

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, December 8, 2020
6:00 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chair Amanda Judd. Members present were Maggie Bass, Joe Barten, and Anthony Anderson. Absent was Steve Roesner. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Barten, seconded by Anderson, to approve the November 10, 2020 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 November there was \$2,382.50 added to the Park Equipment Fund from 5 new home permits being issued and that a total of 42 new home permits had been issued so far in 2020.

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

4. Application to Rename Foundry Hill Park Woods Nature Exploration area to Tietz Trail-Woods Natura Exploration Area

Planning Director Ondich stated that the Adopt-A-Park program was somewhat re-established in 2019 as some of the participants in the program had stopped actively holding clean up events. He stated that he had reached out to all the existing participants to determine if they were interested in continued participation with some of the original adopting groups re-committed to the program, but some groups decided not to continue so he advertised the program for the park areas that were left unadopted. He stated that he did not hear much interest, likely due to COVID-19, but recently did receive an application from Edina Realty to adopt the west portion of Memorial Park which includes the playground and softball fields. He stated that while no formal action from the Park Board is necessary for Edina Realty to participate in the program, he wanted to provide the update about the program as it had been nearly a year since he had provided an update.

The Park Board suggested that the current adoption groups should be sent thank you's for participating in the program and that another push to advertise the program should be made for Earth Day in 2021 with a newsletter article and social media posts.

On a side note, member Joe Barten asked about starting a "Friends of the Parks" page to gather input on park matters.

The Park Board felt it could be a conflict of interest and instead encouraged the use of existing city social media accounts and the website to encourage residents to attend Park Board meetings to voice their thoughts and concerns.

5. Miscellaneous

- a. **2022-2026 Project Plan Discussion** – Planning Director Ondich stated that he attached the 2022 – 2026 Project Plan as updated following the last Park Board Meeting and that he would keep the list on the agenda each month to discuss project ideas as they come up. Anthony Anderson asked if it would be a future Park Board project or just a maintenance item to replace missing mats under the swings at Heritage Park. Planning Director Ondich stated that he would ask Parks Maintenance Supervisor Calliguri about the mats and that they would most likely be a maintenance budget item and not under the guise of the Park Board.
- b. **Fitness and Aquatic Center Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that he attached the monthly updated to the packet as information. He also noted that a new executive order from the governor required the FAC to close starting on 11/21/20 until at least 12/18/20 and that the Joint Powers Board had voted to furlough some employees during this time as well as keep some staff on to keep members engaged during the new shutdown. He stated that a reopening date is unknown at this time.
- c. **2021 Meeting Calendar** – Planning Director Ondich noted that he had included the 2021 meeting calendar as information.
- d. **Ice Rinks and Warming House** – Anthony Anderson asked if the City would open rinks and have the warming house open for the winter. Planning Director Ondich stated that per the existing executive order and DNR outdoor recreation guidelines that warming houses are not able to be open until at least December 18th, but that he expected that restriction to go beyond that date. He stated that the Sliding Hill Skate Park Rinks and the rink at Setters Park would be flooded this winter. Anthony Anderson asked if additional benches could be added to the rink areas while the warming house is closed. He also asked if additional rubber mats could be put out at the rinks at Sliding Hill Skate Park. Planning Director Ondich stated that he would discuss both requests with Parks Maintenance Supervisor Calliguri.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 PM by order of Chair Judd.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ken Ondich
Planning / Community Development Director