

**ELKO NEW MARKET PARKS COMMISSION
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

PRESENT:

Present at Roll Call were Commissioners Sadie Miller; Emily Dornseif; Dennis Melgaard; Eve Zahratka; and Chair Mike Sutton. Also present were Assistant City Administrator Mark Nagel and Public Works Superintendent Corey Schweich.

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by Chair Mike Sutton in Conference Room B at Elko New Market City Hall, 601 Main Street.

APPROVE AGENDA:

Mr. Nagel said that there were no additions to the Agenda for the December 16, 2014 Meeting. Upon motion by Commissioner Dornseif, seconded by Commissioner Melgaard, the December 16, 2014 Agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2014
PARKS COMMISSION MEETING:**

Upon motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Chair Sutton, the Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2014 were unanimously approved for submission to City Council, as presented, by voice vote.

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Nagel called Commissioners attention to 2 articles on parks issues – one on spinning playground equipment safety and the other on the use of rubber mulch as a playground surface.

Public Works Superintendent Corey Schweich stopped by to update the Commission on the status of the hockey rinks, as well as other Parks items.

Mr. Nagel provided Commissioners with a copy of a proposal from Eagle Scout candidate, Tristan Friendshuh, to build an Octoball Arena in one of the City Parks. Octoball is played in an in an 8-sided, 21 feet in diameter arena with a concrete ground and wooden walls rising up from the sides. The game is a form of dodgeball played with 1 ball and combines dodging, striking, running, and jumping with the object of hitting opponents with the ball below the knee, while avoiding being hit. Commissioners directed Mr. Nagel to invite Mr. Friedshuh to the January Parks commission Meeting to learn more about the project.

UPDATES:

Mr. Nagel reviewed the November 26, 2014 ENM Parks Commission Update, which contained 16 items, with the Commissioners.

Mr. Nagel also reviewed the upcoming City Council meeting with the Commissioners. He noted that on the December 18th City Council Agenda there were 2 Agenda items pertaining to the Parks Commission – Approval of the \$1,600 match for purchasing Archery equipment for the new Archery program and direction by the City Council to study the future of the SkatePark. He said that, if approved, the study would be added to the list of 2015 Goals.

Mr. Nagel presented an e-mail from St. Nicholas Church regarding the Parks Commission's offer to assist the Church in upgrading and maintaining their park. He said that he received word that the Church would like the City to take over the playground, as they did not have funds to upgrade it. There will be a meeting in the future to discuss the options for the City to take over the playground.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Nagel said an application for a grant from the Minnesota DNR for development of an archery program was submitted on August 29th. He said that the New Prague Community Ed Department could find an

instructor for the program and that Windrose Park would be the best place to hold it. The \$1,600 grant, which would be matched by the City, would be used to purchase equipment, construct backstops, and target holders, et al. He said that the final step would be approval of the contract with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources by the City Council.

Mr. Nagel said that a local snowmobile Club had recently been formed and that he had been approached by their President about marking a snowmobile route through Downtown New Market. He updated the Parks Commission on a previous effort 2 years ago to do the same thing, but it had never been implemented despite approval by the City Council. He said that if the Club decided to pursue the route that it was likely that the City Council would direct the Parks Commission to hold the Public Meeting(s) on the route. No further action was taken on this item

Mr. Nagel said that the Community Room of the Elko New Market Library had been secured for Thursday evenings at 7 PM to have Family Movies Nights at the Library beginning on February 5, 2015. He called Parks Commissioners attention to the input from the community on movies to be shown. He will discuss these suggestions with Jessica Davidson, Coordinator of this program for New Prague Community Ed, at a meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 18th.

Mr. Nagel called Parks Commissioners' attention to the information on GeoCaching provided in the Agenda Packet. He said that geocachers were using 20 different sites in Elko New Market parks for their caches. While the City's current liability policy covers claims if geocachers get injured in City Parks, there is a policy question on whether or not City parks should be used for this purpose. Consensus of the Commissioners was that there did not appear to be major drawbacks for this type of activity, but that an application form and policy would be good to control the number, location and type of caches in Elko New Market parks. He said that he would have a draft policy ready for consideration at the January Parks Commission Meeting.

Mr. Nagel led a discussion on the revised layout for the Pete's Hill Trail "Lookout". Bolton and Menk, Inc, Landscape Architect, Joel Odens, provided an updated plan for the upper paved trail to reach the

“lookout”, along with a design for the “lookout” itself based on the following suggestions for revisions made by Commissioners last month:

- 1. Mark the Geological Survey stakes.**
- 2. Remove the Kasota Stone benche/retaining wall next on both sides of the informational signage.**
- 3. Clear brush for better views.**
- 4. Repaint the flag.**
- 5. Place bench in between the 2 Kasota Stone blocks.**

The consensus of the Parks Commissioners was that these revisons should be incorporated into the final plans for the “lookout” and costs should be determined and brought back to the Commssion at a later date. Mr. Nagel said that he would meet with Mr. Odens and bring back such a design and costs at the January meeting.

Mr. Nagel presented the Minnesota Recreation and Park Association Annual Professional Membership Dues of \$247 for 2015 for his continued participation in the organization. Upon motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Melgaard, the Commissioners unanimously recommended to the City Council that the dues for 2015 for \$247 be paid.

Mr. Nagel reviewed the status of the 2014 Goals with the Parks Commission. He noted that of the 18 goals set for 2014 that 1 of them had been accomplished. He said that he would send an e-mail to Commissioners, so that they could add to the list of goals remaining from 2014 for 2015. Commissioners suggested the following goals for 2015: Trail Segment along Xerxes Avenue from Windrose Curve to CSAH 2; Consideration of Assuming Responsibility for St Nicholas Church Playground; Installation of Pet Waste Stations; Establishing a sledding Hill at Windrose Park; Developing a Geocaching Policy; and Establishing an Archery Program. He said that he would add these to the list and send an e-mail out by the end of the year with a timetable for feedback, so that the goals would be ready for consideration by the January Parks Commission Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There was no other business to come before the Parks Commission at the December 16, 2014 meeting.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the ENM Parks Commission was set for Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 4:00 PM at ENM Area Hall.

PARK COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

There were no additional comments by Commissioners at the December Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Parks Commission, upon motion by Commissioner Melgaard, seconded by Commissioner Dornseif, the meeting was adjourned by voice vote at 4:57 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Nagel,
Assistant City Administrator**