

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, March 13, 2007
6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM by Vice Chair Amy Jirik. Members present were Dominic McConnell, Kay Wilcox, Amy Jirik, Teri Hodapp, Ryan Hauser, and J.C. Ingebrand. Absent was Kristin Guerrette. Staff present was Ken Ondich – City Planner and Jim Calliguri – Parks Maintenance Supervisor.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by McConnell to approve the February 13, 2007 meeting minutes, which passed unanimously (6-0).

3. Review Financial Reports

Planner Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board.

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

**4. Heritage Park Development –
Follow up from Open House and Decision on Equipment**

Planner Ondich stated that the open house for the development of Heritage Park was held on Tuesday March 6th from 6:00 to 7:30 PM. He stated that only two residents attended the open house and that they also received two other comments by e-mail prior to the meeting by viewing the plans on the City's website. He stated that the two e-mail comments had a split vote between option 1 and option 2. He added that a verbal comment from the open house stated that we should keep the playground as far away from the basketball court and street as possible. He stated that if the equipment order is placed during the meeting that it could be ready for a mid-May installation time, but he noted that we would have to have the sidewalk surround in place and all the other prep work done on the site. He stated that with all the other projects parks staff has already planned for the spring that it seemed unlikely to have the work done in May and more likely could take place in the summer or fall but that an exact time could not be given. He stated that they needed to pick colors for the playground before placing an order.

J.C. Ingebrand stated that he likes Option #2 the best and would vote for that layout.

A motion was made by Ryan Hauser to authorize the purchase of Option #2 for the Heritage Park playground equipment as listed on the quote dated January 24, 2007 from Flanagan Sales, Inc. from the Park Equipment Fund and to hold off on the delivery and install until parks staff is able to confirm a time when the site will be ready for installation, seconded by Wilcox.

Planner Ondich stated that they needed to pick the colors for the playground equipment.

Teri Hodapp stated that she likes the primary color theme for the playground equipment.

Amy Jirik stated that she likes the primary colors as well. She stated that she wondered about how the neighbors might react to the brighter colors.

Planner Ondich did note that all the other parks are in the natural color theme of green and cream except for Foundry Hill Park which is red and blue.

Ryan Hauser stated that he likes the loud colors for the playground equipment because the kids like it that way.

J.C. Ingebrand stated that he likes the primary color choice.

Dominic McConnell stated that the primary colors should be added to the motion to order the equipment.

Ryan Hauser amended his motion to include primary colors for the equipment when the order is placed. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Planner Ondich stated that there was also a quote for a sign and other site amenities including garbage cans, benches and picnic tables but that action on the quote could wait until we know when the equipment may be installed.

5. Archery Range Discussion

Planner Ondich stated that the City Council made a motion to approve staff to move forward with the DNR Archery grant at the February 20th Council meeting. He added that he had spoke with the DNR about the project and was told by Chuck Niska, coordinator of the grant, that they could consider an application of \$5,000 or less from us and that we can submit anytime until June of 2008 but that they are running out of funds. He added that the New Prague Sportsmen's Club would also be submitting a letter of commitment for \$2,000 towards the project sometime in March. He stated that he included a new cost breakdown for the range based on the city crews being able to do most of the grading work on the site. He stated that if we received a \$4,000 grant award the Park Board would only have to provide \$2,000 to get the project going. He asked if

this was OK to proceed with submitting the grant application or if we should wait until more funds have been received from community groups.

A motion was made by Wilcox to provide up to \$2,000 in funding for the archery range development costs, seconded by McConnell, which passed unanimously (6-0).

6. Miscellaneous

- A. “Evolving Dog Park Design Standards” – Parks and Recreation Business Magazine** – Planner Ondich stated that he once again included an article about dog park design that had been reviewed in 2006.

Teri Hodapp stated that she had contacted the City of Minneapolis and had obtained their documents for establishing off-leash dog recreation areas. She stated that they have 4 dog parks which were established after 2000. She asked that staff copy the information and provide it in the next Park Board Packet.

Dominic McConnell stated that at Cleary Lake Park there is a small holding area for entering the park so that dogs can't run through just one gate to escape.

J.C. Ingebrand stated that maybe a black chain link fence could be used as it is a little more attractive than galvanized chain link fencing.

Amy Jirik suggested that we look at Foundry Hill Park during the Park Tour to get a look at a possible area for a dog park.

Kay Wilcox asked that the dog park information be an agenda item at the next Park Board meeting.

- B. “Outdoor Skating Rinks” – Minnesota Cities Magazine** – Planner Ondich stated that he included an article about outdoor skating rinks for informational purposes only because of the city operating a recreational sheet of ice for the first time.

Kay Wilcox asked the Park Board if they thought a warming house should be installed at by the ice rinks.

The Park Board indicated that for the future that one should be built.

Dominic McConnell stated that there was an article in either the StarTribune or Pioneer Press about cities going to either all indoor ice or installing cooling systems to keep the ice for longer in the winter.

Ryan Hauser stated that with a warming house there would need to be a rink attendant to keep an eye on things.

Amy Jirik stated that she thought even a bus shelter type of enclosure with clear sides would help to keep kids out of the wind and warmer than just sitting on a bench to put on skates.

J.C. Ingebrand stated that in the old days they would just set a box car next to ice rinks and it would provide unheated shelter.

Jim Calliguri stated that he thought the warming house would also be used by kids at the sliding hill. He suggested that concessions could be sold out of it to help pay for the staff time.

Amy Jirik stated that even community groups such as the girl scouts or boy scouts could run the warming house on weekends.

C. Shakopee Archery Park Article – Shakopee Valley News – Planner Ondich stated that he included an article about Shakopee’s planned archery park.

D. Northside Park Field Fencing – Planner Ondich stated that for the 2007 Street reconstruction project on Lexington Ave. N. that the public works director feels a temporary chain link fence is needed along Northside Park to keep kids out of the way of the work crews during the day. He suggested that if they were going to put up a fence, why not just put up a permanent fence that the Park Board has talked about in the past. He stated that the cost of the temporary 6’ tall fence was \$3.25 per foot and that permanent fence was \$13.00 that could be left for the field. He asked the Park Board if they would like to make the fence permanent for the 90’ along the base line.

J.C. Ingebrand asked if fencing was needed more for the first base line or third base line.

The Park Board decided that the money was better spent on other project and decided to defer installing a fence for now.

E. Sidewalk on Lexington Ave. N. – Kay Wilcox stated that on Monday March 19th the City Council would be voting on whether to install a sidewalk along Lexington Ave. N. with the street reconstruction project. She stated that Lexington Ave. is a Minor Collector street and should serve various transportation purposes including car, bike and pedestrian. She stated that she would recommend that the sidewalk be installed 4 feet from the back of the curb with a strip of grass between to use for snow storage or even for garbage cans on pick up days. She stated that there is currently sidewalk on Lexington Ave. S. from the

Golf Course/Memorial Park up to Highway 19. She then noted that there is two blocks north of Highway 19 not included in the current street project where there would be a temporary gap in the sidewalk system until a later date. She stated that the current project on Lexington Ave. N. starts at 2nd Street NE and runs north to County Road 37 which could have sidewalk run the entire west side of the project area. She stated that County Road 37 has a sidewalk on it, then north of County Road 37 there would be another small gap in sidewalks until you get to Bohemia Street by Heritage Park where sidewalks are being installed with the Heritage Estates #11 project which leads all the way to County Road 15.

Planner Ondich stated that the sidewalk on Lexington will run to County Road 15 and also along County Road 15 west towards the Elementary School where another connection is make to the Sliding Hill Skate Park trail system.

Kay Wilcox added that Heritage Park and Northside Park are the only two parks in the City that are not accessible by sidewalk. She stated that we need to make New Prague walkable for all residents including children and the elderly.

7. Adjournment

A motion was made by Hauser, seconded by McConnell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 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 style with a large, stylized "K" and "O".

Ken Ondich
City Planner