

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, April 14, 2009
6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Dominic McConnell. Members present were Kay Wilcox, Mike Slavik, Dominic McConnell, and Katie Leaver. Youth members present were Kaitlyn O'Neill and Karynn Lehne. Absent were Allen Mahowald, Teri Hodapp and Amy Jirik. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning Director and Jim Calliguri – Parks Maintenance Supervisor.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by Slavik to approve the March 10, 2009 meeting minutes, which passed unanimously (4-0).

3. Review Financial Reports

Planning Director Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board, noting that during the month of March an additional \$180.86 was added to the Park Equipment Fund from residential and commercial permits.

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

4. Settlers Park Baseball Fence – New Prague Youth Baseball Association

Planning Director Ondich noted that there were not any members present from the Youth Baseball Association. He stated that the City did not budget for a fence for this park in 2009 and that the Park Board would not be expending funds until the State's financial situation is more settled later in the spring. He stated that the Youth Baseball Association was seeking a fence only for the northern little league field at Settlers Park to keep balls out of the parking lot, playground and picnic shelter. He stated that staff had obtained a quote for 320 lineal feet of a 6' tall galvanized chain link fence in the amount of \$5,120 installed from Town and County Fence. He stated that the Youth Baseball Association had not indicated if they would intend to provide any funding for a fence.

Dominic McConnell noted that he did not think the picnic shelter placement had any effect on the use of the field.

The Park Board indicated that they would not be interested in installing or having installed any type of temporary fence for the field.

5. Warming House at Sliding Hill Skate Park - Update

Planning Director Ondich stated that staff had hoped for some updated information of the plans to present to the Park Board. He stated that updated information was not available in time for the meeting and that the agenda item will be rescheduled for the May Park Board Meeting.

The Park Board asked how much lead time would be needed to get started on the project to have it ready for the winter.

Planning Director Ondich stated that if the project were completed with volunteer labor it would lengthen the construction time for the project, but the cost would be much lower. He stated that using a paid general contractor would significantly shorten up the construction time but at this time there were not available funds in the Park Equipment Fund to go this route for construction.

6. Hockey Boards at Sliding Hill Skate Park - Update

Planning Director Ondich stated that this past winter was the first season of use of the new hockey rink at Sliding Hill Skate Park with the hockey boards purchased from Becker Arena Products, Inc. He stated that during the course of winter use, nine of the panels became cracked or broken due to wear and tear or equipment damage. He stated that since February staff has been in the process of working with Becker to get the issue resolved. He stated that staff believes the City was misled in the purchase of the particular hockey board product from Becker due to the fact that cold weather had an effect on the boards being damaged during normal use. He stated that during the process of deciding whether to purchase from Becker or Athletica, Becker had used an “upgraded” hockey board system in Watertown as a reference project for the City to review which was misleading. He stated that staff initially met on site with officials from Becker, the sales company, and officials from Sport Resource Group, the manufacturer to review the problems we had with the boards. He stated the outcome from that meeting was Becker offering to replace the broken panels with the same product one time under warranty or alternately upgrading to a “cross link resin” material which holds up better in Minnesota’s climate than the “standard” boards that we had purchased. He noted that staff had written a letter requesting free replacement of all boards to the upgraded “cross link resin”. He stated that he provided the most recent response from Becker dated March 31, 2009 to the Park Board to review. He stated that Option 1 provided a free warranty replacement with like panels for only those damaged by sticks, skates or pucks. He stated that Option 2 provides for a full upgrade of the entire board system to the “cross link resin” material for a cost of \$3,825 plus tax which is half the cost of the original upgrade option. He stated that Option 3 provides for a complete refund of the original contract by returning all the panels and steel posts. He stated that staff feels that Option 2 is the best for the City but that staff would support continuing seeking free replacement upgraded panels due to the fact that City staff has over 80 hours invested in the install and would need to remove and install the new system from scratch which is a large labor expense to the City.

Kay Wilcox suggested that the Park Board consider having Becker provide the labor for the removal of the existing boards and installation of the new boards if the Park Board pays the \$3,825 replacement cost.

Planning Director Ondich stated that staff believes another push should be made to obtain the upgraded boards for free due to the labor costs already incurred and the belief that staff was misled by Becker to purchase the product from them in the first place.

A motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by Slavik, to request from Becker Arena Products, Inc. a full replacement of the Prowall dasher board system to the upgraded “cross link resin” material due to the inferior product received and installed which does not stand up to the Minnesota cold weather climate, which passed unanimously (4-0).

7. Miscellaneous

- A. Annual Park Tour – May Meeting**– Planning Director Ondich stated that the Park Board makes an annual tour of four parks at the May Park Board Meeting. He suggested that the Park Board choose four parks to tour for the May Meeting which would start at 5:30 PM.

The Park Board decided to tour Southside Park, Memorial Park, Greenway Park and Heritage Park.

- B. Vandalism Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the Police Department has informed staff that the perpetrator of the bathroom fires in Memorial Park last summer has been caught. He also stated that the perpetrator of the concession stand burglary at the Baseball Field was caught.
- C. Sculpture in Philipps Park** – Planning Director Ondich stated that Philipps Park will soon be home to a tower sculpture created by local artist Kiersten Dahl-Shetka. He added that the project was made possible by a Metro Regional Arts Council Grant given to the Chamber of Commerce, New Prague Arts Council and New Prague Community Education. He stated that the sculpture will be placed within Philipps Park somewhat near the TH 19 / TH 21 intersection, but outside of the State Highway right of way and that the City is assisting with installation of the footing that will hold the structure.
- D. Cedar Lake Farm** – Planning Director Ondich stated that Scott County had put out a request for proposals over the winter for the interim use operation of Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park just northeast of New Prague. He stated that staff has met recently with County Parks staff to discuss the interim use plans. He stated that there would also be an open house from 6:30 to 8:00 PM on Thursday April 16th at Creeks Bend Golf Course to present information to the public.

Kay Wilcox stated that she felt it was important to provide a trail from New Prague out to Cedar Lake Farm Regional Park and that she would like it to deviate from roadside if at all possible.

Planning Director Ondich stated that the City has a trail from the City to Cedar Lake planned in the Comprehensive Plan and that Scott County Parks staff had recently met with the cities in the County to obtain their trail plans.

E. Baseball Field Scoreboard – Jim Calliguri stated that since the new Baseball Field Scoreboard was installed in November staff had noticed some paint bubbling and peeling. He stated that through the product warranty a new front face would be supplied by the manufacturer to remedy the issue.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by McConnell seconded by Leaver, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 P.M., which passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Ondich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ken Ondich
Planning Director