the December 5, 2006 meeting minutes, which passed unanimously (3-0, Guerrette arrived during the 4th agenda item).

3. Review Financial Reports

Planner Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board. He noted that \$20,000 was added to the Park Board Budget as of January 1, 2007 and also that the school district had just paid their \$30,000 park fee. He stated that the final page of the financial was a quarterly breakdown of park equipment funds received for the past few years including 2006 totals.

A motion was made by Jirik, seconded by Ingebrand to accept the financial reports as presented, which passed unanimously (3-0, Guerrette arrived during the 4th agenda item).

4. Archery Range Discussion – Dennis Tietz

Dennis Tietz, 507 Chalupsky Ave. NE, stated that he is very interested in having an archery range in the City of New Prague. He stated that he is attending the meeting to represent 50 to 60 people in the area that are in favor of having an archery park. He stated that Karla Schultz, a teacher in the athletic department at the high school, had received a \$5,000 grant for archery from the National Wild Turkey Federation that could possibly be used for targets or assisting with other needed work at the park.

John Love stated that he was at the meeting in support of an archery range as well. He noted that he works at Schaffer Performance Archery in Burnsville and can assist with setting up a range.

Dominic McConnell asked if there is a local archery association.

Mr. Love stated that there is not any local association for archery at this time, but that such a group would likely form after a range opens.

J.C. Ingebrand asked when the range would be open for using during the year.

Mr. Love stated that an archery range could be open year round considering the targets can withstand the elements. He stated that Excelsior Targets is the target brand that he knows about which are a manmade material that can be outside all the time.

Mr. Tietz stated that he would also like to have a small shed next to the range as well.

Amy Jirik asked if there were any maintenance issues for an archery range.

Mr. Tietz stated that mowing grass would probably be the main maintenance issue.

Kristin Guerrette asked if archery equipment is available locally.

Mr. Tietz stated that the school is very much in support of an archery range at the Sliding Hill Skate Park because they would be able to walk to it.

Dominic McConnell stated that it seemed the board is in favor of the idea of an archery range, but the details just need to be worked out.

J.C. Ingebrand stated that he thinks an archery range is a good idea.

Planner Ondich noted that there is an issue with the City Code that prohibits archery in city parks, but that it could be changed to allow archery only in designated park areas. He added that rules signage would also be needed for an archery range.

Mr. Love stated that there isn't much width that is needed for an archery range.

Mr. Tietz stated that 100 yards would be the maximum length needed for the range with the average shooting distance being closer to 20 to 50 yards. He stated that he would research the price of targets and also take a look at the area in the Sliding Hill Skate Park north of the sliding hill to see how much dirt might have to be moved to create a flat area and berm behind the target area. He asked if he should get a petition together from the interested users of an archery range to demonstrate a need for it.

Dominic McConnell stated that he would like to see a local group formed at some point.

J.C. Ingebrand asked if there were grants available for public archery ranges.

Mr. Ondich stated that the DNR does have a grant program for archery ranges.

Amy Jirik stated that she would ask Brandon Witt about the earth work that might need to be done to accommodate an archery range north of the sliding hill.

Mr. Tietz stated that he would contact the New Prague and New Market Sportsman Clubs to see if they are interested in supporting a local archery range. He stated he would also get back in touch with Karla Schultz at the school to see if she would possibly come to the next park board meeting.

J.C. Ingebrand asked Mr. Tietz and Mr. Love to check out the site and to get some figures on costs and layouts and to report back to the park board.

The Park Board thanked Mr. Tietz and Mr. Love for attending the meeting.

5. Park Entrance Signs:

Sliding Hill Skate Park – authorize purchase

Foundry Hill Park – authorize purchase

Planner Ondich stated that he had received current quotes for the sign park entrance signs for Sliding Hill Skate Park and Foundry Hill Park. He stated that Brushwork quoted a total of \$3,240 for the two signs and that Nameplate and Panel Technologies quoted \$440 for two narrative nameplate signs. He noted that the approved narratives and color sign renderings were attached to the packet.

A motion was made by Ingebrand, seconded by Guerrette, to purchase the new park entrance signs for Sliding Hill Skate Park and Foundry Hill Park from Brushwork Signs and Nameplate and Panel Technologies to be paid from the 2007 Park Board Budget in the amount of \$1,840 per sign, which passed unanimously (4-0).

6. Authorize install of infant swing set for Memorial Park

Planner Ondich stated that in association with the installation of the infant swing set for Memorial Park there is a need for a sidewalk surround and woodchips under the set which are expected to cost \$4,500. He noted that an aerial photo of the playground area and safety zone drawing of the swing set was included in the packet.

A motion was made by Guerrette, seconded by Jirik, to purchase the materials for the sidewalk surround and wood fiber safety materials to be paid from the Park Equipment Fund in the amount of \$4,500, which passed unanimously (4-0).

7. Authorize bathroom surrounds for Settlers Park and Sliding Hill Skate Park

Planner Ondich stated that wooden bathroom surrounds for ADA portable toilets at Sliding Hill Skate Park and Settlers Park could be constructed by parks staff at a total

cost of about \$4,200 for the materials which would include concrete bases. He stated that the surrounds would be made of Cedar with green treated framing. He stated that the surrounds would anchor in the toilets and would help to cut down on vandalism. He stated that an example picture of the surround at Southside Park was included in the packet.

A motion was made by Guerrette, seconded by Ingebrand, to purchase the materials for the construction and installation of the bathroom surrounds for the ADA portable toilets for Settlers Park and Sliding Hill Skate Park in the amount of \$4,200 from the Park Equipment Fund, which passed unanimously (4-0).

8. Heritage Estates Park Development Discussion

Planner Ondich stated that he had included a packet of information about the possible development of Heritage Park. He noted that it appeared the city would have funds available to install some sort of playground equipment at Heritage Park this year, but noted that there were other considerations to make before making a final decision such as if a large park structure would be wise at this time because the park is not at its final size yet.

Kristin Guerrette stated that she would like to explore the idea of a splash park. She stated that she knows of one that exists in St. Louis Park. She stated that a splash park is just a flat area with a rubberized floor with different fixtures that spray water. She stated that it would be a new idea that we don't currently have in the city and it would allow for future development of the park.

Amy Jirik stated that parking could become an issue if it were a popular summer destination.

Kristin Guerrette stated that she is not in favor of installing large equipment in the park at this time.

J.C. Ingebrand stated that he would rather install some equipment at the park now rather than to not do anything at all. He stated even if equipment had to be moved in 5 to 10 years it would still get used by all the children in the meantime. He stated that a climber and a swing set and a 2-5 year old play structure could be a simple design. He asked that staff contact Flanagan Sales about getting a couple of layouts under the \$50,000 price range for everything included.

Planner Ondich added that there is also the idea of adding hockey boards and a warming house at the Sliding Hill Skate Park. He also stated that for approximately \$20,000 the skate park first phase could be finished up with street course equipment and that a drinking fountain has also been requested at the park.

9. Yearly Goals: 2007

Planner Ondich presented a draft listing of goals for 2007. He asked the Park Board to discuss and make changes as desired.

Dominic McConnell stated that he didn't know if it could be a 2007 goal or not, but he would like to explore the idea of having a dog park in New Prague.

Planner Ondich stated that Foundry Hill Park would seem to have room for such an area.

Amy Jirik expressed possible concerns over barking dogs if a park were new homes.

Planner Ondich stated that he would revise the goals list and bring it back for adopting at the February meeting when new members of the Park Board would be at the meeting.

10. Miscellaneous

- A. Philipps Park Project Update – Plaza and Landscaping** – Planner Ondich stated that starting this summer the work will finally begin and be completed on the Philipps Park Project which is in association with a Community Roadside Landscaping Grant we received from Mn/DOT for new trees, ditch cleaning and native grass plantings at Philipps Park. He stated that the City Council also approved a sitting wall and plaza area on the corner of the park, but Mn/DOT cautions putting in the plaza and sitting wall at this time because the installation of a roundabout at the intersection would require its removal. He noted that there are currently not any plans for upgrading the intersection, but that it would not be wise to spend over \$20,000 to see it removed with a change at the intersection. He stated that he may have more information at the February Meeting regarding the project.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ken Ondich
City Planner