

**Meeting Minutes  
New Prague Park Board  
Tuesday, July 11, 2017  
6:30 PM**

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Terry Murtaugh. Members present were Maggie Bass, Amy Jirik, Margaret Solheid, Kelly Holden and Matthew Ingebrand. Absent was Cortney Amundson. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

**2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Bass, seconded by Solheid, to approve the June 6, 2017 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 June there was \$3,543.23 added to the Park Equipment Fund from 4 single family home permits and 2 townhome permits issued. He stated that 55 new home permits have been issued so far in 2017 with 29 of those units being single family homes and 26 being townhomes.

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

**4. Eagle Scout Project Presentation for Gaga Ball Pit – Max Redfearn**

Planning Director Ondich introduced Eagle Scout Max Redfearn to present his idea for an Eagle Scout Project to construct a “Gaga Ball Pit”.

Max Redfearn presented his idea for a gaga ball pit at Memorial Park, or another park if there was interest. His presentation was contained in full in the packet.

Matt Ingebrand stated that he likes the idea of using composite materials for the structure for less maintenance to the City.

Maggie Bass agreed that composite materials would be best and also suggested looking into purchasing the corner brackets and noted that she’d be concerned about having someone make them if they are patented.

Margaret Solheid asked if other corner brackets could be purchased at Lowe’s or Home Depot.

Chair Murtaugh stated that she likes the composite materials and also noted that a dip down for smaller kids to get in would be needed.

Kelly Holden stated that she liked the idea of grass in the pit area.

Planning Director Ondich stated that grass would not be good in and around the pit as it would become muddy. He stated that the City might have some chip rock from past seal coating projects or woodchips that could be used instead.

Kelly Holden asked how many people could fit in a pit.

Max Redfearn stated that it was as many as could comfortably fit in the pit area.

Chair Murtaugh stated that she thinks there might need to be instructions on the bit and asked if balls would be available to use or if people have to bring their own.

Max Redfearn stated that people would bring their own balls which could be of a volleyball type of ball.

Amy Jirik stated that she likes the composite boards to cut down on city maintenance and also noted that the dip down would be needed.

Max Redfearn stated that he's seen some pits with gates on them instead of the dip down but that the gates are easily broken so that the dip down is better.

Amy Jirik asked if a group like the Lions could donate materials and have recognition as a donor. She stated that there is a new Lions club in town. She stated that she likes the corner connectors better than just bolting the sides together as she thinks they would be safer.

The Park Board asked where the closest Gaga Ball pit might be located.

Max Redfearn stated that there is one in Lonsdale at Trondhjem Church. He asked the Park Board if they thought Memorial Park was a good location.

The Park Board talked about Sliding Hill Skate Park as a possible location or even Southside Park but noted that Memorial Park has the most activity and most visibility.

Kelly Holden asked for the history of gaga ball pits.

Max Redfearn stated that it was started in Israel. He stated that they play it at scout camps. He stated that he will look into using composite materials, metal connectors and for a location at Memorial Park possibly on the east side of the access road.

Chair Murtaugh stated that some education might be needed about what it is so that people will know how to use it.

Margaret Solheid stated that she thinks instructions need to be posted on the side.

Amy Jirik stated that local phy ed. teachers should be told about the pit.

The Park Board thanked Max Redfearn for his presentation and asked that he report back to Planning Director Ondich for further discussions.

### **5. Veteran's Memorial Discussion – George Tupy of the VFW and Legion**

Planning Director Ondich stated that George Tupy of the VFW and Legion was in attendance to discuss a possible new veteran's memorial for installation in Memorial Park.

George Tupy introduced Daleyn Means who had lost her son, Dale Means, in Afghanistan in 2012, Andrea Means who is Dale's wife and JoLyn Means, Dale's sister. He stated that he was in the service and has been in the color guard for 60 years and has been involved in many funerals and Memorial Day services. He stated that other small cities in the area have wonderful memorials and thinks New Prague could have one as well. He stated that the Means family is proposing a new memorial and believes that it should have high visibility along Main Street just east of the Library. Mr. Tupy also introduced Paul Busch and Dan Bisek to the Park Board.

Andrea Means presented a rendering to the Park Board that was showing a memorial of about 50' x 60' in size but that it could be adjusted better to fit the site. She noted it would be made of granite.

Planning Director Ondich stated that past discussions about a new memorial found that there were two storm sewer lines located underneath the ground where the memorial was proposed and that he did not know their depth or size or the feasibility of moving them or constructing over the top.

Daleyn Means stated that the City had noted in the past that the memorial area should have adjacent parking, ADA accessibility and good lighting.

Margaret Solheid stated that she believed the memorial would be a great teaching tool.

The Park Board indicated that they liked the look of the Memorial.

Planning Director Ondich stated that with the design of the 2020 Downtown project for Main Street it would very timely to be looking at how this could tie into the design for the area by the park and library.

Andrea Means noted that the cost estimate based on the concept drawings would cost about \$225,000.

Amy Jirik stated that she would want some sort of agreement noting who takes care of the memorial, who does the engravings and other related matters so that there is no question in the future.

A motion was made by Solheid, seconded by Holden, to recommend that the City Council hear the presentation about a new veteran's memorial at their August 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. Motion carried (6-0).

## **6. Pickleball Reserved Times – Dan Puls**

Planning Director Ondich stated that Dan Puls of the New Prague Area Pickleball Association inquired about posting the court area at Heritage Park for additional pickleball playing times at Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8AM to 10AM during the summer which would be in addition to the previously approved Tuesday and Thursday 6PM to 9PM times and the Saturday times from 8:30AM to 10AM. He stated that staff does not have concerns with the additional times for designated play.

The Park Board noted that they had concerns about too many reserved times and don't want to scare off other potential users of the court for basketball. They asked about other courts being available.

Planning Director Ondich stated that one court is striped at Foundry Hill Park.

The Park Board discussed granting one additional morning for designated play and would like to see how their numbers are for attendance before adjusting the times again.

A motion as made by Jirik, seconded by Ingebrand, to grant the New Prague Area Pickleball Association Monday's from 8AM to 10AM for Pickleball on the signage and that future review of the use and attendance data would be reviewed for 2017 to determine if changes should be made. Motion carried (6-0).

## **7. Chamber of Commerce Memorial Park Event Proposal – Czech Out New Prague**

Planning Director Ondich stated that the Chamber of Commerce is proposing to hold their second annual Czech Out New Prague event on Thursday August 3<sup>rd</sup> in Memorial Park and that the main change will be a reduction in the event time to end an hour earlier than last year.

Amy Jirik asked staff to remind the Chamber of Commerce that they need to obtain approval earlier in the year for the next event.

A motion was made by Solheid, seconded by Holden to recommend that the City Council approve the event with the 13 conditions listed in the staff report with an emphasis on the condition that they can only allow alcohol consumption in the contained and designated area. Motion carried (6-0).

## **8. 2018 Park Board Budget Process**

Planning Director Ondich stated that he had revised the 2018 to 2022 Project plan based on discussions at the June Park Board meeting. He stated that as requested he had also included the Greenway, Trail and Sidewalk Plan Map for review by the Park Board.

Amy Jirik asked if the Greenway Park trails were nearly 30 years old and that they were in need of replacement and asked if they were in the CIP.

Planning Director stated that he thought it was in the CIP but that he would check.

The Park Board discussed the trail connection from between 3<sup>rd</sup> Street SE and the end of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE should be moved up to 2018 to be done before the State Amateur Baseball tournament starts. They also would like possible acquisition of the vacant lot on the corner of Central Ave. N. and Main Street added to the list of projects as a possible plaza area in conjunction with the 2020 Downtown Project.

Planning Director Ondich stated that he would hope to have budget numbers for field fixes at Northside Park and Southside Park for 2018 and beyond.

## **9. Sign Landscaping Project Award**

Planning Director Ondich stated that staff solicited and received quotes from Steve Rynda Construction and Landscape and Applied Ecological Services to complete the native plantings around the park entrance signs. He stated that Applied Ecological Services was the low quote at \$2,980 and Steve Rynda Construction and Landscape was \$3,120. He stated that staff recommends awarding the project to Applied Ecological Services because the project was under the \$3,200 budget amount and was the low bid.

A motion was made by Bass, seconded by Jirik, to award the native planting project for eight park entrance signs to Applied Ecological Services to be paid for by the 2017 Park Board Budget. Motion carried (6-0).

## **10. Miscellaneous**

- a. Locks on Bathroom at Northside Park** – Planning Director Ondich stated that that staff had received a complaint that the women’s bathroom at Northside Park does not lock and that there is no internal divider within the bathroom and that the complaint noted they had to have someone guard the door for them. Currently none of the permanent bathrooms have internal locks on them to prevent kids from getting locked inside or from vandalism that might occur if they can be locked. He stated that staff does understand the concern for safety and privacy but would like the Park Board’s input on the matter.

The Park Board stated that what seemed like a simple problem isn’t so simple to fix. They suggested the following: using a sliding lock, placing a slider lock high enough so that kids can’t reach it, having an outside unlocking mechanism to the door that only the parks or police department can open, seeing if there is device similar to a child safety lock that can unlock by a magnet, utilizing a vacant vs. available sign on the door and finally considering utilizing a curtain on a rod for privacy if the outside door is opened.

- b. Kelly Holden Leaving Park Board -**

Kelly Holden indicated that she would be submitting her resignation letter soon as she had sold her home and would be moving by August 18<sup>th</sup>. She said he last meeting would be in August.

## 11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Bass, seconded by Solheid to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM.  
Motion carried (6-0).

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