

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

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Kristin Guerrette. Members present were Dominic McConnell, Kay Wilcox, Amy Jirik, Kristin Guerrette, Teri Hodapp, Ryan Hauser, and J.C. Ingebrand. All members were present. Staff present was Ken Ondich – City Planner, Calliguri – Parks Maintenance Supervisor and Dennis Seurer – Public Works Director.

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

Planner Ondich introduced Teri Hodapp and Ryan Hauser as the two new Park Board Members.

Teri Hodapp and Ryan Hauser introduced themselves to the Park Board.

All staff members and existing Park Board members introduced themselves.

**3. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2007**

A motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by Hodapp to elect Guerrette as the Park Board Chair for 2007 and to elect Jirik as the Park Board Vice Chair for 2007, which passed unanimously (7-0).

**4. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by McConnell, seconded by Jirik to approve the January 9, 2007 meeting minutes, which passed unanimously (7-0).

**5. Review Financial Reports**

Planner Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board.

A motion was made by McConnell, seconded by Ingebrand to accept the financial reports as presented, which passed unanimously (7-0).

## **6. Pool Programs and Operations Discussion – Steve Bruchman**

Steve Bruchman, Director of Community Services, stated that he was at the meeting to address some concerns raised by the Park Board last summer related to the lack of open swim hours and the use of the pool after hours by some employees. He read through the 2006 Summer Recreation Brochure to point out areas that could be improved. He stated that it would be tough to cut hours for swimming lessons but would entertain other ideas to open up more time for open swimming.

Kristin Guerrette asked if it would be possible to add a 7:30 to 9:30 P.M. open swim time each night.

Mr. Bruchman stated that it would be possible, but that cleaning would just be done later at night and possibly take more time to complete.

Dominic McConnell suggested that the open swim times be advertised by using signage.

Planner Ondich stated that a sandwich board could be used on the pool property only at up to 8 sq. ft. in size per side.

Amy Jirik asked if an additional evening session for lessons could be added earlier in the year so that the fourth session of lessons could be cut, leaving more time for evening open swimming later in the year.

J.C. Ingebrand suggested that signage be put on the Memorial Park Sign.

Planner Ondich stated that such a sign would not be possible because it would be considered off-premise advertising.

Amy Jirik asked how often the phone message for the pool is changed and if the pool has a website.

Mr. Bruchman stated that the phone recording is changed daily and that they do not have a website. He stated that he could certainly put some information on the schools website or even link to the city's website.

Kay Wilcox asked about who would be the swim managers and coordinators for the coming year.

Kristin Guerrette asked about the pools financial standing after each year.

Mr. Bruchman stated that the pool loses money each year. He also stated that the joint powers agreement provides for the city to take care of the maintenance issues with the pool and the school district to cover the operations.

Kay Wilcox asked about the use of Montgomery's indoor pool and how it compares to New Prague.

Kristin Guerrette asked if the pool has an alarm system to help keep intruders out after hours because she has seen people in the pool at 1 or 2 in the morning when they should not have been there.

Mr. Bruchman stated that the police does regularly patrol the pool site during the summer.

J.C. Ingebrand suggested that motion sensor flood lights be placed in the pool area to deter people from breaking in after hours.

Dominic McConnell stated that about 1 or 2 times a week there are people who get into the pool area after hours when they are not supposed to. He added that he likes the motion sensitive light idea.

Mr. Bruchman thanked the Park Board for their ideas and stated that the Summer Recreation Brochure would be out on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **7. Archery Range Discussion – Dennis Tietz and John Love**

Dennis Tietz, 507 Chalupsky Ave. NE, stated that since last months meeting he had spoken with groups in the area that would be interested with helping get the archery range developed. He stated that Pheasants Forever has committed \$300 and the New Prague Sportsman's Club has committed \$3,000 verbally to assist with the archery range development. He stated that the local boy scouts would also be interested in helping out. He stated that the donors would probably like to have some signage up at the range to show that they donated to help develop the site.

John Love stated that targets for the site would be best from the Excelsior Target company of Wisconsin, and cost between \$75 and \$150 for the three bale targets made from a synthetic material that looks like hay. He stated that the targets are for target arrows only and a couple of broad head targets could be purchased for occasional use but they cost about twice as much.

Mr. Tietz stated that he had contacted Dave Edberg at the high school about constructing a storage shed of 8' x 12' in size for target storage and that it might cost around \$1,000.

Mr. Love stated that the targets can be used year round and actually expand to fill in gaps when left out in the rain.

Kay Wilcox asked for an explanation of how the range would be used.

Mr. Love stated that currently there is nowhere for archers to practice in the City and practicing in back yards is not legal. He stated he would also anticipate some lessons to take place occasionally there. He stated that there would need to be a rules sign at the site.

Planner Ondich asked if Mr. Tietz or Mr. Love could obtain letters of intent for donations for the archery range development for applying for the DNR Archery Range grant.

Dennis Sueur stated that he is in support of the idea of the archery range and the location, but asked how far an arrow could travel if misaimed.

Mr. Love stated that he had gotten an arrow to travel 300 yards once when arcing the shot on purpose.

Planner Ondich asked Mr. Tietz and Mr. Love to make a collection of rules that they have commonly seen at other ranges to assist in the development of rules for a new range.

Kay Wilcox stated that she would like to authorize staff to get City Council approval to move forward with the development of the archery range and apply for the DNR Grant Funds that are available. She added that it seems like there is already \$3,300 in donations.

Mr. Love stated that seats or picnic tables for the area might also be nice to have at some point.

## **8. Heritage Park Development – Drawings and Quotes from Bill Johnson at Flanagan Sales, Inc.**

Planner Ondich stated that at last months meeting the Park Board indicated that they would support a smaller less expensive playground for Heritage Park because the park would eventually be adding about 10 acres in the future which could change the entire design and layout of the park. He stated that he had received two layouts from Bill Johnson of Flanagan Sales, Inc with a small footprint and a \$40,000 price. He stated that he also included a total development cost breakdown to complete the playground and all associated costs which would be around \$52,000. He stated that Chris Witt of Witt Development also supports the smaller park idea at this time. He stated that a neighborhood meeting could be done with area residents before moving forward with an order.

Teri Hodapp asked if the Park Board has a vision statement for the parks.

Planner Ondich stated that in the City's Comprehensive Plan there is a chapter on Parks and Recreation that he would provide to the new members.

Kay Wilcox stated that she would like to see picnic tables and a bathroom surround at the park right away rather than waiting.

J.C. Ingebrand stated that he would like to see a sign at the park right away.

Kay Wilcox stated that she would like to see a sign but noted the expense of the sign being an issue. She suggested that a less expensive sign be installed for the time being. She also suggested that a neighborhood meeting be held for the residents to review the playground options.

Planner Ondich stated that he would schedule an open house for Tuesday, March 6 in the evening at City Hall where residents could look at the plan options and provide comments.

## **9. Skate Park and Water Fountain Discussion**

Planner Ondich stated that he had attached two layouts and two quotes for skate park equipment to add more user capacity to the park. He stated that one quote was \$28,000 for a mini half-pipe and the other \$19,000 quote was for four other skate amenities to fill up the rest of the pad.

Ryan Hauser stated that he likes option #2 more than #1 because it's more like the areas of the city where kids like to skate outside of the park.

Kristin Guerrette stated that she would like to have the users of the park do some fundraising to help pay for more ramps. She said they have gotten everything for free so far. She stated that maybe the idea could be started at the Sliding Hill Skate Park Open House.

The Park Board suggested that the future equipment layouts could be set up for display at the open house to help gather some input on adding more equipment as well.

Ryan Hauser stated that it's better for the kids to use and abuse the equipment at the skate park than to destroy other people's property all around town.

Kay Wilcox suggested advertising at the high school about the Park Board stopping at the skate park in the spring and getting some kids to come to give input about the park.

Planner Ondich stated that he had noted at last month's meeting that it might be a good idea to provide for a drinking fountain at the Sliding Hill Skate Park. He stated that any drinking fountain that is installed would have to be vandal resistant, include a safe water feature and have an ADA height and normal height fountain on it and be installed on an accessible area. He stated that the prices generally range from \$2,400 and up not

including installation which could be done by the utility department for a cost of about \$500 plus additional costs for designing a drain system because of the lack of a sanitary sewer system at the park.

The Park Board indicated that most kids probably bring their own water to the park and that the money might better be spent on other things. They decided to defer the installation of the drinking fountain to a later date.

## **10. 2007 Park Board Goals**

Planner Ondich presented a final draft of the goals for 2007. He asked the Park Board to discuss and make changes as desired before he forwards them onto the City Council.

Kristin Guerrette stated that she had met with a group that discussed jointly developing the Athletic Complex with the School and City. She stated that part of the reason was that the School has a soccer program starting and no where to play soccer. She noted that the school district can bond for a much larger area than the city limits.

Teri Hodapp stated that she strongly supports the development of a dog park and will help in any way possible to get one up and running. She noted that such a facility helps with community interaction.

Planner Ondich stated that a dog park could possibly be developed in hockey rinks in the summer that aren't being used. He also noted that Foundry Hill Park has a lot of available space that could be fenced off.

A motion was made by Ingebrand, seconded by Hauser to forward the Park Board Goals to the City Council for review, which passed unanimously (7-0).

## **11. Miscellaneous**

**A. Twins Fields for Kids Program** – Planner Ondich stated that the Park Board in the past has discussed installing sideline fences at Northside Park and that there is a Twins Fields for Kids Program that could help pay for half the cost of the fencing if approved. He noted that the fencing was originally going to cost around \$2,800. He stated that fencing, sod, new infield and dugouts are eligible for funding. He stated he would like to know if the Park Board is interested in applying for the grant for the sideline fencing or other improvements.

Kay Wilcox stated that she would like to explore applying for the grant because there will now be a sidewalk on the west side of the park this summer and the fence could help to protect those walking on the sidewalk.

**B. LifeTrail Walking Path System** – Planner Ondich stated that he included information about the LifeTrail walking path exercise system to emphasize the need for complimenting activities for the city’s walking paths for those ages 50 and over. He stated that this was briefly looked at last year. He noted there are a total of 10 stations with an average cost of \$3,100 per station without installation fees.

Kristin Guerrette and Teri Hodapp stated that they have seen similar systems in the past and have seen them being heavily used. They noted that there might be grant money available for such a system.

The Park Board indicated that this should be added to a future list of park amenities.

**C. Youth Center Info** – Kristin Guerrette provided information about a youth center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma where she grew up because she feels that there are many groups in New Prague that could support a similar venture here. She stated that she ideally would like to use the old armory building because of it’s location to the golf course, pool, and memorial park. She stated she will be taking a tour of “The Garage” in Burnsville because it was created by the kids and is associated with the school district and the city and run by an independent board. She stated that a youth center could also be used as a meeting place for other community groups. She stated that she feels the City needs a youth center to keep kids off the streets and out of trouble.

Ryan Hauser stated that his sister runs a successful youth center in Olivia which is faith based and could provide a lot of information about such a facility.

Kristin Guerrette stated that she feels the youth center should only be for high school kids and not a wider age group.

**D. Athletic Complex Access** – Kay Wilcox stated that she and Renee Christianson had been at a township meeting on Monday night and access to the future Athletic Complex Land was brought up. She stated that it was suggested that a tunnel under TH 21 be provided for safe route for kids to get to the land.

**E. Road Projects** – Dennis Seurer, Public Works Director, stated that there are many road construction projects going on this summer including TH 19 from 10<sup>th</sup> Ave/CR 37 east to Alton Ave., County Road 29 from 10<sup>th</sup> Ave./144 east, TH 21 at the intersection of 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW and 6<sup>th</sup> Street NW to correct the off-set intersection and also Lexington Ave. N. from 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NE to CR 37 as well as Liberty Lane NE and Gooseberry Lane.

## 12. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ingebrand, seconded by McConnell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M., which passed unanimously (7-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Ondich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "O" in "Ondich".

Ken Ondich  
City Planner