

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, November 9, 2021
6:00 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at City Hall at 6:00 PM by Chair Joe Barten. Members present were Joe Barten, Brian Molitor, Maggie Bass, and Al Hansen. Absent was Youth Representative Hailey Calliguri (arrived at 6:20PM). Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Molitor, seconded by Hansen, to approve the October 12th, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

3. Review Financial Reports

Planning Director Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board noting that during the month of October, an additional \$520.18 was added to the Park Equipment Fund from new residential home permits and commercial permits. He also noted that there was 1 new home permit issued in October for a total of 26 housing unit permits issued so far in 2021. He also noted that the final engineering bill for the Southside Park Drainage Improvement Project was on the financials.

A motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Bass to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried (4-0).

4. Bandshell / Gazebo Discussion – New Prague Arts Council

Planning Director Ondich suggested tabling the discussion on the bandshell until Mr. Den Gardner with the New Prague Arts Council is present for the discussion.

A motion was made by Molitor, seconded by Hansen, to table the discussion on the bandshell until Mr. Den Gardner is present for the discussion and asked for the arts council to provide suggestions for the location to be discussed. Motion carried (4-0).

5. Towering To Our Future Art Piece – Consider Moving to Library

Dennis Dvorak was present to present the idea of moving the “Towering To Our Future” art piece that is located in Philipps Park to the Memorial Library for better visibility. He explained that the idea to move it was initially suggested for Central Plaza, but the plaza design became too cluttered so the idea of the library location was suggested. He stated that he believed the library was a good location as the art piece tells the stories of residents that created the bronze reliefs and that there is already another art piece at the library. He stated that he believes this art piece is one that needs better access to all sides as it is necessary to

see all four sides to see all the bronze reliefs and that lighting on the art piece should also be considered at some time.

Maggie Bass asked Mr. Dvorak if he had spoken with the artist about moving it.

Mr. Dvorak stated that he had not, but had spoken to her husband who seemed supportive in previous conversations.

Maggie Bass asked if Mr. Dvorak had asked the library if they had thought of a place to place the art piece and if brochures were available for it if they could hand them out.

Chair Barten stated that Philipps Park was more of a greenway type park with the walking trail as its main amenity and believed that moving the art piece to the library would be a good idea, but that the project was not necessarily a priority.

Brian Molitor stated that he also liked the idea of moving it to the library for more visibility.

The consensus of the Park Board was for Mr. Dvorak to check with the artist about moving the art piece and with the Library about placement and have City staff look into the costs of moving it and creating a new concrete footing.

6. Discussion of Park Development in Homefield Addition Neighborhood

Planning Director Ondich stated that at the October 18, 2021 City Council meeting, Councilmember Shawn Ryan stated that a resident had inquired about the use of a vacant lot at the corner of English Ave. NW and Music Street NW and whether there would be a possibility of turning the lot into a park because of the neighborhood being young and not having a city park within it. He stated that the specific question regarding the development of a park in the Homefield Neighborhood has occurred a few times in the past and it's been noted that Homefield Addition is a neighborhood that is still building out, although in the current phases of the development, there is not dedicated park area. He added that the park is planned for future development of the neighborhood just on the north side of the existing pond but noted that while the neighborhood does not a park within it directly, it is serviced by the playground at Falcon Ridge Elementary, Sliding Hill Skate Park as a community Park and to a degree, the school's practice fields in the vicinity. He stated that the idea about purchasing the lot located at 201 Music Street NW is interesting, but would not meet the long term needs of the neighborhood. He stated that a neighborhood park is planned for the area in the future, but per the City's Comprehensive Plan, neighborhood parks are suggested to be 1 acre minimum in size while this lot is only 0.27 acres in size and has a unique slope on the lot which make it difficult to fully develop due to the elevation change. He noted that the City's comprehensive plan does not consider what are commonly referred to as "Tot Lots" which are smaller than neighborhood parks and may contain only a very small play area for preschool aged children. He stated that regarding the lot itself, it is currently owned by Miller Homes LLC and is not actively on the market and has an estimated market value of \$57,500. He stated that regarding the general area for the future park identified in the Comprehensive Plan, it would be a 1-acre adjacent to the existing pond, while

noting that the lot also has unique topography, but could also be increased in size above the 1-acre area indicated on the map to provide for a small playground and some open space or a sport court. He stated that based on the information contained in the City's Comprehensive Plan for Parks, staff would not recommend seeking to acquire and develop a single existing residential lot as a neighborhood park is planned with the next phase of development in Homefield Addition.

The Park Board consensus was to follow the comprehensive plan for the development of a park in Homefield Addition rather than consider the development of a smaller tot lot as an interim solution.

7. Miscellaneous

- a. 2021 Project Updates** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the drinking fountain for Southside Park was ordered but the anticipated delivery date was not known. He also noted that staff was relying on the utility department for the install of the water line, but they had been busy with installing lights on Main Street so he was not sure if the water line would get installed yet this year.
- b. Park Board Budget Discussion Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the City Council held its fourth budget workshop and that little discussion has occurred regarding the Park board Budget request to date.
- c. Fitness and Aquatic Center Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the FAC update was included in the packet as information.
- d. Splash Pad Feasibility Proposals Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that he had not had time since last month's meeting to solicit another proposal nor had the proposal from USAquatics been received.
- e. Central Plaza Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the City Council approved the concept design and authorized the project to move into the construction plan phase at their October 18th Council meeting.
- f. Trail Crossings** – Brian Molitor suggested that the City look into enhanced trail crossing bollards to increase motorist visibility of pedestrians crossing streets on the City's trail system. The Park Board noted it was a good idea and staff noted that the idea could be a good alternative to permanent concrete bump outs.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM by order of Chair Barten.

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" and a distinct "ndich" at the end.

Ken Ondich
Planning / Community Development Director