



NEW PRAGUE POPS POST

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City Council Votes to Place POPS Facility at City Center

By Den Gardner, Chair, POPS Committee

The New Prague City Council voted Jan. 16 to provide a public space for the Praha Outdoor Performance Stage (POPS) facility at City Center on the west end of downtown New Prague. This has been referred to as the Old Mill Pond/Creamery Site. The council also approved maintaining the facility once it is constructed. This was also the recommendation made by the New Prague Park Board in November to the city council.

There were three public sites the city had suggested as possible locations for the POPS facility. All three sites were approved by the independent study done by Bolten & Menk last fall. That site feasibility study recommended Memorial Park as its first choice, followed closely by the Sliding Hill Skate Park and City Center. It did make clear that all three sites were workable for the building.

The POPS Committee approved the Bolten & Menk report several months ago, which ranked Memorial Park, using its criteria, as its top choice. The majority of the POPS Committee, in approving the report, and sending it to the New Prague Park Board, agreed with that ranking. At that point, the decision-making process was in the hands of the park board and, ultimately, the NP City Council to make the decision on the location.

As noted often in the past 18 months, the POPS Committee/Leadership Team had determined that its mission was to raise the money privately for the facility. The POPS Committee understood that the location of the facility would be determined by the city.

On behalf of the POPS Committee/Leadership Team, we commend the city staff and council for making an expedited decision on the City Center location.

This was possible thanks to the 80+ donors who have made three-year pledges totaling \$830,000 thus far. The goal is \$1 million by the end of 2025. The POPS Committee is hopeful to get close to the \$1 million goal by the end of this year.

If you haven't made your commitment yet, please get in touch with me - dengardner@gandgcomm.com and/or 612/325-3981. We are hopeful to meet our goal of beginning construction no later than the spring of 2025. The city has many decisions in the future regarding the City Center location. Timing will greatly depend on future decisions by the city regarding full use of the property. It is expected that the POPS facility will use only a limited portion of the public space.

Yes, "It's Time!" Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this effort thus far.



The City Center site is located just north of main street in the area commonly known as the "mill pond". North of the bowling alley and east of the railroad tracks. On the north edge is 2nd St NW. The west edge is 2nd Ave NW..