

**Meeting Minutes  
New Prague Park Board  
Tuesday, June 10th, 2025  
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 Christine Wolf, Jessica Dohm, Shannon Sticha, Brian Paulson and Maggie Bass. Absent was Matt Becka. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

**2. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes  
May 13, 2025 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Barten, seconded by Wolf, to approve the May 13th, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Motion carried (5-0-1, Paulson abstained).

**3. Introduction of New Member: Brian Paulson**

Brian Paulson and the Park Board were introduced to each other.

**4. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2025/2026**

Motion by Paulson, seconded by Dohm to table the election of a chair and vice chair for 2025/2026 until all members were present. Motion carried (6-0).

**5. Review Financial Reports**

The financial report was reviewed as information only.

A motion was made by Dohm, seconded by Sticha, to approve the financial reports. Motion carried (6-0).

**6. Public Invited to Be Heard on Matters Not on the Agenda**

No comments were given.

**7. Donation of Basketball Hoop at Foundry Hill Park**

Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that the New Prague Boys Basketball Association would like to donate one basketball hoop to the city. The hoop would be installed at Foundry Hill Park. City Staff would install the hoop. The value of the donated hoop is \$3,000 and the New Prague Boys Basketball Association would like

a sticker on the new hoops to acknowledge the donation. A similar donation was made by this group in 2022 and 2023 for Heritage Park and Northside Park.

A motion was made by Dohm, seconded by Wolf, to recommend that the City Council accept the donation of the basketball hoop at Foundry Hill Park from the New Prague Boys Basketball Association. Motion carried (6-0).

## **8. 2026 Budget and 2026-2030 Project Plan**

Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that the Parks Survey was launched since the last Park Board Meeting and is soliciting public input until August 1<sup>st</sup>. Despite this, the Park Board needs to continue to work towards a budget request for 2026 utilizing information that has previously been collected and then pending the outcome of the survey could be possibly amended later this summer or into the fall. That said, the Project Plan is being developed for 2026 without the benefit of the survey results as best available information at this time. He noted that \$135,000 in general fund budget dollars was submitted as the preliminary request to the City Council pending further discussion with the Park Board. As a reminder, there is approximately \$230,000 available between the 228 and 230 Designated Park Funds at this time. Also as a reminder, the Park Board's Budget for 2025 was funded at \$78,126.

General discussion of the Park Board members included adding that a concrete project at the Ice Rink could include provisions for adding pickleball nets and therefore that wording should be added to the listing. Discussion about a replacement sign for Memorial Park was had with discussion about including or not including a digital message center. The Park Board noted for now to include a limit of a \$5,000 amount for the 2026 budget and to seek input from the Orioles, Golf Course and Park Ballroom about interest in contributing to a new digital sign. The Park Board also asked about obtaining examples of digital sign designs for review. Some park board members felt a digital message center could replace temporary event signs that get placed at the park and could be used for advertising other events throughout the city as well. They also discussed the merits of a sprinkler system at the Memorial Park softball fields, a sidewalk/trail plan study, a splash pad and adding \$30,000 to the project list for 2026 for a master plan for the City Center site that would include trails, plantings and potentially recreational equipment.

## **9. Miscellaneous**

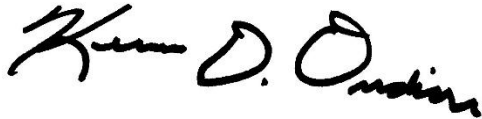
- a. Vandalism at City Parks** – Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that vandalism continues to be a problem at City Parks, particularly in bathrooms. The Park Board asked about closing up the bathrooms earlier in the evening. They also asked if the cameras that are being installed at the parks have audio and if Flock cameras ever become banned if there's a way to switch over to simple local network-based cameras.

- b. **POPS Update** – Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that the City Council would be considering amending the Donation Agreement to move the start date back to August 15<sup>th</sup>, but that completion was still expected in the spring of 2025.
- c. **Summary of “The Anxious Generation” book from Brian Paulson** – Brian Paulson provided a summary overview of the book and it’s relation to parks including natural play ground areas using natural elements such as rocks, sticks, etc., safe crosswalks, community scavenger hunts, phone free signs, partnerships with the school district to name a few.

## 10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM by order of Chair Barten.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth D. Ondich". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "K" and a cursive "Ondich".

Kenneth D. Ondich  
Planning / Community Development Director