

Minutes of Regular Meeting Princeton Parks & Recreation Board Held On February 25, 2008 in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Mark Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:30. Members present were Stephanie Ketterl, Dick Peterson, Scott Suhsen and Mark Schneider. Absent were Brian Dorr, Ed Kingsley and Skeeter Lane. Also present were Tom Mismash and Dick Dobson.

Minutes For January 22, 2008 Meeting

There were two corrections for name spelling only, to the minutes. Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as corrected. Ketterl seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

For the sake of guests, we addressed new business items first:

NEW BUSINESS

River Town Apartment Homes

Mike Olson approached the board in as a follow-up to last months meeting and discussion of park dedication. They are asking for a reduction in the park dedication requirements both because they are including park amenities in their development for their residents and because they are planning on doing nearly 1000 feet of bituminous trail around two sides of the development that are not part of the city requirements. Most of the discussion was about the trail. Ketterl brought up that the features benefited the residents of the development, not the city and its residents. She pointed out that the trail cost could be reduced if the city did it and that the money could be more readily used by the city for its trail developments. Mr. Olson argued that the trails would benefit everyone and that other people would use it. He was not aware that the park dedication requirements are not generally negotiable and that the park board does not set those requirements. Since the trails would not be done until phase 2 and 3 of the project, the discussion was dropped until the timing was more appropriate which might not be for 2 or 3 years.

Damer Addition

Lynette Ramsey presented a proposal for the donation of 14 acres of property in lieu of the park dedication requirements for the Damer addition. The property development includes 3 lots on Rum River Drive and the donated land is west of those properties and is mostly flood plain. The park dedication would have been \$4600. Suhsen pointed out that the visionary committee is excited to get this piece of property as it will help create a contiguous stretch of public property from Hwy. 95 north, along with future promised donations, to the point at which the planned bike trail would head north from Princeton. Schneider commented that 14 acres instead of \$4600 seemed to be a pretty good trade-off. Ketterl made a motion to recommend that the city accept the 14 acres in lieu of the \$4600 park dedication fees. Suhsen seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Skate Park Update

There was word that PYHA is interested in a joint effort to pave an outside rink for their use in the winter and a skate park in the summer. No representatives were at the meeting from PYHA or the group working on the skate park. Mismash offered that he has had a couple individuals approach him about purchasing the equipment we have.

Visionary Committee / Bike & Hike Trail

Suhsen briefly outlined what happened at the visionary committee meeting earlier in the day. Tim Edgeton, park coordinator for Sherburne County attended the meeting and reviewed where the development of the Elk River to Princeton trail is. There are some pieces of property that present challenges but Edgeton didn't feel any of them weren't workable and that progress is being made. They are also seeing if they can get an extension on the grant money they have.

Tim Crocker from the DNR also joined the group to answer questions and help with understanding what could and couldn't be done in the riverside parks.

Splash Park

Mismash shared some computer renderings on some proposed updates to the splash park features. He also mentioned that there had been two fixtures in need of repair from this past season and ARC did that at no charge. Mismash has two ARC reps coming up in March to discuss updates to the splash park.

Riverside Campground

Mismash asked that the board decide what to do with the campground after the problems we had last year. He said the owner of Town Mart has expressed an interest in acting as host although from his store. Suhsen expressed concern that if we couldn't get the Riverside site to work, the possibility of making the campground across the river work unlikely. Tom will talk to the Town Mart owner and if that doesn't work out we will need to run an ad for a host.

There being no further discussion, Peterson made a motion to adjourn. Suhsen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted.

Scott Suhsen / Secretary