

**Meeting Minutes
New Prague Park Board
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
6:00 PM**

1. Annual Park Tour

The Park Board visited Foundry Hill Park, Southside Park, and Memorial Park Baseball Stadium for their annual park tour between 5PM and 6PM. Staff present for the tour was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

2. 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, Matt Becka, Shannon Sticha, Debra Tharaldson and Youth Representative Jacob Bisek. Absent was Maggie Bass. Staff present was Ken Ondich – Planning / Community Development Director.

**3. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2025 Regular Meeting**

A motion was made by Dohm, seconded by Becka, to approve the April 8th, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Barten abstained. Motion carried (5-0-1).

4. Review Financial Reports

The financial report was reviewed as information only.

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

5. Public Invited to Be Heard on Matters Not on the Agenda

No comments were given.

6. Miscellaneous

- a. Neighborhood Volunteer Plantings at Greenway Park** – Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that resident Sarah Kallal has requested the Park Board’s permission to work with City Staff and others in her neighborhood to organize the planting of tulip bulbs in existing planting areas around Greenway Park this coming fall. The neighborhood group would purchase and donate all the plantings and installation of said plantings. At this time, they are just looking to plant tulip bulbs in existing flower beds.

A motion was made by Barten, seconded by Dohm, to approve of Ms. Kallal working with City Staff to plant tulips at Greenway Park and to thank her for her efforts. Motion carried (6-0).

- b. Pickleball Update** – Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that staff has ordered a total of 8 pickleball nets. Two pickleball nets are intended to go at Heritage and Foundry Hill Park. The six remaining pickleball nets were placed at the New Prague Middle School Tennis Court with signage notifying the public that the pickleball nets may be used when students are not utilizing the court. The pickleball nets have laminated instructions on how to assemble and all parts have corresponding numbered pieces. The pickleball nets are stored in two storage benches at the Middle School Tennis Courts. During the winter season, the City will store the pickleball nets. Chair Barten indicated that Mendota Heights has hockey/pickleball facilities (Friendly Hills Park and Marie Park) that could be considered for ideas if and when the city paves the hockey rink.
- c. Fitness Court from the National Fitness Campaign** – Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that the next step in the process of the Fitness Court grant process is to have the City pass a resolution of adoption. The Park Board indicated that they did not support the resolution at this time considering the survey has not been completed that will gather input on the desires of the community and indicated if the survey results show the project high on the list that they would consider continuing with the project formally at that time.

A motion to table the Fitness Court project from the National Fitness Campaign until after the park survey was completed and results compiled was made by Becka, seconded by Sticha. Motion carried (6-0).

- d. Tree Giveaway Event and Creek Clean Up Event Summary** – Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that the Tree Giveaway occurred on April 26th at the Memorial Park shelter near the baseball fields from 10am-11:30am. 3'-4' tall American Hazelnut trees were offered at the event for New Prague residents. Free piles of mulch were available for residents to take as well. The purpose of the event is to maintain the City's status as a Tree City USA, which the city has been for the past three years. There were at least 15 participants this year, which is lower than the previous years. The City had ordered a total of 50 American Hazelnut trees. The Park Board suggested that residents of future street reconstruction areas could be directly mailed information about the program in the future.

Joe Barten indicated that the creek clean up occurred the same day with he and his son being the only attendees but that they picked up two trash bags full of refuse.

- e. POPS Update** – Planning / Community Development Director Ondich stated that the City Council approved the Park Board's request to fund up to \$100,000 of

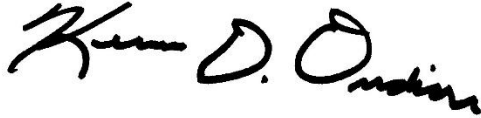
Park Land funds towards soil correction related work for the POPS facility and also approved the Donation Agreement for the POPS facility. Grading also began on the site in the first week of May. Grading is expected to be completed by June 20th and construction on the facility itself is planned to begin after July 1st with completion not expected until the spring of 2026.

- f. Resignation of Planner Kyra Chapman** – Planning / Community Development
Director Ondich informed the Park Board that Planner Kyra Chapman had submitted her resignation, and her last day would be Friday, May 23rd.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM by order of Chair Barten.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth D. Ondich". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth D. Ondich
Planning / Community Development Director