



16200 Eagle Creek Avenue S.E.
Prior Lake, MN 55372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2006

Contact: Michael Peterson, Communications Coordinator
952-447-9804, mtpeterson@cityofpriorlake.com

Northwoods League proposal withdrawn in letter to Prior Lakes City Council

The Prior Lake City Council accepted a letter from team owner Joel Kramer outlining the withdrawal of his family's proposal to bring a Northwoods League baseball team to Prior Lake during the council's regularly scheduled meeting Monday, Sept. 18. The proposal was to bring a Northwoods team to play on Veteran's Field in Memorial Park in Prior Lake in 2008.

According to the letter, Kramer cited parking as the major obstacle to the proposal. "Since the school board controls those lots and would not be a party to our lease, there is no guarantee that we could continue to use them during the entire term of the lease. Therefore, my family and I believe that it is time to drop this effort and move on," he wrote.

"I think the stop sign for Mr. Kramer was looking at the parking environment," said Mayor Jack Haugen, at the council meeting. He also said staff had bent over backward to look at how the city could minimize parking impacts on the neighborhood.

Mayor Haugen quoted Kramer as saying the parking issue might put the school district's philosophy in a compromising situation and said, "It's a tough balancing act, and I hope the public understands that.

Mayor Haugen and council members expressed regret that a solution to the parking issue could not be found and thanked the public for their input. "We recognized that there were some challenges with reference to parking...we knew that right from the get-go," said Mayor Haugen. "There had been significant public input...and I think it was a beneficial process."

In ending his letter, Kramer thanked the mayor, Prior Lake baseball fans, city staff and the many groups in Prior Lake who embraced the proposal. "We also want to compliment the city council members for their openness and the extensive public process which was used."

Prior Lake is a developing suburb in north central Scott County with a small-town atmosphere and many recreational amenities including numerous parks and lakes that offer year-round recreation. With an estimated population of 22,000, the city is projected to be a fully-developed community of 42,500 by 2030. Prior Lake's 2030 Vision and Strategic Plan is dedicated to providing quality services resulting in a safe, secure community. Prior Lake is a wonderful place to call home.