

**Meeting Minutes  
New Prague Park Board  
Tuesday, May 16, 2006  
6:30 PM**

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM to begin the park tour. Members present were Dominic McConnell, Stacey Witty, Amy Jirik, Katie Trewartha, and Mark Remfert. Absent was Kay Wilcox, Jim Westall, and J.C. Ingebrand (Kristin Guerrette arrived at the meeting for the start of the regular business). Staff present was Ken Ondich – City Planner, Jim Calliguri – Parks Maintenance Supervisor and Ron Tuma – Parks Worker.

**2. Annual Park Tour-**

The Park Board made its annual tour of four parks. The Parks Toured this year were Memorial Park, Greenway Park, Foundry Hill Park, and Southside Park.

At Memorial Park the Oral Log Cabin was reviewed and opened up for inspection. It was noted that the cabin would need to be cleaned up a bit before it is used for the Sesquicentennial Celebration in July. Amy Jirik pointed out that the Memorial Monument by the softball field appeared to be leaning and asked parks staff to take a closer look at it.

At Greenway Park the path width was reviewed. It was noted that the width of the paths were slightly under 8' in width. It was also noted that many trees had died in the park over the past couple of years including evergreen trees and deciduous trees.

At Foundry Hill Park the woods located at the west side of the park adjacent to Raven Stream Village were reviewed. It was noted by parks staff that there is a creek or drainage way running adjacent to the east side of the woods that could impede the installation of a path from Foundry Hill Park to Raven Stream Village.

At Southside Park the many trees that had died in the park were reviewed. The Park Board also reviewed the drainage pond and noted that it was at a very low sustained water level lately. The disc golf course was also reviewed and it was noted that some of the “tee areas” were missing the marker posts that tell you what hole it is.

**3. Regular Business @ 6:40 PM at City Hall**

The Park Board returned to City Hall after the annual park tour was completed. Vice Chairperson Kristin Guerrette called the regular business meeting to order.

**4. Sliding Hill Skate Park- Awarded Bid/Change Order/Hockey Rink**

Jason Witt, Witt Construction, was present to show the Park Board a proposal to install a hockey rink at the Sliding Hill Skate Park in lieu of a portion of the park land dedication required for their Eastland development. He noted that they were required to donate 4 acres of land or \$100,000 for the park land dedication. He stated that for 15 years he has been asking the City to install a city maintained hockey rink in a City park. He stated that winter park facilities in New Prague have been lacking and that he'd like to see more emphasis on the winter activities. He stated that the City of Burnsville has 30 hockey rinks that they maintain. He presented a brochure and pictures of a polyethylene board rink system from the Athletica Company based in Minneapolis. He stated that the City of Minnetonka has purchased 12 of their Gameplex board systems. He presented two options to the Park Board to consider.

Option 1 is what was called a portable board system which would be installed by Witt the first setup. It would be the Gameplex system from Athletica. He noted that take up and tear down in the spring and fall takes the City of Minnetonka about 6 hours for three workers. The rink would be 78' wide by 178' long and would have a grass base for flooding. He noted that this rink option would cost \$39,000.

Option 2 is what was called the permanent board system. It would be the same boards as in option 1, but the system would be installed on a blacktop base and would be left up permanently year round and could be used for roller hockey in the summer. He noted that this option would cost \$82,000 and would easily be \$5,000 or \$10,000 more if done later because they will have their equipment on site already for the rest of the construction project.

Jim Calliguri stated that the City of Eden Prairie had similar plastic hockey board systems which would easily be damaged in the cold weather by skates and would require the replacement of sections of the boards.

Mr. Witt stated that the City of Minnetonka has 12 rinks purchased from Athletica. He noted that each 8' section of the rink could be replaced and cost \$375. He stated that the outdoor rink at the Community Center is currently wood and is maintained by the hockey association.

Jim Calliguri asked what the cost of a wood board system might be.

Mr. Witt stated that the wood board system cost could be similar to the cost of the Athletica system.

Kristin Guerrette asked if the hockey rink would be in lieu of some of the park land dedication.

Stacey Witty stated that she has been on the hockey association board for the past four years. She stated that the schools have no place to skate. She added that there is no ice skating or hockey for most of the kids in the City due to a lack of rinks. She stated that St. Peter is of a similar size to New Prague and has outdoor City rinks.

Planner Ondich stated that the park site was not designed to accommodate a fully paved hockey rink area. He stated that paving the hockey rink area with blacktop might require additional ponding to be accounted for on the site which could be very costly. He stated that he would need to contact the City Engineer to determine what would be required if the hockey rink were to be paved.

Dominic McConnell stated that he likes the idea of trading land for a hockey rink in the park. He stated that he is a little concerned that Witt Construction would get to pick out the board system.

Kristin Guerrette stated that she likes option 2 with the paving of the hockey rink area.

Jim Calliguri stated that blacktop absorbs the heat on the north side of the rinks and you end up having bad ice for most of the winter.

Mr. Witt stated that you can paint the blacktop white, but then you have a big maintenance issue year after year. He stated that because the rink could be used year round with the black top for roller hockey that loosing the ice early and late in the winter would not be a big problem.

Jim Calliguri stated that he has thought about the idea of an aglime base for a hockey rink.

Kristin Guerrette stated that if the hockey rink area were paved that kids would use it in the summer for roller hockey.

The Park Board indicated that they were supportive of the general idea to exchange some park dedication land from the Eastland Development for a hockey rink in the Sliding Hill Skate Park. They directed staff to further research the two options and to report back to the Park Board at the June meeting.

Kristin Guerrette asked if a motion was required for the change order to move the water line and hydrant to better accommodate flooding of the ice skating areas.

A motion was made by Guerrette, seconded by McConnell to approve the change order in the amount of \$3,523.00 to extend the water line and move the location of the hydrant north and centered between the two ice skating rink areas in the Sliding Hill Skate Park for easier flooding, which passed unanimously (4-0, Wilcox, Ingebrand and Westall absent).

Jason Witt gave an update on the construction progress at the Sliding Hill Skate Park.

## **5. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by McConnell, seconded by Witty to approve the April 10, 2006 meeting minutes, which passed unanimously (4-0).

## **6. Review Financial Reports**

Planner Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board.

A motion was made by Guerrette, seconded by McConnell to accept the financial reports as presented, which passed unanimously (4-0).

## **7. Parks Brochure Update**

Planner Ondich provided an update on the Parks Brochure project with Minnesota State University, Mankato. He stated that at last month's meeting the cost for 5,000 brochures was \$2,500 and the Park Board felt that they didn't need that many brochures. He stated that the price of 2,500 brochures would be \$1,500 and if the City would like to purchase the printing "plates" and to have them provide high quality .PDF files to put on the city website and for printing they could provide this for an extra \$100.00. He stated that he felt \$1,600 was a fair price for the brochures.

A motion was made by McConnell, seconded by Witty to approve the brochure project with Minnesota State University Mankato for 2,500 brochures along with the "plates" and .PDF files at a cost of \$1,600 from the 2006 Park Board Budget.

## **8. Miscellaneous**

**A. "Parks have gone to the dogs" Article** – Planner Ondich presented an article about dog parks.

**B. Dog Walk for Nature** – Planner Ondich noted that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dog Walk for nature had taken place on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup> at Southside Park and had raised \$100 this year to add to the \$240 raised last year. He noted that a 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dog walk is expected to take place next year.

**C. Memorial Bench and Tree Program** – Planner Ondich noted that the participation in the Memorial Bench and Tree Program had been virtually non-existent in the past year and presented the brochure used to promote the program. He stated that the brochure is currently available at Bruzek Funeral Home.

**D. Green Meadow (Settlers Park) Mowing Area** – Jim Calliguri asked for input on how the Park Board would like the Green Meadow area in Settlers Park mowed.

Planner Ondich presented a map of the Park and the original proposed trail system and location of the wetlands in the park.

Ron Tuma asked for if the Park Board would like the Green Meadow area mowed, specifically if it should be mowed along the rear lot lines of the homes abutting the park. He also asked about the pond area on the north side of 9<sup>th</sup> Street SE and if that should be mowed.

The Park Board indicated that mowing along the residential properties in both areas would be a good idea and also a couple of passes along the pond and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE so that the grass would not overgrow the sidewalk there.

Jim Calliguri stated the City would soon have an abundance of woodchips and could easily make a woodchip trail through the Green Meadow area in Settlers Park.

The Park Board indicated that the woodchip trail was a good idea and that it should just be a straight path from the 10<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE sign to the Green Meadow leading to the parking lot in Settlers Park.

## **10. Adjournment**

A motion was made at 7:40 PM to adjourn the meeting by McConnell, seconded by Witty, which passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Ken Ondich  
City Planner