

Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, November 12th, 2024
6:00 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at City Hall at 6:01 PM by Chair Joe Barten. Members present were Joe Barten, Christine Wolf, Jessica Dohm, Debra Tharaldson, Maggie Bass, Shannon Sticha, Matt Becka, and Youth Representative Jacob Bisek. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

2. Public Forum

Keith Deutsch, 26115 Helena Boulevard, introduced an idea he had for a mountain bike park on his property which is located just north of City Limits along TH21. He stated that his dad owned Ron's Cycle Shop and that he started the company back up and had provided input on the City's Comprehensive Plan that he'd like to consider park land on his property in the future along with a trail connection from the City to his property. He stated that he spoke with Joe Sand, an adjacent property owner, as well as Scott County Soil and Water Conservation District and they believe a pallet trail through marshy areas would be possible from city limits to his property and the approximately 8 acre area he would have the mountain bike park. He stated that he believes he can acquire a military surplus bulldozer to assist with the work, but that he also believed he needed to start a non-profit for the park. He said he would hope the city could lease the mountain bike park because he cannot afford the liability insurance. The Park Board thanked Mr. Deutsch for his time.

**3. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2024 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Dohm, seconded by Becka, to approve October 8, 2024, regular meeting minutes. Motion carried (7-0).

4. Review Financial Reports

Planning / Community Development Director Ondich presented the October financial report. Two new residential home permits were issued in October for a total of nine this year. The city has not received final bills for the Heritage Park lighting/electrical improvements.

A motion was made by Barten, seconded by Sticha, to approve the financial reports. Motion carried (7-0).

5. 2025 Creek Clean up Event

The Park Board had general discussion regarding a clean up event for the spring of 2025. It was consensus to have staff tentatively plan an event for April 26th for the area of Philipps Creek north of 7th Street NE (near Chart and the Living Lab) as well as the Greenway by the Brana and as far north as can be reached during the event. It was noted that the National Honor Society at the High School needs hours, but that their owners would already be due the 25th of April.

6. Miscellaneous

- a. **Soleris Sunshades at Central Plaza** – Consensus of the Park Board was to obtain a final quote and order after the first of the year for 5 of the green colored sunshades without slats in the top.
- b. **Portable Pickleball Nets** – Consensus of the Park board was to have staff re-stripe the pickleball lines at the Heritage Park court and to also look into putting pickleball court lines at the basketball court at Foundry Hill Park. Additionally, the Park Board consensus was to have at least 6 wheeled nets at the Middle School and to purchase an additional two nets for Heritage / Foundry Hill Park but that the nets for those parks may not need to be on wheels. Staff will determine which nets to purchase for each location for 2025.
- c. **Settlers Park Update** – Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that the City Council had approved a termination agreement with Rock Leaf Water Environmental and entered into a new agreement with RES to complete the work at Settlers Park as paid for by the DNR grant. Letters will go out to adjoining property owners by the end of the month with an update.
- d. **Comprehensive Plan Update / Unified Development Code**–Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that the Comprehensive Plan was approved by the City Council on October 21st and that the City Council also had approved hiring Bolton & Menk to assist staff with the re-writing of the zoning and subdivision ordinances. He noted that the subdivision ordinance was most applicable to the Park Board as the park dedication requirements were contained in that ordinance.
- e. **POPS Update** – Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that the Forward New Prague Foundation received a grant from SMIF for \$9,685 for landscaping improvements at the POPS facility. Chair Barten asked that Japanese Barberry not be used. It was additionally noted that a donation agreement was still pending until the City Engineer and the POPS engineer and architect could get details worked out on the grading details for the site.

8. Adjournment

Chair Barten adjourned the meeting at 7:07pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kyra J. Chapman

Kyra J. Chapman
Planner