

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, October 14, 2008
6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Planning Commissioner Kay Wilcox. Members present were Allen Mahowald, J.C. Ingebrand, Kay Wilcox and Amy Jirik. Members absent were Teri Hodapp and Dominic McConnell. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning Director, Ryan Streff – Planning Intern, and Jim Calliguri – Parks Maintenance Supervisor.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mahowald, seconded by Ingebrand to approve the September 16, 2008 meeting minutes, which passed unanimously (4-0).

3. Review Financial Reports

Planner Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board, noting that during the month of September an additional \$454.71 was added to the Park Equipment Fund from residential and commercial permits.

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

4. Vandalism Report

Police Chief Mark Vosejpka presented this years Park vandalism report to the Park Board. He stated the report provided vandalism activity from January 1, 2008 through September 17, 2008. He stated that the city's overall vandalism this year so far has decreased 24% but vandalism in the parks has doubled. He stated that most of the vandalism occurs during the day before the parks are closed and before the bathrooms are locked up at night by the officers. He stated in the past the city has offered awards for finding the people involved with vandalism but was unsuccessful. He stated that the Park Board might want to try posting signs to encourage people in the parks to call in vandalism when they see it. He stated that the vandalism report is good for the city overall but is bad for the parks specifically.

Wilcox asked what happens to people/kids that are caught vandalizing. She stated that parents should be contacted and informed about the incident. She stated that the people who are caught should have to come and apologize in front of the Park Board.

Vosejпка stated that one option might be to ban repeat offenders. He stated that this would be very hard to enforce.

Wilcox stated that the Park Board would welcome the option to host the offenders at a meeting.

Vosejпка stated that the city needs more community involvement in reporting vandalism.

Jirik asked staff to check and see what other cities do about vandalism in their parks.

Wilcox stated that the city should put an article together for the City Newsletter (with pictures) and/or a letter with the Utility bills that informs the park users about the vandalism in the parks. She stated that this letter should also be sent to the schools so they too can address the issue.

No action was needed on this agenda item. It was provided for informational purposes only.

5. 2009 Park Budget/Goals Final Adopted

Planner Ondich presented the 2009 Park Budget/Goals final report. He stated that the Park Board approved the Budget/Goals report last month and asked the Park Board to take a final look at the Budget/Goals report with recommended additions of the Heritage Greenway Trail link at the Cost of \$5,200 and \$1,200 added to the cost for Buffet Tables for picnic shelters.

A motion was made by Ingebrand, seconded by Mohowald to approve the 2009 Park Board Budget/Goals with approved changes as presented by staff, which passed unanimously (4-0).

6. Wal-Mart/Pint Concept Park Land Review

Planner Ondich provided the background on the Wal-Mart/Pint Concept Park Land Review. He stated that the Wal-Mart / Doug Pint development area is currently in the EAW (Environmental Assessment Worksheet) stage of review. He stated this will be followed by annexation, rezoning and platting of the property. He stated the Park Board should be prepared for the platting process. He stated it was important for the Park Board to review the very conceptual Park Land dedication proposal. He stated that when land is platted for development in New Prague the city requires a 10% park land dedication (or a payment in lieu of the land) before it is approved by the City Council. He stated the overall development is about 75 acres which is equivalent to 7.5 acres of park land or a combination of land and a cash payment to be used for future park land purchases. He stated the concept map shows a proposed 5.4 acres of park land which is 2.1 acres less than required. He stated that a natural gas pipe line easement (75') wide runs through a portion of the park land which would allow anything but structures to be located within the easement, meaning that a trail or ball field would be allowed on top of the easement

area. He stated that any wetland areas and low or unusable areas will not be accepted as park dedication. He stated that the Comprehensive Plan chapter on Parks, Trails and Recreation does not show this particular area of the City as a "Park Search Area"; however it is shown to not be included entirely within a service area of an existing park. He stated that partial service would be provided from Raven Stream Village Elementary and partially from Foundry Hill Park. He stated the development has mostly commercial land use and the area to the south of the concept plan is residentially guided. He stated that it is important to have a park south of TH 19 within ¼ mile walking distance of the homes. He stated this area would be adequate for a "neighborhood park". He stated concerns about the irregular park boundary and connection at this time to 11th Ave.'s trail. He stated there is a separate land owner that retains land that would make an easier connection between 11th Ave. and the larger portion of park shown on the concept plan. He stated staff believes the park provides a good buffer and transition area between the commercially zoned land and the residentially zoned land and will alleviate concerns the City has experienced in the past with the two uses abutting each other. He stated that staff would more readily support a more regular collection of land on the east side of the development with a trail corridor or easement from 11th Ave. to the park. He stated more frontage along proposed 9th Ave. SW might also provide for access to a small parking lot and provide better visibility for the safety of park users. He stated that facilities for the park have not been determined.

Jirik asked what type of park is shown in the Park Plan.

Wilcox stated that having a trail like the Greenway Trail in this area would be a nice amenity for the residential development. She stated that if a park is placed here ¼ of the Park Service Area is covering commercial properties.

Jirik stated that the park should be moved south so the park can service a more residential area.

Ingebrand stated that the trail should stay and the park land should be banked for future development to the south.

Wilcox stated that the Park Board should keep an area for parking on 9th Ave. SW. She stated that she would like the updated Park Service Area Map to be included in the next Park Board packet.

No action was needed on this agenda item. It was provided for informational purposes only.

7. Miscellaneous

a. Rick Tietz Softball Tournament

Planner Ondich provided the background on the Rick Tietz Softball Tournament. He stated the Rick Tietz Softball classic was held during Dozinky Weekend at Memorial Park. He stated a total of \$5,698.83 was raised this year and was deposited into the "Complex Funds Designated" as shown on the Park Board

Financial. He stated an additional \$230 was donated from a Volleyball Group Tournament. He stated there is now \$83,395.87 in that fund to be used for the future athletic complex construction.

This was provided for informational purposes only.

b. Donation from Pheasants Forever, Inc.

Planner Ondich provided the background on the donation from Pheasants Forever. He stated a \$300 donation was received from the LeSueur County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Inc. to be used for replacement Archery Targets. He stated staff is going to set up a dedicated fund for this donation in hopes that it could be further contributed to in the future by other charitable organizations to pay for replacement archery targets.

This was provided for informational purposes only.

c. Buffet Tables

Jim Calliguri stated that the cost for one full length buffet table to be constructed in a park shelter would be \$1,300.

d. Ice Hockey Warming House

Wilcox stated that she has been in contact with the teacher from the construction class at the High School. She stated that they are still interested in constructing a warming house for the Ice Hockey Rink at Sliding Hill Skate Park as a spring project. She stated that the class does not have time to go to the site (due to class time constraints) and would only be able to build the structure at the High School.

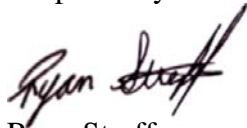
e. Park Land around Armory

Mahowald stated that the land around the Armory building should be reserved for a future park "Armory Park".

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Ingebrand, seconded by Jirik, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M., which passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Ryan Streff
Planning Intern