

Minutes of Regular Meeting Princeton Parks & Recreation Board Held On May 21, 2007 in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson, Mark Schneider, called the meeting to order at 6:30. Members present were, Skeeter Lane, Dick Peterson, Mark Schneider, Scott Suhsen and Mike Trunk. Absent board members were Brian Dorr and Ed Kingsley. Also present were council member Dick Dobson, Jay Blake and Tom Mismash.

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There being no additions or corrections to the minutes, Dick made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Skeeter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

For the sake of guests we jumped to the first item of new business.

Purchase of Riebe Property

Jay Blake, Dave Patten and Carol Ossell were in attendance to present Visionary committee activity and plans, most specifically the chance to purchase the Riebe property east of the Rum River and south of Hwy 95. Blake presented a handout that briefly covered the history and purpose of the Visionary committee and then how their plans and discussions might mesh into purchase of the Riebe property (purchase price of \$197,380). After that there would be a donation by the Riebe family of an additional 18 to 22 acre parcel south of that, also along the river. There is an additional piece of property south of that which Blake is working on having donated to the city as well. There is a certain urgency to this in that the DNR has all but promised half the purchase price of the Riebe property but the agreement needs to be completed by June. Blake has \$20,000 of Local In-Kind Donations lined up. The park board was asked if it would participate with half of the remaining \$78,690 from park dedication funds.

There was much further discussion about the pros and cons of purchasing the property. Pros include the opportunity this might present for a larger campground, for trails, natural areas and the opportunity to cross the river safely as opposed to the Hwy 95 bridge. Cons include more floodplain of marginal value, the cost of the property against the park dedication fund, the cost of structure removal and property cleanup and the cost of improvements in the future.

Patten and Blake assured the board that there are many opportunities for funding through grants and other programs that can help with the costs of projects being discussed for the future and that the surrounding community as well will be expected to help with what would be a community project, not just a city project.

Patten covered more details on the amphitheater, the bridges, the fishing piers, etc. showing concept drawings and photos for each.

Mismash is concerned with getting more floodplain land when there is already underutilized floodplain parkland. He also brought up that while there is great concern about how to get a bike trail through the city of Princeton, there has been no solution to the two landowners who refuse to give or sell right of way on their property so the trail can be completed from Zimmerman to Princeton.

There was concern from several board members that if the board approved the \$39,345 that would be just the start and that the City of Princeton park dedication would be tapped for a lot of additional costs for improvements and maintenance of the new property.

Peterson made a motion to postpone the purchase to pursue other funding. There was no second to the motion. Motion died for lack of a second.

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Trunk made a motion to allocate the \$39,345 from park dedication contingent on support from the Visionary committee as well as that the remaining sum come from the city capital improvement fund. Suhsen seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried 3 to 1 with Lane, Suhsen and Trunk voting in favor and Peterson voting against.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Park Entrance

Mismash has found lights that fit what is needed for the park entrance. The lights will use high pressure sodium bulbs. The lights have a decorative base with a choice of a single arm or a double arm. The double arm would face both forwards and backwards. The board was in agreement that the double would look better. Peterson made a motion for Mismash to purchase two double arm lights, one for each pillar of the Mark Park entrance. Lane seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Skate Park

First order of business was to report that we got the bid for the skate park part of the Monticello park for a sum of \$3500. There was some confusion in how they handled the bidding and we were close to also getting the bike part of their park. Mismash was able to get Richard Anderson to donate equipment use for moving the skate park to storage in Princeton and that has already been completed.

Jeanie Blomberg joined the meeting along with two Princeton youth to discuss the skate park. Mismash suggested that the best site would be at Rainbow Park next to the basketball courts there. He also outlined requirements for a Tier 2 skate park as this equipment is designed:

- The skate park needs to be enclosed in fencing.
- All users of the facility must sign a waiver prior to entering the park.
- All users must wear a helmet while in the skate park.
- An attendant is necessary while the skate park is in use.

Mismash estimated additional costs of:

- \$8,000 for a concrete slab that probably needs to be about 60' x 120'.
- \$8,000 for fencing.
- \$5,000 to \$7,000 for refurbishing the purchased structures and adding another piece that has to be built.

We have lights to use and Mismash said that the basketball courts could get lit at the same time. Blomberg was asked to help with the effort to complete and open a skate park. There was discussion for the need of a skating association that would buy into and run the park. The hope is that the more the youth using the park are involved, the less vandalism and damage that would occur. Mismash suggested contacting the Mille Lacs County highway commissioner about having one side of the highway at least striped for pedestrian use to enable youth to get to and from the park more readily. While we had allocated \$50,000 of park dedication money towards a skate park, Blomberg was asked to look into other funding if it might be available and she thought it would be.

Aerated Fountain for Pond

Regarding: fountain for the pond east of Hwy. 169 and south of 1st street.

Tom had contacted a company in New York that offers equipment like we are looking for but is not confident in their product. He asked the board to be allowed to pursue the original John Deere Landscapes product. Skeeter made a motion to approve \$4,053.65 of park dedication for the fountain and light system from John Deere. Dick seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Ag Lime For Ball Fields

Mismash has gotten one load of ag lime and is waiting to see the breakdown of the bill before deciding on the purchase of more. At this point it can't get put on until fall anyway.

Visionary Committee

Suhsen gave a brief report on other Visionary Committee activities beyond what was discussed earlier. It was mostly a summary of the formation of the Joint Planning Group and what its relationship to the Visionary Committee would be.

NEW BUSINESS

High School Request For Field Use

The park board was asked, by letter, for approval of the use of the multi-use field at Mark Park for use as a soccer field. The school district is starting a high school soccer program. Suhsen made a motion to approve that use. Lane seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Miscellaneous

Mismash and Schneider brought up the most recent vandalism. Mismash wants to upgrade the lenses on the cameras in Mark Park. The images we're capturing right now are too fuzzy.

There being no further discussion, Dick made a motion to adjourn. Skeeter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted.

Scott Suhsen / Secretary