

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Princeton Parks & Recreation Board
Held on August 26, 2013, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Todd Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:00. Members present were Bob Beattie, Blake Broding, Mary Chapman, Todd Frederick, Michael Misiura and Scott Suhsen. Absent was Carla Vita. Also present were Bob Gerold and Carie Fuhrman.

Minutes for July 22, 2013, Meeting

Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes for the July meeting. Beattie seconded the motion. There being no discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Board Bylaws: There being no evidence of records of official documentation of park board bylaws, the city had put together a set of bylaws that the board reviewed. There were a few minor questions but little discussion. Chapman made a motion to approve the bylaws with no alterations. Broding seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

Sharco Estates Park Land / Park Dedication Fee: John Peterson joined Fuhrman in presentation of a planned development located at the corner of 14th Ave. South and Meadow View Drive. The main development would generate 8 lots and in question is a piece of property that is somewhat land locked behind those lots. The lots can be reached by an unimproved alley as well as by a bike / hike trail on the west end of the development.

The park board was (is) asking for clarification of who owns a parcel noted as Outlot A at the west end of the development. On that piece of property is a trail that connects to the piece of property in question.

Peterson was proposing that the piece of property behind the lots to be developed would make a nice passive park with lots of nice trees on it. The alley that leads to the property is equally nicely wooded. Peterson had neighbors to the north of the proposed development express interest in buying a chunk of land across the alley from them to keep a buffer to their property. We had a brief discussion of whether that would then be contiguous to the property that they owned across the alley but Fuhrman thought that was unlikely as the alley had been defined.

Peterson offered to wait for a decision while polling neighbors so that park board members would have a chance to walk the property and see if they would be interested in it for a park.

Suhsen had brought up that the city didn't need more parks as much as it needs money for its parks; the city staff is already stretched thin with the parks we have. Broding countered that anytime you can get property for parks you should give it consideration. There was concern that even as a passive park the neighbors would not be happy if it wasn't maintained more than it is now (some adjacent property owners are already mowing portions of that area that would be park).

Broding made a motion to table the decision until September 9th and have a special meeting then. That would allow time for park board members to view the property and get feed back from people in the neighborhood. Misiura seconded the motion. Beattie brought up the question again about the Outlot A. Suhsen stated that the issue with Outlot A didn't really affect how the board should decide to address the situation. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. There were two votes in favor, two votes against and two abstentions. The motion died for a lack of a majority.

Frederick reviewed the situation with the motion by Broding failing and what the alternatives were. Suhsen made a motion to accept park dedication fees in lieu of land. <<< (The value put to the board had been 10% or \$4880) >>> Chapman seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. There were three approving votes, one negative vote and two abstentions. Motion passed. Peterson thanked the board for its time and its decision.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Park: Gerold reported that retaining wall material be ordered soon with construction starting after the splash park closes for the season after Labor Day weekend. Both Broding and Frederick commented on how the park has been busy. Gerold said there have been some complaints about sand burrs and the appearance of the park but there would be little sense in spending time on that when things are going to be redone soon.

Splash Park: The umbrella is up and Frederick said it was an immediate hit with the park users. Gerold said that anything like that takes time to put in since it has to be hand dug; care needs to be taken when opening and closing the umbrella to make sure it clears things around it.

Beattie left at 6:50.

Gerold said that he has had a few complaints about the \$4 fee for those who enter but do not use the splash park themselves. Suhsen said he has heard those complaints too but both said they were not numerous. A couple board members said that the fee was a typical policy compared to other parks in other municipalities. Broding also pointed out it is only \$4. We discussed the difficulty the young employees have of trying to enforce payment when people would use the park after having not paid and Chapman said we don't want to put our employees in that situation, part of why we adopted the fee change. Gerold has asked Leeanne Hartigan to keep track of the complaints for review this fall.

Riverside Park: Gerold said that years earlier there had been an eagle scout who had put together a flower bed in the park near the bridge in the shape of a giant letter P. The bed was falling into disrepair and its location created problems for the location of the Dunn Bridge Memorial that had been agreed on with the county about three years ago. Because of the state of the flower bed, Gerold had his crew remove the salvageable parts including the perennials, which had been placed elsewhere. The county will be putting in the Dunn Memorial in the near future.

Gerold brought up that in the past we had given the camp hosts, who continue to do a great job, a \$50 gift certificate to Steven's. Chapman made a motion to again reward the hosts with a \$50 gift certificate to Steven's for their help. Misiura seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

Fuhrman reported that PAVC had been looking at what improvements could be made to Riverside Park and summarized some of the ideas with supporting photos from the park. She had also walked thru the park with Frederick for the same purpose. The ideas included:

- ▲ Fixing up the picnic shelter by adding electricity and lights and replacing the roof.
- ▲ Reconfiguring and adding to the campground.
- ▲ Fixing the canoe landing.
- ▲ Raise and upgrade the bathrooms and add a shower each for male and female.
- ▲ Improve signage for the park.

Suhsen asked to preface her presentation by summarizing the reason for this effort . . . The grant request for money for the amphitheater had been denied and that was in part that the amphitheater could not "be the project" but some portion of that a project more focused on natural resources, trails, etc. could include some part of the amphitheater project. For that reason PAVC had looked at how moving the dirt for the amphitheater would fit into a bigger Riverside Park project and what that project would look like.

PAVC members had taken tasks to get quotes on costs for various elements to that larger project. Fuhrman added that no park board money would be needed for the project.

Chapman made a motion, seconded by Broding, to approve the grant as it would reflect the PAVC improvement recommendations for the Legacy Grant. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

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Rainbow Park: Nothing to report.

Reibe Park: Gerold reported that the sign is up; he is looking for solar lighting for it. A larger bike rack was put in out there and he is still looking into the composting toilet to address the need for a bathroom there.

Pioneer Park: Gerold mentioned that there would be a walk-thru with the stabilization engineers but nothing else to report.

Riverview Park: Nothing to report.

Civic Center Park: Nothing to report.

Bike Racks: Bike racks are up by the liquor store, city hall, the ice cream shop on first street, two by Riverside Mall and 1 will be going in by George Mall and one by Dairy Queen. Several board members expressed gratitude for this project and its progress.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Chapman made a motion to adjourn. Misiura seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary

NOTE: This was Michael Misiura's last meeting as his resignation becomes effective. We will be looking for a new board member.