



PARK BOARD MINUTES

City of New Prague

Tuesday, August 18th, 2026

City Hall Council Chambers - 118 Central Ave N

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chair Joe Barten.

Members present: Robert Yost, Brian Paulson, Joe Barton, Billy Walsh, Shannon Sticha, and Youth Representative Alaina Bishop.

Members absent: Maggie Bass and Matt Becka.

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

2. PUBLIC FORUM

No residents spoke.

3. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

a. August 18th, 2026 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Paulson, seconded by Yost, to approve the August 18th, 2026 regular meeting agenda.

Motion carried (5-0)

4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

a. July 14th, 2026 Regular Meeting

Barten clarified that the minutes incorrectly showed him as referencing the ninja warrior course rather than splash pad. Yost noted that he asked about the plants at Settler's Park at the end of the meeting. Gariepy stated that the minutes will be amended with both fixes.

A motion was made by Barten, seconded by Walsh, to approve the July 14th, 2026 regular meeting minutes with the two listed amendments.

Motion carried (5-0)

5. REVIEW FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ondich presented the monthly financial reports as information.

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

Motion carried (5-0)

6. PARK NAMING PROCESS – CITY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION

Barten inquired if anyone received unofficial comments regarding proposed names, and no Board member stated they had.

Barten asked if Staff has discussed potential names, and Ondich stated that the general Staff consensus was that they liked names that included Mill Pond. Ondich stated he got an unofficial comment suggesting to combine two names into Mill Pond Commons Park.

Barten discussed Mill Pond Park versus Mill Pond Commons. Walsh stated he likes Mill Pond Commons, as it won't just be a park. Paulson stated he agrees. Barten noted that this would work well if housing is added to the north portion of the site.

Barten asked if the site will be part of the park system, and Ondich stated it will be no matter what the name is.

Sticha noted that this site is next to Millpond Apartments, and asked if that may cause confusion due to the proximity. Yost stated he likes Stromovka Park, and Paulson noted that it translates to tree park which does not seem currently fitting.

Barten noted that Den Gardner's comment stated that the POPS structure will not say 'Praha' on it. Steve Frost, resident at 104 Lexington Ave. S. and POPS committee member, confirmed that it will be blank.

A motion was made by Paulson, seconded by Walsh, to recommend to City Council that the site currently referred to as the city center site is named as 'Mill Pond Commons.'

Motion carried (5-0)

7. LARGE ASSEMBLY PERMIT – BRING THE LIGHT ELECTRIC EASTER EGG HUNT

Barten asked if the large assembly permit for the Easter Egg Hunt is different from the ones received in the past years. Gariepy stated that the only difference is that Public Works stated they cannot provide a restroom.

Barten asked if Staff could look again into providing a restroom. Walsh asked if the City removes the portable restrooms at parks during the winter, Ondich confirmed this. Yost asked when the portable restrooms are put out in the spring, and Ondich stated he was not sure but will ask. Walsh asked what the cost for putting it out early is, Yost asked who the City contracts for restrooms, and Ondich stated he is not sure. Barten noted that providing a restroom shows support for the event and for the hosts of the event. Sticha said she supports the event.

Walsh asked if a member of the Park Board could work directly with the applicant to provide a restroom, or if that would be a conflict of interest. Ondich stated that would be fine, as long as the Board member isn't getting a financial benefit from doing so. Barten noted that the Chamber of Commerce may be able to provide a restroom.

A motion was made by Walsh, seconded by Barten, to recommend approval of the Easter Egg Hunt Large Assembly Permit for March 27th, 2027, as well as to request that City Staff evaluates if the City is able to put out a portable restroom for the event.

Motion carried (5-0)

8. MISCELLANEOUS

a. 2027 Budget Discussion Update

Ondich presented the current iteration of the 2027 budget request. He stated that the City Council does not have another budget meeting until late August.

Ondich stated that he is waiting on an amended quote for the Foundry Hill baseball park lights, as the price may increase if the project is done over two years. He noted that this project comes from the Park Equipment Fund rather than the annual budget, so a new quote would not impact the budget request to City Council.

Barten inquired about the Rick Tietz Softball Fund. Ondich stated he has been unable to get in touch with Ruth Novak, Rick Tietz' widow, but he has sent mail and is waiting for a potential response. Barten stated that he can reach out to someone who may have a connection to the Novak family, and Ondich stated that he should.

Barten stated that any discussion with Ruth Novak regarding what can be done with the donated funds should be codified, and Ondich confirmed it would be documented directly in the financial software.

Barten noted that these funds don't necessarily have to go to the Memorial Park sprinkler system project, and that using it for other larger scale athletic improvements could be discussed.

Paulson asked if anyone with the New Prague Youth Baseball Association has reached out to the City regarding the lights at Foundry Hill Park or the Memorial Park Baseball Tournament, and Ondich stated that they had not. Paulson stated he knows a potentially interested donor to help fund the lights at Foundry Hill, and that they stated the quote for the Memorial Park sprinklers was very high. Barten asked if Paulson could put this person in contact with Ondich, and Paulson stated that he encouraged them to reach out to the City and that he will encourage them again after the baseball tournament. Paulson stated that they also have interest in putting a net between the two ball fields at Memorial Park due to balls flying between them.

b. Harvest Fields Development Update

Ondich presented the Harvest Fields development update. He stated that the potential developer is continuing to work on other iterations of the site and of the trail layout, and that they would be brought to the Park Board and Planning Commission. Ondich stated that they have received some comments from people regarding concerns of phasing of the development and traffic, but there was generally good reception of the concept plan.

Barten confirmed what the October 7th deadline for the developer was, and Ondich stated it is the deadline for the October Planning Commission. He stated that any submission that meets that deadline would be presented at the October Park Board meeting as well. Barten asked if there is a concept showing a trail to the north of the site, and Ondich stated that they should see a conceptual plan of it in the vacant land north of the site, but likely not one of the trail following the north side of this site.

c. Vandalism at City Parks

Ondich presented the update regarding vandalism at City Parks. He stated that vandalism is primarily in restrooms, and the Parks Department is taking a closer look at parks in the evening. Paulson stated that he saw a post on Facebook that there was graffiti in the restroom at Settler's Park, and Ondich confirmed that the City addressed it.

d. 2026 Budget Projects

Ondich presented the 2026 budget project updates. He stated that six of the eight concrete pours are done at the hockey rink, and that once it is complete, it will be striped for pickleball, after which point portable pickleball nets will be installed. He stated that there is consideration of putting the nets to one side of the arena so that there is area for inline skating.

Paulson asked if any extra concrete that is unused at the hockey rink could be used at the Dog Park under the water fountain, and Ondich noted it will be brought up to Public Works. Paulson asked if the concrete under playground benches was new, and Walsh and Yost stated it was not.

Garipey stated that the Memorial Park entrance sign has been ordered, with no further updates.

e. POPS Update

Ondich stated that the construction of the roof at the POPS facility is almost complete, and that flatwork construction is next. He stated that the facility may be turned over to the City before the Dozinky Festival, even though it would not be used immediately.

Ondich stated that they have 95% approval on using the City's allocated funds from DEED on the pond construction, but they received absolute denial for other improvements including sidewalk, lighting, and benches. He stated that the pond construction will likely be a spring project, following a federal procurement process for the bidding.

Ondich stated that the Master Planning Documents for this site will also evaluate sidewalks and additional improvements, but there are not currently the funds for these improvements. Ondich stated that the funds that they City cannot use from DEED for the improvements at this site may be used by the EDA for a revolving loan fund for businesses instead.

Barten asked when draft landscaping plans for the site may be obtained, and Ondich stated it would come after the pond construction plan is fully confirmed, which could be by October.

Paulson asked if landscaping at the site may conflict with usage of the POPS stage, and Ondich stated that all landscaping and construction work would need to be coordinated with usage of the site.

Yost asked what would be directly in front of the amphitheater, and Ondich stated there would be 40 feet of concrete, then two circular areas of landscaping. Mr. Frost confirmed this. Barten stated that the rest of the area would be turf. Yost asked if it would be seeded or sodded, and Ondich stated it would be seeded to fix any disrupted grade work.

Paulson noted that the site is very flat, and asked if the park plan update would address this, as well as the overall planning of the site. Barten stated that the master planning documents should cover detailed, phased project plans, with cost per phase outlined. Barten noted that the small area plan for the site is a good starting point, and noted he has similar concerns with the slope for the site. Barten noted that soil that is excavated from the pond construction could be used for grading.

Mr. Frost asked if a contractor would assist with RFPs for the master planning documents for the site. Ondich and Barten confirmed that one would.

f. Park Plan Update

Ondich stated that Staff has continued to work on the Park Plan when time permits, and stated it will be discussed more in the winter.

g. Miscellaneous Items Not on the Agenda

Yost noted that there are two large, dead trees next to the entrance of Memorial Park, and asked if these are public or private. Ondich stated that Staff will check.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm 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