

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, October 9, 2012
6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Matthew Lasch. Members present were Maggie Bass, Mike Sticha, Amy Jirik and Chris Millard. Absent were Sharon Brown and Shawn Ryan. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning Director and Jim Calliguri – Parks Maintenance Supervisor.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Lasch, seconded by Bass to approve the September 11, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

3. Review Financial Reports

Planning Director Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board, noting that during the month of September an additional \$1,053.51 was added to the Park Equipment Fund from new residential home permits from the construction of three new homes. He noted that a total of 16 new home permits have been issued in 2012.

A motion was made by Jirik, seconded by Millard to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried (5-0).

4. Preparations for 2013 Park Board Budget – Review Projects and Goals

Planning Director Ondich stated that at the August Park Board meeting discussion for the 2013 Park Board Budget officially began and continued into the September meeting. He stated that some ideas were discussed and added to the working draft list including a basketball hoop for Foundry Hill Park, exercise stations along the Greenway Trail and replacement archery targets. He stated that he would like the Park Board to finalize the list of possible projects and goals for 2013 while recognizing \$14,600 as the potential Park Board Budget amount.

The Park Board discussed the fact that the parking lot at Foundry Hill Park is very busy and utilizing part of it for a basketball court would reduce the parking available to users. They suggested that the basketball hoop be constructed on a half court of its own elsewhere in the park rather than in the parking lot.

Mike Sticha stated that he had recently spoke with some representatives of some of the ball teams and that they had suggested some upgrades to the fields including new bases, portable pitching mounds, additional posts for bases and portable fences.

Planning Director Ondich stated that in 2008 the City Council had adopted a Park and Recreation Facility Policy which was specifically written for the purpose of clarifying what facilities the city would provide and what competitive users should provide. He stated that he would provide a copy of the policy in the next Park Board packets but that the policy essentially said that the City will only provide for basic facilities to be uses by the general recreational user and not more specialized items used for competitive purposes.

Amy Jirik asked if the pet waste station was installed at Greenway Park.

Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jim Calliguri stated that it was installed this summer and it was difficult to determine how much it was being used.

Maggie Bass stated that she likes the idea of the exercise stations in Greenway Park and particularly likes the ones that do not have moving parts. She stated that the equipment should be kept simple.

Matthew Lash stated that he sees the exercise items being used by the youngest and oldest users with the middle age groups not using it much at all.

Mike Sticha asked if the equipment might detract from the appearance of the park.

Maggie Bass said that she would recommend that the equipment be grouped together and that she specifically recommends the balance beam, s-shaped jump bar and the plyoboxes.

Chris Millard stated that he has seen the items in other parks in other cities and doesn't think they will be used much.

The Park Board asked how the items are anchored to the ground.

Planning Director Ondich said that he would ask Flanagan Sales about how the items are anchored and what sort of surface they must be installed over.

Amy Jirik stated that she would like to see the basketball hoop cost moved to the Park Board Budget and to keep the Park Equipment Fund available to possibly pay for a concrete slab for a half-court area.

A motion was made by Lasch, seconded by Sticha to recommend that the City Council consider the list of Park Board Budget Projects as written above the \$14,600 amount noting that projects will be ranked in priority and with the addition of the basketball hoop for Foundry Hill Park added. Motion carried (5-0).

5. Signs for No Motorized Vehicles – West TH19 Trail and East TH19 Trail/Sidewalks

Planning Director Ondich stated that it was recently brought to his attention by Police Chief Vosejpkka that there might be a desire by snowmobile groups to illegally use the new West TH19 trail as a route into and out of the City, similar to other trails recently installed where the City has had to install “no motorized vehicles” signs. He stated that City Code only allows snowmobiles to drive on the side of the road. He stated that in addition to the West TH19 Trail that staff is also concerned with the east side of TH19 and would also intend to install signs on both the trail and sidewalk along TH19 on the east side of town. He stated that a total of six signs would be installed.

6. Property Adjacent to Southside Park For Sale

Planning Director Ondich stated that Marlene Mushitz had recently spoken with him about some land for sale adjacent to Southside Park owned by Edgar A. Busch. He stated that the property is land-locked and was not buildable because it did not have public street frontage. He stated that the 6,872 sq. ft. lot is valued by the County at \$6,700 for 2013 and Mr. Busch is offering to sell it for \$1,500. He stated that he believed \$1,500 was a fair price for the land and it could be added to the boundary of the park but it would not provide much of a useful area for the park which is already 13.15 acres in size. He stated that the land probably has more value to an adjacent property owner but that there may not be any interest from an adjacent property owner to purchase at this time. He stated that the City does have a Park Property Acquisition Fund to purchase land for park purposes but that the fund still has a negative balance due to a balloon payment for the City’s Future Athletic Complex purchase a few years ago. He stated that he would like the Park Board to discuss the possible acquisition of the property but that an alternative funding source would need to be identified due to lack of funds in the dedicated fund.

Amy Jirik and Matthew Lasch both noted that they were in support of purchasing the land because it was adjacent to the trail that leads into the park and would be a good extension of the park boundary.

Mike Sticha asked about the possibility of the property having issues such as contamination or other things buried.

Planning Director Ondich stated that a purchase agreement would address disclosures of such things and that typically the City does an Environmental Site Assessment in cases where property is acquired, but the cost of such a study would be more than the value of the land and that he had no reason to believe that there would be any major issues with the residential property but that anything is possible.

A motion was made by Jirik, seconded by Bass to recommend to the City Council the purchase of the Edgar A. Busch property adjacent to Southside Park for \$1,500 from a yet to be determined funding source. Motion carried (4-1, Sticha).

7. Miscellaneous

- a. **Tree Plantings at Sliding Hill Skate Park, Memorial Park and Southside Park** – Parks Maintenance Supervisor Jim Calliguri discussed areas at Sliding Hill Skate Park, Memorial Park and Southside Park where he plans to plant some wind breaks using trees from the City's tree farm and also some tree planting areas in Memorial Park in preparation of the eventual removal of some ash trees.

Planning Director Ondich stated that the general fund park department budget has allocated for the purchase of the trees for the replacement of ash trees. He stated that the item was provided for informational purposes only.

Amy Jirik stated that she would be concerned about having too many trees blocking the view of the skating rinks from the parking lot or to simply plant them further south to keep the line of sight open.

- b. **Grand Opening Celebration for Spring Lake Regional Park** – Planning Director Ondich stated that he provided a flyer for the grand opening of Spring Lake Regional Park which is a part of the Scott County/Three Rivers Park District partnership and that the item was provided for informational purposes only.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Lasch, seconded by Millard to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 PM. Motion carried (5-0).

Respectfully Submitted,



Ken Ondich
Planning Director