

Minutes of Regular Meeting Princeton Parks & Recreation Board Held On April 27, 2008 in the Chambers of City Hall

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

Minutes For March 24, 2008 Meeting

There was one correction to the March minutes in that Skeeter Lane was in attendance. Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting as corrected. Lane seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Riverside Park Campground Host

Robert Darwin has stepped forward and offered to be the camp host. He will have his trailer there and has been filled in with the basic needs. He is a long time resident of this area and currently does finish carpentry in the area. Suhsen made a motion to accept Darwin's offer to act as campground host. Ketterl seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously. The owner of Town Mart may still act as a backup for Darwin.

Bird Houses At Pioneer Park

Judy Hible approached the park board about replacing the missing and broken blue birdhouses at Pioneer Park. Members of The Mille Lacs County Shooters Club (4-H) would be the actual participants in the activity. The archery kids need 8 hours of wildlife activities for qualification and would meet that in part by building, installing and monitoring the birdhouses. Lane made a motion to approve the \$100.02 needed to build eight blue birdhouses. Peterson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously. Hible will purchase the materials and submit the receipt for reimbursement.

Second Baseball Field At Mark Park

Glenn Klaphake, school district activities director, presented the need for an additional ball field in the future for the school district and ideas on how the present multi-use field could be completed as a ball field. The extra field could be used for tournaments including section play-offs which could be a draw to Princeton over other areas that don't have two fields situated next to each other.

Initially a perimeter fence, back stop and infield would have to be done. The field was originally set up with this in mind but with the infield to the southeast, directly across the parking lot from the present ball field. There are problems and issues with this configuration that didn't exist when Mark Park was originally laid out. The houses built on the north and east sides of the multi-use field now pose a problem for foul balls and Klaphake pointed out that the best configuration now would be to have the infield to the southwest corner. The biggest issues with this configuration is that the sprinkler system may have to be partially or totally reconfigured at some expense. The left field fence would be kind of close and would require a higher fence in that area. There was more discussion about the pros and cons of changing the configuration leaving it as originally planned and adding a high net to control foul balls.

Klaphake thinks that the perimeter fencing and backstops could be part of his budget right away with that figure being up to \$40,000. He is hoping the park board might be able to help with the sprinkler system and infield. Mismash offered to look into the sprinkler system with a sprinkler expert before anything more is discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Visionary Committee / Bike & Hike Trail

Suhsen shared with everyone the upcoming workshop this coming Saturday. The trails, Rum River Corridor and downtown enhancements will be the primary topics as the public gets a chance to participate in discussion on these subjects. The park board members were encouraged to attend by Suhsen and Dobson both.

Splash Park

Lane reported that he had a booth at both the Princeton and Elk River business expos and between the two had near 800 people register for drawings.

Lane asked for input on getting new umbrellas to replace older ones that are in bad shape. We discussed a couple alternatives he presented. Ketterl made a motion to purchase 6 umbrellas from Lowes at \$97 each. Suhsen seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mismash reported that three or four fixtures have been sent in for painting. Other fixtures will be cleaned this spring yet.

Schneider brought up the issue of planning for a water slide as presented to us at the last meeting. We don't have the resources to do a project at such a scale without planning and saving. To keep the splash park a premium destination we would have to do something besides switching out fixtures on the splash pad. Lane made a motion to earmark \$30,000 from the park budget for a waterslide in the future. Peterson seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Hockey Association / Skate Park

Schneider brought up that there have been rumors going around about the hockey association and the park board but none of it is true. There has been only passing interest from the hockey association in a cooperative effort with the park board to start a skate park. Suhsen brought up that his thoughts with sharing the costs of putting concrete on one of the hockey association's outside rinks was that their existing association would be more adept and able to take responsibility for a skate park than any new organization could do. We discussed selling the equipment this fall if there is no progress in getting a skate park started.

Suhsen took the task to write a letter for the paper on the skate park. The park board will review the letter at the next meeting.

Dump Station At Mark Park

Mismash reported that the dump station has been uncovered at Mark Park. He asked then what the park board wants to do. Lane suggested a lock box with a sign asking for \$3 from each user. Peterson was asked to remove the money daily so that there would be less chance of vandalism. After further discussion, Lane made a motion for the lock box with a second by Suhsen. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further discussion, Peterson made a motion to adjourn. Suhsen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:45.

Respectfully submitted.

Scott Suhsen / Secretary