

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, May 12, 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, Steve Roesner, Margaret Solheid, Anthony Anderson and Youth Representative Adam Langfield. Absent was Joe Barten. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Bass, to approve the March 10, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried (6-0).

3. Review Financial Reports

Planning Director Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board noting that during the month of April there was \$1,100.46 added to the Park Equipment Fund from 2 new home permits being issued and that a total of 7 new home permits had been issued so far in 2020.

A motion was made by Solheid, seconded by Roesner, to accept the financial reports as presented. Motion carried (6-0).

4. Zip Line for Memorial Park

Planning Director Ondich stated that in 2019, staff had initially planned to purchase and install a 100' long zip line in Memorial Park, but that the project was ultimately delayed to 2020 in order to increase the budget to \$30,000 to cover a sidewalk surround and woodchips for the zip line area in addition to the zipline itself. He stated that staff has once again obtained two quotes for the zip line, including installation with the following quotes received: Minnesota/Wisconsin Playground - \$20,131.38 and Northland Recreation - \$18,606.00 (Low Quote). He stated that in addition to the equipment and installation, staff already purchased for \$1,550.50 the wood fiber surfacing and also obtained quotes for a concrete sidewalk surround as follows: Steve Rynda Construction and Landscape - \$10,825.00 and Franek Concrete and Masonry - \$9,800.00 (Low Quote). He stated that utilizing Northland Recreation and Franek that the project total would be \$29,956.50 which is just under the \$30,000 budget. He stated that while the Main Street reconstruction project is now moving forward, he did not yet have a schedule for the re-routing of the storm sewer line in Memorial Park which would need to be done before the

zip line could be installed. He stated that for this reason, he would withhold the recommendation for the Council to approve the purchase until a schedule is known.

Anthony Anderson asked how the area for the zip line was chosen and noted concern for maintenance of grass between the existing playground area and the zip line area.

Planning Director Ondich stated that the location was chosen based on existing grades with review by the City Engineer and that staff will monitor the area for maintenance concerns if they should arise.

A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Solheid, to recommend that the City Council select Northland Recreation in the amount of \$18,606 for the zip line including installation and Franek Concrete in the amount of \$9,800 for the concrete surround, to be paid for from the Park Equipment Fund.

Motion carried (6-0).

5. Miscellaneous

- a. Annual Park Board Tour Feedback and Discussion** – Planning Director Ondich asked the Park Board members if they had any comments or questions from their self-guided tours of Memorial Park, Greenway Park and Heritage Park.

Maggie Bass asked if the Greenway Trail would be getting seal coated. Planning Director Ondich stated that he believed the trail in Greenway Park would be repaved, but that he would have to get back to the Park Board on the details.

Anthony Anderson asked where the picnic shelter would be located in Heritage Park.

Caitlin Huiras asked about the existing Veteran’s Memorial in Memorial Park.

Planning Director Ondich stated that the existing memorial would remain as it is today.

- b. 2020 Park Board Budget Project Update**– Planning Director Ondich stated that the Heritage Park picnic shelter would be put out the bid shortly and that there had been interest from some local contractors about the project, so staff was hopeful for a good price.
- c. Fitness and Aquatic Center Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the April 2020 update for the Fitness and Aquatic Center was provided in the packet. He and Maggie Bass noted that at the April Joint Powers Board meeting that they voted to keep full time staff employed through the end of May and to re-evaluate for future months. It was noted that membership engagement activities have been

beneficial as loss of memberships during the pandemic have been kept low which is to the benefit of the long-term success of the fitness and aquatic center.

- d. **Covid-19 Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that to date, playgrounds have been closed since the stay at home order was issued in March and that staff is only aware of two cities in Scott County that have opened their playgrounds up at this time which are Elko New Market and Prior Lake while Shakopee never closed their playgrounds. He stated that the City’s stance at this point is the keep playgrounds closed per the executive orders to limit gathering in park spaces at least through May 17th when the order is currently set to expire. He stated that only two formal complaints had been filed since the stay at home order began with one complaint last week from a daycare provider about playgrounds not being available to her and then a call early in the week from a parent complaining that the skate park was not open.

Chair Judd stated that the City of Jordan has a-frame signs located by their playgrounds noting the need for social distancing.

Caitlin Huiras stated that she works for Carver County and that all the county and city parks in Carver County are open for use. She stated that she does not like the visual of the caution tape around the playgrounds in town.

Planning Director Ondich stated that he would be attending a webinar on Thursday morning from the League of Minnesota Cities regarding whether or not cities should open up playgrounds and other park amenities and that he believed the webinar would discuss the liability of cities that have chosen to open playgrounds and how concerns can be mitigated going forward.

Chair Judd asked if staff would update the Park Board on what is presented at the webinar.

Planning Director Ondich stated that he would let the Park Board know.

6. Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,



Ken Ondich
Planning / Community Development Director