

Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, June 10, 2008
6:30 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM by Kay Wilcox. Members present were, Allen Mahowald, Dominic McConnell, Amy Jirik, J.C. Ingebrand and Kay Wilcox. Members absent were Teri Hodapp, Ryan Hauser and Mark Remfert. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning Director, Ryan Streff – Planning Intern, Jim Calliguri – Parks Maintenance Supervisor and Dennis Seurer – Public Works Director.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

Wilcox stated that she would like to clarify that on the bottom of page 1 of the minutes, the checklist was to be developed by city staff and not the group in charge of *Movie in the Park*.

A motion was made by Jirik, seconded by Ingebrand to approve the May 13, 2008 meeting minutes with the noted correction, which passed unanimously (5-0).

3. Review Financial Reports

Planner Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board, noting that during the month of May an additional \$320.55 was added to the Park Equipment Fund from residential and commercial permits.

Wilcox asked if the \$16,000 that is negative in the account is already dedicated to future expenses.

Ondich stated that this money is for expenses that have already been dedicated.

Wilcox stated that the balance would then be zero. She asked if there is a list of projects the Park Board has budgeted.

Ondich stated that there is a list of projects budgeted for the year and would include everything the Park Board put on the budget for this year. He stated that in the next Park Board packet he will supply a list of all Park Board budgeted items for the year.

Wilcox stated that we are spending money we do not have, which was understood to be money that we saved from previous years. She stated that this is being allowed because of the accounting mishap.

Jirik asked if the money for the park property comes out of the general fund is from rental fees from the agricultural land.

Ondich stated that rental fees are collected annually from the farm land and is put into the general fund to help payback the \$241,480.40. He stated that this will not show up as income to the Park Equipment Fund.

Kay asked if in previous years we saw this as income.

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

4. Memorial Park “DRS” Baseball Field Scoreboard

Planner Ondich provided the background on the scoreboard. He stated that it has recently come to staff’s attention that the scoreboard at the DRS Baseball Field (by the Pool) has broken and is in need of repair or replacement. He stated that the New Prague Baseball Association has informed the City that they have some tournaments coming up and need the scoreboard in operating condition. He stated that this scoreboard was installed in the early 1980’s. He stated that there are a few options to consider for the scoreboard repair or replacement:

1. New Wired Controller and Main Board - \$1,200 (may not fix all the problems)
2. New Wireless Controller and Main Board - \$1,900 (may not fix all the problems)
3. New Scoreboard - \$6,000 (similar size and function to the existing one)

He stated the City does not have funds designated for either the repair of the existing scoreboard or replacement of the entire scoreboard. He stated that this is because the 2008 Budget is depleted and the Park Equipment Fund cannot be used for repair or replacement of existing equipment. He stated it might be possible to budget for a new scoreboard in the 2009 Park Board Budget, but this does not solve the immediate need for a scoreboard prior to the scheduled tournaments. He stated the repair or replacement of the scoreboard wasn’t in the budget at this time so funds are not immediately available. He stated he would like to know what the Park Board thinks about repairing or replacing the scoreboard. He stated that the members of the New Prague Baseball Association that are present will aid in the discussion of the matter.

Wilcox asked if the members of the New Prague Baseball Association would introduce themselves.

The members of the New Prague Baseball Association that were present were Jeff Steinhoff, Rich Novak, Nick Schoenecker and Steve Olson. The spokesman for the Association was Rich Novak.

Novak asked how many other teams or organizations play at the field. He stated that they do not have priority over the field. He stated that the scoreboard was not broke during

their games and it actually took place during a High School game. He stated that they are being penalized over something that they had no control over. He stated that they do not have a scoreboard and they are hosting a tournament the first two weekends in August. He stated that he talked to the secretary of the state board and he told him that if the scoreboard is not working for the state tournament their chances of getting a state tournament again were nil. He stated that the board is willing to give them the tournament again if they can get the scoreboard working. He stated that he has talked to staff about the issue. He stated that he talked to another organization that is willing to donate money towards the scoreboard. He stated that the Baseball Association is willing to do their part to pay for the scoreboard but they would like to see the cost of the scoreboard split up between the groups and organizations that use the field. He stated that these groups and organizations use the press box and radio and the Baseball Association always pays for the repairs. He stated that we do not have control over the field and would like to see everyone do their part to maintain the field.

Wilcox asked if he could name the groups that actually need the radio or microphone.

Novak stated that the high school has been using it the most. He stated that the Legion and Traveling Team are also using the field.

Wilcox asked if they all use the scoreboard.

Novak stated that they all use the scoreboard. He stated that the amateur team and over thirty five team and some out of town teams use the field. He stated that most teams that use the field are from New Prague. He stated that there is a master calendar at the field for games and he thought that there were only 8 days in June that there is not a game scheduled.

Wilcox asked if Seurer had anything to add to the discussion.

Seurer stated that he recommended that the Park Board does not invest the money into the current scoreboard because of its age. He stated that even if they fix the scoreboard the problems may still exist.

Wilcox stated that a new scoreboard consists of new controls and the screen.

Ingebrand stated that this new scoreboard would cost approximately \$6,000.

McConnell asked if the High School contributes to the maintenance or to other items like the proposed purchase of a scoreboard.

Ondich stated that he is only aware of the fees collected by the Oriole's, which is \$210 a year.

Novak stated that the Baseball Association pays fees every year.

Seurer stated that the High School is involved with dragging, chalking and cutting the grass on the field.

Calliguri stated that the city cuts the grass on the field.

McConnell asked if the Park Board could use money from the Park Equipment Fund to pay for the Scoreboard.

Ondich stated that they can not use money from the Park Equipment Fund to pay for broken equipment by state statute.

McConnell stated that it does not look good to have the broken scoreboard out there all year.

Novak stated that there was a three day tournament held there last weekend and the other teams could not believe that we did not have a scoreboard.

Jirik asked if the group that was mentioned for donations towards a new scoreboard gave a dollar amount they were willing to pay.

Novak stated that they would possibility give a minimum of \$1,000.

McConnell stated that this group was the Youth Baseball Association.

Wilcox asked if the teams would consider a scoreboard assessment over a period of years.

Novak stated that at this point if that is our only option it might be something we need to consider. He stated that if it is possible to get a larger scoreboard and sell advertising this would help raise money for the new scoreboard.

Wilcox asked how much the larger scoreboard would cost.

Schoenecker stated that the \$6,000 scoreboard would get them something very compatible to what is currently there. He stated if we bought a new scoreboard like this it would still be the smallest scoreboard in the entire area. He stated that for \$6,000 we would not be getting a very nice scoreboard. He stated that it would work and would show the basic things but it would not be very attractive. He stated when groups are looking to host tournaments that bring money into our town's businesses, restaurants, bars and hotels a scoreboard of this size would not attract the big events. He stated that a scoreboard that would attract these types of events would cost about \$20,000. He stated that they are willing to look into different types of fund raisers for the purchase on a new scoreboard.

Mahowald asked if they had contacted the High School for their opinion.

Novak stated that they have no affiliation with the High School.

Jirik asked staff if there was anything stating that they would not be able to advertise on public property.

Ondich stated that this would be up to the City Council.

McConnell asked if the Park Board purchased a larger scoreboard would it be able to be moved to the new athletic complex.

Schoenecker stated that the Baseball Association would not be able to afford a \$20,000 scoreboard.

Ingebrand asked if they had looked into renting a scoreboard for the upcoming events.

Novak stated that this is one thing the Baseball Association is looking into. He stated we might be able to do some sort of rent-to-own program.

McConnell asked what the options would be budget wise.

Wilcox stated that the Park Board does not have the money to commit to the project this year. She stated that in August we start to develop a list for the projects in the following year.

Ingebrand asked if there were grants for this type of a project.

Olsen asked if there would be a way for the Baseball Association to pay for the scoreboard and then have the Park Board pay it back next year.

Wilcox stated that the Park Board might be able to commit to this but only for part of the total cost. She stated that the Chamber could be asked to support this because they having gambling funds. She stated this would be a good attraction for the town. She stated that they might want to go the City Council and ask if they have money for this type of a project.

Jirik stated that the Baseball Association should go to business and ask for donations to fund the scoreboard purchase.

Wilcox stated that staff should do some research to figure out the number of games played by each group on the field and have the fees based on the number of games played.

Novak asked that knowing who was involved in the broken scoreboard if there was a way to approach the High School or the family that was responsible so they can help the Baseball Association buy a new scoreboard or at least help pay to fix the current one.

Seurer stated that this person did not act on behalf of the school. He stated that the person did not know that more damage was being done than realized.

Novak stated that when kids go up to the field the first thing they do is go and mess with the controls and the radio.

Wilcox asked if all the groups need to use the scoreboard.

Schoenecker stated that for the High School, Legion and the Baseball Association to host playoff and region games they need to have a scoreboard.

Ondich asked what the gate fees go towards.

Novak stated that the only team that collects gate fees is the armature team and no one else charges admission.

Schoenecker stated that at last weekends tournament the Baseball Association made about \$2,000, but by the end of the year they hope to just break even with all the expenses.

McConnell asked if the Legion would be willing to pay for the scoreboard this year and then have it paid back over the next few years.

Novak stated that they will check into this.

Wilcox stated that she is willing to meet with Jerry and Ken to discuss the options for the scoreboard.

Novak stated that Pepsi paid for a large part of someone's scoreboard and this might be an option for the Baseball Association. He stated that getting a company involved with advertising might be the best bet for a new scoreboard.

Ingebrand stated that they should check into used scoreboards.

Wilcox stated that Coborn's is very community minded so it might be worth talking to manager and see what kind of money they have for community events.

Wilcox stated that staff will get back to the Baseball Association to inform them if they should meet with the City Council. She stated that if the Park Board decides to go forward with the project it would be put on next years budget.

5. Revisions: Yackly Cabin Photo Sign and Southside Park Homestead Photo Sign

Planning intern Streff provided the background on the Photo Signs. He stated that at last month's meeting the Park Board reviewed some layout examples for a photo sign for Yackly Cabin and also Southside Park's Sindelar Homestead. He stated that suggestions were made for each photo sign and are included once again in the packet. He stated that at the last month's Park Board meeting staff was asked to add a longer narrative and add a picture of the original cabin to the Yackly Cabin photo sign document. He stated staff sent a letter to Steve Frost asking him for pictures he might have of the original Yackly Cabin. He stated that staff received an original print of the Yackly Cabin from Frost and it is included in the packet. He stated that staff would like to discuss the new layout and narrative with the picture from Frost. He stated staff received the original pictures of the Sindelar Homestead from Daisy Babione, which was requested by Wilcox during last month's meeting. He stated these original pictures are much better quality then the pictures staff had previously. He stated the proposed photo sign document shows different views of the home along with many of the outbuildings. He stated the outbuildings on the property included a coal shed, corn crib, barn, chicken coop, pigs' pen, warehouse and smokehouse. He stated staff would like to discuss the layout and the

pictures that were used on the photo sign document for Sindelar Homestead photo sign. He stated the cost for each sign would be about \$90 plus tax and shipping for the 8" x 10" size.

Yackly Cabin Discussion

Wilcox stated that this signage was not budgeted for this year and would have to be put on next year's budget. She stated that the original print of the Yackly home is nice but thinks it will confuse the people looking at the sign because the original cabin is covered up. She asked if the pictures of the log cabin were of the original Yackly home.

Ondich stated that the pictures were of a cabin built from the logs that were used to build the original Yackly home.

Wilcox stated that for photo purposes this sign is a good demonstration of the property. She stated that Yackley is the wrong spelling because there is no "e" in this family's name. She stated that the cabin was built 1884 by Fredrick and Katherine Yackly. She stated that they had eleven children.

Ingebrand stated that it was then restored from 1981-1986.

Jirik stated if you do not have the picture of the home as it existed with the addition you should not include the layout of the home. She stated that we could get rid of another picture and include a longer narrative to the photo sign.

Wilcox stated that an original log was gifted to the Scott County Historical Society.

Mahowald asked if the Historical Society had pictures of the original cabin.

Ondich stated that the Historical Society does not have pictures of the original cabin.

Wilcox stated that staff should expand the narrative on the sign.

Ingebrand stated that staff should include some information of the cabin's addition.

Wilcox asked that the photo sign be updated to include the changes and be brought back to next months meeting. She stated that this will be the first item on the 2009 budget.

Sindelar Homestead Discussion

Wilcox stated that this photo sign will work well for Southside Park. She asked what year the photos were from. She stated that this photo sign will be the second item on the 2009 budget.

6. Update on Foundry Hill Park Trail

Planner Ondich provided the background on Foundry Hill Park Trail. He stated staff is in the process of obtaining quotes on the Foundry Hill Park Trail that will connect Foundry Hill Park to both 2nd Street NW and also out to 4th Street NW in Raven Stream Village by the Water Tower. He stated the trail will need to take a slight detour into the Foundry Hill Woods to avoid a very wet area, but it will not stray far into the woods. He stated the intent is to have the entire segment of the trail completed by this fall. He stated that attached is a map of the entire trail segment to be installed. He stated that the trail will not run on top of the berm due to poor soils.

Wilcox stated that prior to construction the home owners should be sent a letter that informs them what is being done. She stated that it should be worded as the “dedicated easement is now being improved”.

Jirik asked if the trail would be visible from the homes in that area.

Ondich stated that the trail would be visible for the home owners in the area.

7. Update on Archery Range

Planner Ondich provided the background on the Archery Range. He stated the Archery Range officially opened for public use on May 21, 2008. He stated the inaugural Community Education class to utilize the archery range has over 55 students signed up so the range seems to be off to a good start in terms of use. He stated the range turned out quite well. He stated that city Staff that did all the work in the field on the range did a great job. He stated this is a great addition to the City’s Park System.

Wilcox asked how the targets are moved and if one person alone could move a target. She asked what date and time the classes at the Archery Range were held.

Mahowald asked if there are different distances for different age groups.

Ondich stated that the targets can be placed at distances from 10 – 100 yards.

9. Miscellaneous

A. Adopt-A-Park Program Participant Listing Update

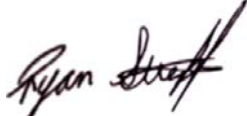
Planner Ondich provided the background on the Adopt-A-Park Program. He stated that enclosed with the packet is a listing of the parks that currently are adopted and those which have not yet been adopted. He stated this is provided for your information only. He stated the listing of the program on the website along with the New Prague Times and City Newsletter articles seems to have created the recent interest with the groups that signed up to adopt parks this spring. He stated that four new groups have joined the program and have adopted Sliding Hill Skate Park, Heritage Park, Foundry Hill Park and West Memorial Park. He stated that other groups including the Lions Club, Gymnastics Club, and the Rotary Club are interested in joining the Adopt-A-Park Program.

Wilcox asked if St. Wenceslaus School wanted recognition for the Adopt-A-Park Program.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mahowald, seconded by McConnell, to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 P.M., which passed unanimously (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Streff". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Ryan Streff
Planning Intern