



PARK BOARD MINUTES

City of New Prague

Tuesday, June 9th, 2026

City Hall Council Chambers - 118 Central Ave N

1. ANNUAL PARK TOUR

The Park Board visited Settler's Park, the Dog Park, and the City Center site on the annual park tour from 5pm to 6pm.

Members present: Joe Barten, Brian Paulson, Billy Walsh, Robert Yost, and Youth Representative Alaina Bishop

Members absent: Shannon Sticha, Matt Becka, and Maggie Bass

Staff present: Community Development Director Ken Ondich, Public Works Director Matt Rynda, and Planner Evan Gariepy

2. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:59pm by Chair Joe Barten.

Members present: Joe Barten, Brian Paulson, William Walsh, Robert Yost, Shannon Sticha, Maggie Bass, and Youth Representative Alaina Bishop

Members absent: Matt Becka

Staff present: Community Development Director Ken Ondich, Public Works Director Matt Rynda, and Planner Evan Gariepy

3. WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Park Board welcomed new members Billy Walsh, Robert Yost, and Youth Representative Alaina Bishop. All members of the Board and Staff introduced themselves.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

No comments were given.

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

a. June 9th, 2026 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Bass, seconded by Barten, to approve the June 9th, 2026 regular meeting agenda. Motion carried (6-0)

6. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

a. May 12th, 2026 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Paulson, seconded by Sticha, to approve the May 12th, 2026 regular meeting minutes.

Motion carried (6-0)

7. REVIEW FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ondich presented the monthly financial reports as information.

A motion was made by Paulson, seconded by Sticha, to approve the financial reports.

Motion carried (6-0)

8. MEMORIAL PARK ENTRANCE SIGN QUOTES

Gariepy presented the updates regarding the quotes received for the Memorial Park Entrance Sign.

Walsh stated that he has experience installing and working with signs from Dahlen, and supports going with his quote due to the known quality and experience he has.

Paulson and Walsh supported pushing the sign purchase to next year so that it can be fully budgeted for. Gariepy stated that the sign quote may change unpredictably prior to 2027.

Barten proposed spending less money than is budgeted from the Park Equipment Fund 230 on City Center Master Planning Documents, and reallocating the money saved to fund a portion of the concreting for the hockey rink at Sliding Hill Skate Park. A portion of the concreting budget from the annual Park Board budget would then be reallocated to fund the remainder of the Memorial Park sign replacement. This would result in the same overall amount of money being spent, just reallocated.

Rynda noted that the existing Memorial Park sign will last another year, but is still in poor shape. He also noted that City Staff may be able to help with designing the City Center planning documents, further reducing costs for that.

Gariepy stated that he will get clarification from Dahlen regarding if installation is required, or if the City could do so itself, if he has any similarly sized large foam signs, foam core durability especially regarding wind, warranty information, and a finalized sign design and quote.

A motion was made by Sticha, seconded by Walsh, to propose to City Council that up to \$6,000 of the Park Equipment 230 Fund for the City Center master planning documents is reallocated to fund a portion of the concreting of the hockey rink at Sliding Hill Skate Park, and then to reallocate up to \$6,000 of the annual Park Board budget allocated for the concreting at Sliding Hill Skate Park to fund the Memorial Park replacement sign.

Motion carried (6-0)

9. PARK NAMING PROCESS FOR “CITY CENTER”

Barten elaborated on the Small Area Plan that exists for the City Center site for the new Board members.

Ondich presented the submitted park names for the City Center site. He stated he will email out the Small City Area Plan to all Park Board members as a reminder. Ondich noted that the naming process does not mean they have to suggest one to City Council immediately, and that it can be advertised for a longer period of time.

Barten asked about waiting to name the park until a more concrete, finalized design for the park is figured out. Bass stated she thinks there is not a lot of value in waiting to decide on a name, and Sticha agreed. Barten suggested putting out the latest iteration of the small area plan with the notices and ads for the naming process.

A motion was made by Walsh, seconded by Paulson, to advertise all of the proposed names and their associated narratives on the City’s website, social media, newsletter, and within the New Prague Times for a longer period of time than is required by the naming policy to gather public input, to be reviewed at future Board meetings.

Motion carried (6-0)

10. 2027 BUDGET PROCESS

Ondich presented the information regarding the 2027 and future budget planning. He stated that the budget will be discussed in more depth at the July meeting.

11. MISCELLANEOUS

a. POPS Programming RFP Update

Ondich stated that the City received one formal proposal from the New Prague Arts Foundation. He stated it will be reviewed by City Council, following the City Attorney's development of an agreement between the City and the Foundation.

b. Industrial Park Expansion Concept

Ondich presented the concept layout for the potential industrial park expansion, as applied for by Mr. French. He stated that the Planning Commission indicated that they were in support of a greenway trail.

Paulson asked if this development will be required to install sidewalks, and Ondich stated it will have to have a sidewalk on one side of any new road that is constructed. Paulson stated that obtaining an easement for a greenway without construction would be a good idea due to uncertainty of what would be north and west of the proposed site.

Yost asked why there is no current sidewalk along 6th St NW in the existing industrial park. Ondich stated that the EDA and City has been applying for grant money for the construction, but has been unsuccessful, and that the City Council will be having a public hearing for a potential TIF District to fund the sidewalk rather than using EDA funds.

Barten discussed having the greenway as a potential buffer to future residential development on the west, and indicated support for obtaining an easement for a future greenway.

c. Vandalism at City Parks

Ondich presented the information regarding vandalism at the City Parks. Rynda stated that Memorial Park bathrooms were vandalized last night, and that vandalism around and outside parks has decreased but shifted to inside park facilities.

Barten asked about other vandalism mitigation options, particularly for Memorial Park. Staff indicated that the vandalism happened during the day at Memorial Park. Barten proposed having signage indicating to report vandalism, emphasizing an easy and quick reporting method.

d. 2026 Budget Projects

Ondich presented the information regarding the 2026 budget projects.

e. Park Plan Update

Ondich stated that Staff is continuing to work on background information for the Park Plan.

f. Settler's Park Prairie Restoration Grant Update

Ondich stated that Staff is obtaining a budget proposal for continued maintenance of Settler's Park prairie beyond the grant period.

g. Possible Cancellation of July Park Board Meeting

Ondich stated that the meeting may be cancelled if there is no concept plan review for July, but it will likely occur due to budget discussions which should take place.

h. Miscellaneous – Items not on Agenda

Barten proposed getting a landscape architect to work on the small area plan for the City Center site, with an emphasis on better connectivity with Main St. and downtown. He suggested putting out an RFP to receive lower bids. Paulson stated this could also be done for grading plans regarding POPS.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm by order of Chair Barten.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan C. Gariepy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Evan C. Gariepy
Planner