

Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, January 13th, 2026

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: Maggie Bass, Christine Wolf, Brian Paulson, Joe Barten, Matt Becka, Shannon Sticha, & Jessica Dohm.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: Community Development Director Ken Ondich and Planner Evan Gariepy.

2. Public Forum

No comments were given.

3. Approval of Regular Agenda

A motion was made by Barten, seconded by Dohm, to approve the regular agenda. Motion carried (7-0).

4. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

a. November 18, 2025 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Paulson, seconded by Bass, to approve the November 18th, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Matt Becka abstained, motion carried (6-0-1).

5. Review Financial Reports

Ondich presented the financial reports as information.

A motion was made by Becka, seconded by Sticha, to approve the financial reports. Motion carried (7-0).

6. Tree City USA and Arbor Day Celebration

Gariepy presented the information regarding the 2026 celebration of Arbor Day.

Becka inquired about the ordering form, and Ondich stated it will be online. He also stated that the City will target neighborhoods that had tree removals through targeted mailings, which would fall under the Planning Department's budget.

7. POPS Programming Discussion

Ondich stated that Staff have begun work on an RFP for programming for the POPS facility.

Becka inquired about the terms of the RFP, and Ondich confirmed that nothing would be funded by the City. Becka also stated he thinks that POPS should be heavily utilized in its first few years so that interest is not lost.

Barten stated that the RFP should include the City and Park Board's goals for the facility. This could include having diverse programming, rather than just one or two genres of performance.

Bass proposed reaching out to the local churches to see if they would utilize POPS for outdoor services.

Barten inquired if the programmer would have control over the facility all year or just select dates. Dohm proposed giving dates to the school district for use and proposed having the City hold a certain number of dates for programming. Barten showed support for this, and Dohm stated that this could allow organizers to reach out to the City for these days. Dohm inquired if RFPs can be negotiated, and Ondich stated that there can be flexibility built into the RFP for negotiation. Dohm suggested inquiring in the RFP how they would generate income with their use of POPS, such as through ticket sales or vendors.

Paulson stated that splitting up the dates for the City to utilize may make the City a competitor of the programmer, and that may be a negative for potentially interested parties.

Barten suggested reaching out to the New Prague School Board, and Ondich stated that Staff will. Barten suggested drafting a list of goals for the RFP to help use when evaluating applicants.

8. Miscellaneous

- a. Stezky Městy (City Trails) Discussion** – Ondich presented information regarding the City being contacted by Martin Růžička from Prague, Czech Republic. Dohm stated that Martin had also reached out to her, and she directed him to contact the City. Ondich stated that his City Trails project may eventually be linked on the City's park website once completed. Ondich stated that Martin proposed a "portal" of two camera live streams, connecting New Prague and Prague, but that that is a peripheral and unlikely project. Bass inquired if the New Prague Historical Society was contacted, and Ondich stated that they had not yet been reached out to. The Park Board expressed that they are interested in following up and collaborating with Martin.

- b. 2026 Budget and 2027-2031 Project Plan** – Ondich provided the 2026 Project Plan that was adopted by City Council. He stated that Staff will get quotes for the Memorial Park replacement sign and will bring it to the Park Board. Ondich stated that the Program of Utilization was submitted for development at the City Center site, and that Staff is currently speaking with DEED about it to confirm funding for the pond.
- c. Park Plan Update** – Ondich stated that Staff is continuing to work on background information for the Park Plan. Barten inquired about whether the Park Board received the complete results from the Park Survey. Gariepy stated that it was sent out in the past, and that he'll re-send it out.
- d. Sliding Hill Skating Park Warming House and Skating Rink Count** – Gariepy presented information regarding the warming house and skating rink usage so far in the winter. Ondich stated that the planned concreting of it this year should extend the usage of the ice rink by multiple weeks.
- e. Other** – Barten inquired at the November Park Board meeting about if there are discussions of a trail going from the City to the City of Jordan. Gariepy stated that it is a potential trail in the Scott County 2040 Comprehensive Plan. Ondich stated that he is encouraging Scott County to consider it, but that there is limited budgeting for trails. Barten also inquired about the City's plans for developing the 2-acre land north of the POPS site. Ondich stated that the City Council wants to wait to develop it until after the pond is built, and that the Park Board will be consulted. He also stated the project may be decided by an RFP.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 pm by order of Chair Barten.

Respectfully Submitted,



Evan C. Gariepy
Planner