

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, August 17, 2021
6:00 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at City Hall at 6:00 PM by Maggie Bass. Members present were Joe Barten, Anthony Anderson, Brian Molitor and Al Hansen. Absent was Hailey Calliguri (arrived at 6:06PM). Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

2. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2021/2022

A motion was made by Bass, seconded by Hansen, to elect Joe Barten as Chair for 2021/2022. Motion carried (4-0).

A motion was made by Bass, seconded by Barten, to elect Al Hansen as Vice Chair for 2021/2022. Motion carried (4-0).

3. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Molitor, to approve the July 20, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried (4-0).

4. Review Financial Reports

Planning Director Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board noting that during the month of July, an additional \$941.25 was added to the Park Equipment Fund from new residential home permits and commercial permits. He also noted that there were 2 new home permits issued in July for a total of 20 housing unit permits issued so far in 2021. He also gave an overview of the designated funds as a reminder to the Park Board.

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

5. Splash Pad Discussion

Planning Director Ondich stated that since last month's meeting, staff has been approached by a group, being coordinated by Sarah Kallal at this time, that is attempting to organize to provide local support for the development of a splash pad in the City. He noted that a splash pad is on the long-term list of projects for the Park Board, specifically listed at Memorial Park. He stated that at this time, all options would be on the table, however three areas of interest are the former outdoor pool site at Memorial Park, Sliding Hill Skate Park and Southside Park.

The Park Board discussed the general idea of having a splash pad and felt that they would like to be involved in the planning and design of a splash pad and work with a group that could fundraise for the expenses associated with a splash pad. They indicated that they liked the former outdoor pool site at Memorial Park but that the entire former pool area would not be necessary and the land closest to the baseball field could potentially be used for baseball activities. The Park Board also talked about making sure a splash pad provided access for those with disabilities not only on the splash pad itself but also supporting facilities such as bathrooms. They discussed whether bathrooms should be portable or permanent facilities and that maybe a phased approach for improvements could be considered as it relates to the bathroom facilities. The Park Board felt it would take upwards of two years of planning and fundraising to get to the point of construction and that they as a board would consider helping fund a feasibility study if necessary. They also suggested that the group get formally organized and to touch base with the Park Board to start formal discussions.

6. Tobacco Free Parks Policy - Revisited

Planning Director Ondich stated that at the July Park Board Meeting the Park Board wanted to re-visit the tobacco-free parks policy that was previously recommended in 2020 but had not yet been forwarded to the City Council for consideration. He provided an overview of the policy and noted that the policy is voluntarily enforced and does not have the force of law.

The Park Board once again discussed the policy and felt it should be forwarded to the City Council for consideration.

A motion was made by Barten, seconded by Molitor, to recommend that the City Council approve the policy that would prohibit tobacco use in all city parks. Motion carried (4-0).

7. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Discussion

Planning Director Ondich stated that during the City Council meeting on August 2nd, 2021, the City Council briefly discussed Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) and what as being done to treat/manage it in New Prague. He stated that EAB was not yet proven to be in New Prague and that Jim Calliguri with the Parks Department was trained to spot an infestation when residents call to ask about if they have an infected tree. He said that a map from the department of agriculture shows how close infested areas are to New Prague. He stated that there is an annual budget for planting new trees to replace ash trees that may be removed due to EAB in the future. He noted that at this time, preventative treatment of ash trees has not been occurring due to the expense and the fact that EAB is not yet found in New Prague. He stated that staff has applied for grants to assist in EAB mitigation efforts; however, an Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan and tree inventory are necessary to have completed before grants are competitive in the rankings. Finally, he noted that staff does have a tree inventory program and hopes to start and complete the tree inventory in the City Parks over the fall and winter which will aid in future grant application efforts.

The Park Board asked staff if testing for the presence of emerald ash borer was occurring in the parks. Planning Director Ondich stated that he would check with Parks Maintenance Supervisor Calliguri to find out.

8. Miscellaneous

- a. **2022-2026 Project Plan** – Planning Director Ondich stated that work on the Southside Park Drainage Improvement Project is expected to begin the week of August 16th and per the contract must be completed within 21 days. He noted that the other remaining projects for the year are the demolition of the old bathroom on the east side of Memorial Park (including horseshoe pit light demo) as well as the installation of a drinking fountain in Southside Park by the picnic shelter.
- b. **Park Board Budget Discussion Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the City Council held its first budget discussion during a workshop on Wednesday, August 11th and that little discussion was held regarding the Park Board’s request. He stated that at the September Park Board Meeting he would ask the Park Board to rank the projects in priority order.
- c. **Fitness and Aquatic Center Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that included in the packet was a monthly update for the Fitness and Aquatic Center.
- d. **Dog Park Survey Questions - Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that since the Dog Park Survey was published online on June 10, 2021, there have been 477 responses received. He noted that additionally, staff was approached by a member of the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery Board to see if the City would have interest in “leasing” an approximately 4-acre parcel of land they own at the SE quadrant of the intersection of Columbus Ave. N. and 7th Street NE (see attached map). He stated that specifically, they called to see if it might be a good location for a dog park and that that they would consider a very long-term lease (maybe 100 years) and at a very favorable rate (they did not indicate a potential dollar amount). He stated that currently, the school district is just mowing the land as part of their agreement to utilize the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery land just east of the Middle School, but has no plans to use it for school fields. He stated that he wanted the Park Boards thoughts on this as a possible location for a dog park and if there was any amount of interest, staff could talk further with the St. Wenceslaus Cemetery Board.

The Park Board indicated that the site was likely too close to homes and that it wasn’t an ideal location for a dog park as it potentially would need a lot of improvements, including a potential parking lot. The Park Board did feel that there could be other park type use of benefit to the city residents at the park, including using the area as another sliding hill.

- e. **Park Board Clean Up Event Reminder** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the Greenway Park Clean Up Event was scheduled for Saturday, August 28th from 9am to Noon for Park Board Members and invited guests and that someone from the Park Board will need to pick up the bags and gloves at City Hall on Friday the 27th between 8am and 4:30PM from Margaret Bartyzal at the front counter. He stated that

the bags of trash can then be left by the trash cans by the parking lot in Greenway Park when complete for parks staff to pick up.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM by order of Chair Barten.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Ondich". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "O".

Ken Ondich
Planning / Community Development Director