

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Princeton Parks & Recreation Board
Held on March 23, 2009, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Mark Schneider called the meeting to order at 6:35. Members present were: Blake Broding, Cheryl Goetz, Skeeter Lane, Dick Peterson, Mark Schneider and Scott Suhsen. Absent was Stephanie Ketter. Also present was Dick Dobson.

Minutes for February 23, 2009 Meeting

Peterson had a couple questions regarding the minutes of the last meeting. He then made a motion to approve the minutes for the February meeting as presented. Lane seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

For the sake of guests we moved to new business first.

NEW BUSINESS

Eagle Scout Project

Guest Zack Foede followed up on last months visit with a review and summary of what he will be doing at Pioneer Park for his Eagle Scout project. He is planning on more bird houses but due to material costs will not be able to do the benches as planned. He also has changed his plans for maps to be free to visitors to a single map enclosed in a weatherproof cover showing the trail layouts. He also asked whether there was interest in creating a map for people to play with GPS units (no identifications on the map). The reception was mixed; Broding thought there might be interest.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Park Ball Field

Glen Klaphake was present to discuss plans for the JV baseball field and the softball fields, some more immediate than others. He assured the board that at no time would there be anything done at Mark Park without first presenting it to the park board for approval.

Klaphake presented ideas on dugouts for the softball fields, most specifically on simple fenced in enclosures versus more typical enclosed dugouts. There is some concern that enclosed dugouts for the softball fields would block line of sight from the concession area. On the other hand the open dugouts would allow for more distraction for the players. Walled in dugouts would also attract graffiti although the board didn't have a big concern about that as it hasn't been as bad at Mark Park recently.

The next issue Klaphake addressed was bleachers. He has a set now that he would like to move for use by the varsity softball field. We discussed locations and determined that there is probably not room in the area between the fields and the concession building. This could also create sightline issues. If it would fit between the fields he could do that or else between the field and the parking lot if it would fit there. If it won't fit on the softball fields then it might fit behind the backstop at the JV baseball field. He will look into it further to figure out what is appropriate.

The next issue Klaphake addressed was putting padding on the tops of the short fences of the new baseball field as well as the varsity softball field. He presented what should be done as a minimum to help protect players and what it would look like. For this he was looking for permission and Broding made a motion to approve the placement of padding on the short fences on those fields. Lane seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Klaphake then brought up a need for an additional batting cage and where it might be located, (preferably within the confines of Solheim Field). He then finished with a presentation and discussion on storage for the school equipment. On the storage issue he presented the idea of getting a forty-foot shipping container and placing it outside the outfield fence of the softball fields. Schneider especially expressed concern about the appearance of that. There were other options discussed including storage in a building by the Legion field and adding onto backside of the concession building.

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Both Suhsen and Dobson expressed concern that the Softball Association be included in discussions regarding the softball fields and Klaphake said that he had done that.

Peterson said he is willing to coordinate the construction of dugouts for the JV baseball fields. He can get 6" block and all the materials for the roof donated and has someone who would do the blockwork. Peterson assured the board that the dugouts wouldn't cost the park board or the city anything. He was asking for approval to proceed. Schneider cautioned that he needed to review everything with Bob Gerold. That said, Lane made a motion for Peterson to proceed with the dugouts after reviewing the plans with Gerold. Suhsen seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Visionary Committee Update

Dave Patten was present to review the latest plans for the amphitheater and how it set up out of the flood plain. There was a little concern that this would occupy part of the campground and alternatives to the campground location were briefly discussed.

Patten and Suhsen presented what has been happening with the Disk (Frisbee) Golf Course. Suhsen handed out a presentation and drawings were shared showing a rough of the Golf Course. The plans are for a nine hole course that will easily convert to an eighteen hole course later if so desired. Suhsen presented that Greenbush township had asked that their donations to the visionary committee be earmarked for the Frisbee golf course and that Rick Johnson had asked for a \$1000 donation he had made to be dedicated to that as well. Suhsen pointed out that this was significant since the final costs was expected to be \$6000 to \$8000. There is a fair amount of the work that will be donated and some materials are expected to be donated either fully or partially.

Bike And Hike Trail / Skate Park

Schneider said there was nothing to report on either of these but as a standing policy we keep them on the agenda should something come up.

Dog Park

Goetz had few things to bring up. One was that she has found that dog parks don't present a significant risk or liability to the city. She has found support within the community. Peterson pointed out that the school district may have fence available. Goetz said that location is still an issue. There was discussion about Riebe Park and Patten offered to give it consideration at the same time he works on the disk golf course.

Splash Park

Lane reported that the Princeton expo went well and he handed out a record number of passes. The last weekend of March he will be at the Elk River business expo. Lane suggested that we switch out one feature for one we haven't had up for a while and he will talk to Gerold about that. Dobson brought up the slip resistant finish on the block perimeter on the splash pad. Lane thought there was still finish left over from the last time it was done and would look into it.

MISCELLANEOUS

Dobson brought up that one member has been absent now three meetings in a row and that we had determined a while ago that we didn't want to let that happen again. Suhsen took the task to have Anne Bien draft a letter for Schneider to sign to Ketterl about this issue.

Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Peterson made a motion to adjourn. Lane seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary