

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, January 14, 2020
6:00 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM by Chair Amanda Judd. Members present were Caitlin Huiras, Maggie Bass, Anthony Anderson, Joe Barten, and Youth Representative Adam Langfield. Absent were Margaret Solheid and Steve Roesner. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

2. Welcome New Member – Joe Barten

The Park Board welcomed new member Joe Barten to the Park Board.

3. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Judd, seconded by Anderson, to approve the December 17, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried (5-0).

4. Review Financial Reports

Planning Director Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board noting that during the month of December there was \$1,111.33 added to the Park Equipment Fund from 2 home permits being issued. He noted that there was not an official financial from the accounting department this month due to staff vacations.

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

5. Tobacco Free Park and Recreation Policy Discussion - Continued

Planning Director Ondich stated that at the November 12th and December 17th Park Board Meetings, the Park Board discussed, and ultimately asked staff to place the discussion back on the January agenda in hopes of having more members present to continue the discussion. He stated that included in the packet is the information provided at the November and December Park Board meetings relating to a tobacco free policy. He stated that some of the discussion included designating smoking or tobacco use areas and possibly starting with only picnic shelters, playgrounds and bathrooms and all of the Memorial Park Baseball Stadium as tobacco free. He noted that also specifically discussed at the December meeting was survey information from New Prague Schools about the amount of use occurring as well as the refuse that can be found in parks from tobacco use. He stated that new this month in the packet is a sign that is used at

Minneapolis Parks about their tobacco free policy (this one specifically is from Minnehaha Falls).

Anthony Anderson stated that specific locations for cigarette receptacles should be discussed. He also noted that users of the softball fields were also likely to be vocal about prohibiting tobacco use.

Chair Judd asked if chewing tobacco would also be prohibited.

Planning Director Ondich stated that chewing tobacco would also be prohibited and that chewing tobacco was the biggest issue at the Memorial Park Baseball Stadium with players in terms of clean up needed.

Maggie Bass brought up the idea of designated tobacco use areas.

Joe Barten stated that it would be a hard transition and could take about 5 years.

Caitlin Huiras stated that she believes parks are shared spaces and that it is within the city's purview to not allow tobacco use in parks.

Maggie Bass stated that she was in favor of signage to specify where tobacco free areas are and to place receptacles for cigarettes to cut down on the litter.

Amanda Judd suggested cigarette receptacles for non-smoking areas as well as for designated smoking areas.

Joe Barten stated that he likes specific signs showing that chewing tobacco and e-cigs are now allowed, but also like the simple signs for near to playground areas.

The Park Board asked if Mayo would possibly fund some signs.

Caitlin Huiras stated that ANSR might be able to provide funding for tobacco free signs, but that might require the entire park area to be tobacco free and not just certain areas.

Joe Barten asked where signs should be placed and how far away tobacco use would be allowed in areas where it is prohibited such as a limited number of feet away.

Planning Director Ondich noted that such discussion is the reason why cities that enact a tobacco free policy just include park areas in full, rather than some areas and not others.

Anthony Anderson stated that signage might be needed by shelters or playgrounds.

The Park Board asked staff to add to the list of prohibited areas the wording of "athletic fields". They also discussed that signs could be worded to say no tobacco use in "common areas".

The Park Board ultimately asked staff to place the matter back on the agenda with slight revisions on the policy to also include athletic fields and to bring back information on sign placement, amount of signs and placement of cigarette receptacles so that a package of information could be forwarded to the council in the future for consideration.

6. Miscellaneous

- a. 2020 Park Board Budget** – Planning Director Ondich reviewed the approved 2020 Budget for the Park Board as approved by the City Council. He noted that the drinking fountain at Southside park and pickleball nets had been cut from the list.
- b. Fitness and Aquatic Center Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that a formal update on the Fitness and Aquatic Center was not available in time for the preparation of the packet this month. He stated that as an update to questions from the December meeting, the community room is only to be used by Members of the FAC or other outside groups are able to rent the room through Community Education and that seniors cannot simply come in and use the room without being a member. He also stated that use of the Mayo Mile is not permitted for the general public as you must have a FAC membership to use it.
- c. Adopt-A-Park Program Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that as discussed in 2019, staff had reached back out to all groups that had adopted parks to determine if they would be interested in continuing to adopt a park and complete the associated clean-ups as staff had noticed a downturn in clean up events from adopting entities. He stated that he had heard back from the New Prague Lions, FaithPoint Lutheran Church Senior High Youth, New Prague Girl Scouts, and National Honor Society who all renewed their adoptions. He stated that he would reach out to the other groups again and if they aren't interested he would then advertise those parks) for adoption by new groups.
- d. Falcon Ridge Elementary / Mayo Grant** – Planning Director Ondich stated that as requested at the December meeting he obtained information regarding the grant Falcon Ridge Elementary School received from Mayo. He stated that the \$9,000 grant would go towards the purchase of an 8 station outdoor fitness system from Gopher Sport and that the public will have use to the system after school hours.
- e. Warming House / Ice Rink Reports** – Planning Director Ondich stated that included in the packet were the daily use reports for the warming house from 12/21/19 to 1/5/20.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM by order of Chair Judd.

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 / Community Development Director