

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
6:00 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Vice Chair Anthony Anderson. Members present were Maggie Bass, Joe Barten, and Steve Roesner. Absent was Chair Amanda Judd. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Barten, seconded by Roesner, to approve the January 12, 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 January there was \$1,697.42 added to the Park Equipment Fund from 4 new home permits being issued and that a total of 4 new home permits had been issued so far in 2021.

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

4. Miscellaneous

- a. **2022-2026 Project Plan** – Planning Director Ondich stated that included in the packet was the 2022 to 2026 Project Plan as updated following the last Park Board Meeting. He also stated that one item discussed at the January Park Board Meeting to be added as a future project was lighting the Northside Park sliding hill and court area with lights that could be on a timer or other such control. He stated that he talked with Utilities General Manager Bruce Reimers who indicated that adding simple lights would be easy but adding a timer and/or push button controls adds a lot of cost and complexity. He stated that the utilities department is looking into the cost of the lights and controls and that he would report back to the Park Board at a future meeting. Joe Barten stated that a screening of trees could be considered in certain areas of the park if the lighting would be objectionable to any surrounding property. Planning Director Ondich noted that if the issue were raised staff would see what trees are available at the City's tree farm that could be used.

Planning Director Ondich also stated that he had some follow up information to provide to the Park Board regarding the picnic shelter at Heritage Park. He stated that in discussing further with Chad Lunder, Building Official, and Jim Calliguri, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, it was noted that with the basketball court sloped towards the picnic shelter it was expected that water would flow that direction and that most of the city's picnic shelters have water that enters them in some fashion. He stated that it was noted that the footing joints will be sealed to prevent water from sitting around the footing and that the only solution to possibly prevent water moving from the basketball court to the picnic shelter area is to cut in a trench drain, but staff believes this to be too extreme of a solution and that the water is expected to quickly evaporate off the shelter floor particularly in warm weather. He noted that the concrete was poured flat as planned and the water "pooling" is not due to the concrete not being level, but rather the flow from the basketball court leading to the picnic shelter area. He stated that staff does not have concerns about the water runoff for the structural integrity of the footings or the shelter itself and that from an aesthetic standpoint staff would expect it to quickly dry and should it become a nuisance, staff could install a trench drain along the area between the basketball court and the picnic shelter to capture some of the water. Maggie Bass indicated that she would support the trench drain if the water is a problem in the warmer months. Planning Director Ondich stated that staff will revisit the issue in the spring as a trench drain could not be installed until its warmer anyways.

- b. Fitness and Aquatic Center Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that he included in the packet the monthly update for the Fitness and Aquatic Center. He stated that the financials show the massive revenue decline from the closing of the facility from mid-November into early January as expected and the year to date loss of the facility is running higher than projected due to COVID-19. He stated that the Joint Powers Board also held a meeting on January 25th, 2021 to hear the updates, and some positives were noted such as: swim lessons starting back up in February, open swim starting back up in February, the Neptunes Swim Club is almost back to full schedule and also the facility is hoping to host two swim meets, which would be modified per COVID-19 restrictions, this winter/spring as our facility is one of few in the state that can actually hold a meet under the restrictions.

- c. Ice Rinks and Warming House** – Planning Director Ondich stated that since last month's meeting, staff had found rink attendants, ordered a glass barrier between the warming house area and the rink attendant area and had opened for the weekend of February 5th but noted that the low temperatures kept the users of the warming house low. Joe Barten showed the Park Board that he had created a google doc to log in the use reports and created a graph to show the use versus the temperatures over the weekend. He stated that he could provide a link to the document if the rink attendants wanted to use it to log in their information. Anthony Anderson asked how making ice in the very low temperatures was working and asked if staff could share the information. He

also asked if other equipment might be necessary to keep up the ice conditions at some point in the future.

- d. Central Plaza** – Maggie Bass asked about the Central Plaza project. Planning Director Ondich stated that Kay Wilcox, who had organized the committee to help design the plaza, had recently inquired about meeting again and that City Staff would have Jen Krava, the landscape architect that had worked with the committee, meet with Karl Weissenborn with the City’s Engineering firm so that plans could be finalized. Planning Director Ondich stated that could mean the committee may need to meet again and that he would keep the Park Board informed of the progress. Joe Barten noted that he would be interested in attending a committee meeting in the future.
- e. Eastland Park Development** – Vice Chair Anderson asked about park development in the vicinity of the Eastland Development. Planning Director Ondich stated that the City had received \$75,000 in park dedication payments from Witt for the completed portions of the development and that an additional \$25,000 would be obtained as they wrap up the development. He stated that the reason a payment in lieu of was taken was that the City’s Park Plan provides for a park search area east of Alton Ave. SE which is outside of the Eastland area that is currently developed. He stated that an exact area had not been determined for a new park but that the money already obtain could be used to supplement a land dedication with the platting of land on the east side of Alton Ave. SE.
- f. Athletic Field Inventory** – Vice Chair Anthony Anderson asked about the park inventory and the status. Planning Director Ondich stated that it had been on the City Council’s goals since 2018 and that for various reasons the project had been delayed and that it would also involve the school district. Maggie Bass stated that the City Council would be having a goal setting workshop soon and that she would advocate to keep the field inventory as a project that should remain on the goals list.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM by order of Vice Chair Anderson.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ken Ondich
Planning / Community Development Director