

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, November 12, 2013
6:30 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Maggie Bass. Members present were Mike Sticha, Amy Jirik, Matthew Lasch, David Bruzek and Chris Millard. Absent were Youth Representative Aaron Dodge, Sharon Brown and Amy Jirik. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning Director.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Bruzek, seconded by Millard to approve the October 8, 2013 regular 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 October an additional \$1,093.09 was added to the Park Equipment Fund from new residential home permits.

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

4. Memorial Park Baseball Field Improvements

Planning Director Ondich stated that at the November 4, 2013 City Council Meeting, a PowerPoint presentation was provided to the City Council with an invite e-mailed to the Park Board to attend as well. He noted that for those who were unable to attend the meeting to see the presentation, he attached the full packet of information which was provided to the City Council at their meeting. He stated that Jerry Plambeck from the New Prague Orioles and Mike Sticha were the two representatives to speak with the City Council. He stated that no specific costs have been identified at this time nor has any formal process been set as the meeting was essentially an introduction to the tournament which would be held at the field in 2018.

Mike Sticha stated that he had recently been asked by Jerry Plambeck to become one of the tri-directors of the tournament and that there is nobody appointed to the 3rd director seat at this time. He stated that he would like to obtain input from the Legion, Youth Baseball and High School teams for the planning of the work on the field as it wasn't just the Orioles that use the field. He stated that he believes a lot of improvements will be needed to the facility. He stated that he would also like to document what the City puts

into the field annually along with what the users of the field put into the field. He noted that it might be a good idea to explore having the golf course staff/equipment help out with the field maintenance.

The Park Board had general discussion on the tournament and what other cities have assisted with at fields with tournament. No further action was taken at this time.

5. 2014 Park Board Budget –Projects and Goals

Planning Director Ondich stated that at the October Park Board Meeting the Park Board established a list of projects to utilize the requested \$20,000 Park Board budget for 2014. He stated that one of the items included was setting aside \$9,300 for site preparation for two soccer fields at Southside Park and that has researched the topic a little further with the assistance of K.A. Witt and has found that \$9,300 will not provide us with two nicely graded and drain tiled soccer fields at Southside Park and further shows that a field is not possible up near the entrance to the park because of grades and drainage needed there. He noted that included in the packet is a set of quotes and maps showing some possible layouts for Southside Park and Settlers Park and that these fields would be fully drain tiled and graded. He noted that the field costs do not include soccer goals which are an additional \$1,400 to \$1,900 for each field (depending on the size and age group). He stated that the estimates include 2 fields at Southside Park for just over \$40,000 and three field areas at Settlers Park for over \$44,000. He stated that according to Janelle Kirsch of Community Education, the largest need for soccer fields is in the under 12 age category and both of these fields would actually be suited for the 10 and under age groups based on the field dimensions. He noted that the estimate for Southside Park alone is \$30,000 more just for the field work and does not include any goals and the Park Board Budget and Park Equipment Fund does not have the funds to complete even one of the project areas at this time with the full fledged field improvements. He stated that the Park Board may want to consider a more basic approach to simply providing for some soccer goals to be put out on some relatively flat field areas to see how they are used before spending \$40,000 for significant improvements. He stated that as information he also included the final version of the Park Board Project and Goal Details.

The Park Board discussed the merits of putting such a large amount of money into fields which would not be dedicated soccer field areas. They discussed the need for the future athletic complex to continue to be discussed with the School as well.

Chair Maggie Bass asked the Park Board to once again come to the next meeting with a list of projects to add for the years of 2015 and 2016.

6. SMSC Trail Improvement Grant

Planning Director Ondich stated that the City recently received a letter dated 10/24/13 from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community which outlines grants they are making available to cities in Scott County. He noted that while the City does not have any trail projects ready to bid, staff did come up with some ideas to discuss for possible application:

1. Interpretive Trail around the future City Center Drainage Pond (north of Strike Force Bowl – see enclosed map). Cost of the trail including educational signs around the pond would be about \$68,000. The City would have to pick up a local 20% match of about \$13,600. This project would be dependent upon receiving another grant to fund the actual construction of the pond from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (we were not funded in 2013 for the same pond application).
2. Paving the Woodchip Trail in Settlers Park (see attached detail map). Cost would be approximately \$60 per lineal foot and a total of nearly \$65,000. The City would have to pick up a local 20% match of about \$13,000.
3. Paving a Trail Connection in Tikalsky Acres (see attached detail map). Cost would be approximately \$60 per lineal foot and a total of nearly \$58,000. The City would have to pick up a local 20% match of about \$11,600.
4. Exercise Equipment along an existing trail. A company called “Greenfields” has provided information to all Cities in Scott County about their proposal to provide the local 20% match if they apply for a project to install their outdoor exercise equipment.

He stated that he confirmed that all projects within the City of New Prague, even if in LeSueur County, would be eligible for funds and that we could submit all projects in hopes of landing just one of them. He stated that any of the projects except the interpretive trail around the pond would need to be reviewed by the City Council prior to submittal.

The Park Board discussed the proposed trails projects noting that the trail loop connection in Tikalsky Acres would be the first priority, followed by the Settlers Park Trail and the Interpretive Trail around the future City Center Pond (because it was subject to another grant is the only reason this was ranked last).

7. Miscellaneous

- a. **Future of Swimming Pool Article – New Prague Times** – Planning Director Ondich stated that included as information was an article which recaps the discussion at a City Council Workshop meeting regarding the City’s Pool.

- b. **Soccer Fields Letter to the Editor – New Prague Times** – Planning Director Ondich stated that included as information was a letter to the editor regarding the City’s lack of true soccer fields.

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Lasch, seconded by Sticha to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.
Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Ken Ondich
Planning Director