

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, September 14, 2021
6:00 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at City Hall at 6:00 PM by Chair Joe Barten. Members present were Joe Barten, Brian Molitor, Maggie Bass, Al Hansen and Youth Representative Hailey Calliguri. All members were present. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director and Joshua Tetzlaff – City Administrator.

2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Bass, seconded by Hansen, to approve the August 17th, 2021 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried (?-0).

3. Review Financial Reports

Planning Director Ondich presented the financial reports to the Park Board noting that during the month of August, an additional \$1,649.50 was added to the Park Equipment Fund from new residential home permits and commercial permits. He also noted that there were 3 new home permits issued in August for a total of 23 housing unit permits issued so far in 2021. It was also noted that the invoice from Chard Excavation was on the financial report this month as well and reminded the Park Board that the 2021 Park Board Budget was over budget due to the project but that was discussed when the project was awarded.

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

4. 2022 Park Board Budget Discussion Update

Planning Director Ondich asked the Park Board to review the proposed 2022 Park Board Budget project listing to rank the projects in priority order in case any cuts are proposed during the City Council's budget review process.

Chair Barten asked if the City Council was considering cutting such small projects.

Maggie Bass noted that sometimes small projects can affect the tax levy and that everything is up for consideration during the budget process.

Chair Barten stated that he believes investment is necessary each year into the parks system and that he believes the projects are worth keeping in the 2022 budget, including partial year funding for future large projects.

Brian Molitor asked why the fence at Northside Park's court would be removed.

Planning Director Ondich stated that the configuration of the fence likely will change when the court area is rehabilitated but that a fence will exist in some fashion with the final project.

Maggie Bass noted that the court area is currently used for basketball quite often and that if it is updated further, other use of the area, including for tennis, could come back to the court.

A motion was made by Molitor, seconded by Hansen, to rank the 2022 Park Board Budget projects in the following priority order: 1. Northside Park Basketball Court (1st Half Budget Earmark), 2. Memorial Park Portable Bathroom Surround, 3. Aluminum Picnic Tables. Motion carried (4-0).

Chair Barten also asked that a splash pad feasibility study be added somewhere on the future projects list.

5. Central Plaza Update

Planning Director Ondich stated that the Central Plaza Committee met on Monday, August 30th, 2021 for the first time since January of 2020 to work with the City's engineering firm, SEH, to finalize a concept plan to present to the City Council on October 18th, 2021 and to gain approval to move into the construction documentation phase with the project tentatively scheduled for construction to begin in April of 2022. He presented the revised concept plan and noted that the committee suggested a "performance area" in the NW corner of the site be added.

Maggie Bass added that maintenance and upkeep was one of the main issues with the previous concept plan and that the addition of the performance area was for soloists and maybe trio bands to set up for small performances.

Chair Barten suggested that the performance area be moved closer to Main Street. He also suggested an additional access to Central Ave. N. and that trees could work next to Pioneer Bar if the site is prepared correctly.

The Park Board generally discussed tree and plant species to make sure they are able to thrive on the site considering heat from the wall of the Pioneer Bar and also salt use in winter and discussed the use of boston ivy on the wall of the pioneer.

Brian Molitor asked if trash receptables are located near the site.

Planning Director Ondich referred to the Main Street reconstruction project plans and noted that trash receptacles were not located on the corner of the intersection directly adjacent to the plaza and that some would likely be necessary in the plaza area.

6. Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Discussion

Planning Director Ondich stated that since the August meeting, staff confirmed that there are not any active EAB testing sites within the City, but that staff does get calls and

investigates suspect trees as necessary. He also noted that \$5,000 is in the Park Department budget annually for tree replacement and other general maintenance and upkeep. He also reminded the Park Board that this fall and winter staff would complete the tree inventory which will help in future grant applications related to EAB.

7. Miscellaneous

- a. **2022-2026 Project Plan** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the Southside Park Drainage Improvement Project was completed by August 27th. 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. **Fitness and Aquatic Center Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that there was not an update on the FAC for this month's packet and that the Joint Powers Board would be meeting next on September 27th, 2021.
- c. **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 486 responses received. He noted that the survey would be closed to responses on September 30th and that a summary of the results would be provided at the October Park Board meeting.
- d. **Tobacco Free Parks Policy – Update** – Planning Director Ondich stated that the Tobacco Free Parks Policy was introduced to the City Council on September 7, 2021 and it was tabled so that the City Council could hold a public hearing to gather more input at their October 4, 2021 meeting. He stated that concerns were raised about having additional rules and concerns about users of the baseball stadium and softball fields that use tobacco and that the policy as written does not explicitly prevent tobacco use at the Golf Course. He finally noted that a concern was that while the policy has voluntary enforcement that the police department indicated that if someone was asked to leave a park for tobacco use that if they failed to comply that they could be cited for trespass and not tobacco use. He stated that since the Park Board initially passed the policy recommendation that Shakopee also adopted a tobacco free parks ordinance and that other cities with policies would handle issues by asking patrons to leave and if they refuse to do so that they could be cited for trespass.
- e. **Park Board Clean Up Event Observations** – The Park Board noted that during their clean up day on August 28th that they collected the equivalent of 4 to 5 full bags of trash. They also noted some areas where residents were encroaching on the drainage way, suggested not using erosion control with netting for future projects as it can trap wildlife and noted that they could still smell petroleum from the Holiday spill and asked for an update at the October meeting. They also noted that there was cardboard around the dumpster area at Fishtale Restaurant and gloves and old pill bottles around the trash area at the Mayo Clinic. Planning Director Ondich asked if the Park Board wanted to formally adopt cleaning of the greenway trail system in that area. A motion as made by Barten, seconded by Molitor, to adopt the greenway trail

and drainage ditch from Greenway Park north to 7th Street NE. Motion carried (4-0).
Chair Barten suggested having a bigger scale Earth Day clean up event in the future.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 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, looped "O" in "Ondich".

Ken Ondich
Planning / Community Development Director