

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Princeton Parks & Recreation Board

Held on September 23, 2013, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Todd Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:01. Members present were Mary Chapman, Todd Frederick, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. Bob Beattie arrived 10 minutes late. Absent was Blake Broding. Also present were Carie Fuhrman, Bob Gerold and Jules Zimmer.

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Chapman mentioned that she had found bylaws dated for 1981 which refutes the city's reason for putting together park board bylaws that the board reviewed at the last meeting. Frederick suggested we could put it on the agenda for our next meeting at which point we could review the bylaws Chapman had found with the new ones that we recently reviewed. Given that, Chapman made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as presented. Frederick seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

We were joined by Connie Wangen and Scott Daniels (PUC) and Carol Ossell, Carol Carling, Steve Dolin, Kim Young (all PAVC members) for the first item on the agenda:

PAVC presentation of Riverside Park / Legacy Grant: Carie Fuhrman led a presentation for PAVC on proposed plans for improvements to Riverside Park. The expanded plan, beyond the original amphitheater plans, came as a result of feedback from the DNR to make the grant application fit the criteria of the grant program. Fuhrman presented a summary of the DNR response to the preliminary grant application. After that she had a summary of park plans along with costs for each portion. The plans in brief include:

- ⤴ Moving the water main, grading work, preparing the ground for the amphitheater, etc.
- ⤴ Restroom upgrade: demolish the old structure and replace with one that the back wall would act as a retaining wall and the new structure would have showers and be above the flood plain with improved electric and water services.
- ⤴ Campground update: improved storm water handling, more bituminous for the campsites, improved garbage, fire pits, etc.
- ⤴ A pedestrian bridge from Riverside Park to Reibe Park: This would include pathways connecting each park to the bridge.
- ⤴ Updated Picnic Shelter with electric outlets and lighting added and a new roof.
- ⤴ Signs: interpretive and educational in nature.
- ⤴ It was recently brought to Fuhrman's attention that we may have to bury the power lines through the park per DNR requirements as part of the grant application.

The initial discussion was focused on the 'surprise' requirements for the buried power lines. Gerold had looked at the wording of the DNR requirements and it was noted that the wording says the lines feeding the park needed to be buried and at least technically, the wires that actually feed the park may not be among those on poles in the park.

PUC has put together a very rough estimate for burying the lines at \$140,000. Burying the lines would fit in the criteria of the DNR grant but expand on the overall cost of the project.

When asked, Wangen said there was no money in the budget for any or all of the cost of burying the line. She was asked about the condition of the poles there and if there was any chance they might need replacement but at this time that seems unlikely as well. There was also some thought that some wires already ran under the Dunn bridge but Wangen said there wasn't. The idea of burying the wire at the same time the water main was moved was discussed but neither Wangen or Daniels thought that would be practical or possible although they weren't completely sure.

PAVC presentation of Riverside Park / Legacy Grant (continued):

Fuhrman brought up concerns that the mayor has about the cost of running the amphitheater once it is completed, including marketing, maintenance, etc. PAVC is going to put together a plan on how the amphitheater would be run and the costs and income that could be expected. Ossell said that she has been in contact with Mark Riverblood who has the same information for Ramsey's amphitheater and that he would be getting that information for her. She is also looking at how Maple Grove operates their amphitheater.

Dolin pointed out that one of the main reasons for the amphitheater project is to help bring people downtown for a better business atmosphere.

A final summary of more specific items included:

- ⤴ The amphitheater is planned to seat 800.
- ⤴ The foot bridge is to be 150 feet long and could be made locally between the owners of Swantec (structure) and Sylva (decking). This would be big plus for the community and a possible big plus for those companies as well.
- ⤴ David Patten is donating a lot of time designing the bathrooms, coordinating the bridge design, landscape design, etc.

Discussion of using in-kind resources was the final topic of discussion. It could substantially lower the actual cost of the project while meeting the criteria of the grant program. Vita pointed out that when calculating in-kind work, the actual value of the services should be used such as for marketing and not value the work at \$10 an hour. That value can add up quickly and represents real value to the project.

Vita made a motion for Fuhrman and PAVC to continue pursuing the grant money with amendments to the project as needed. Chapman seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

A few final questions were answered about the amphitheater and the project in general after which PUC and PAVC board members left.

REPORTS BY STAFF

Mark Park: Gerold and Frederick reported that vandalism has been a major problem lately with little success in controlling it even with the help of the cameras. The police will continue to try to get a handle on the situation. Gerold reported that West Branch Construction would be coming in to remove the old wood retaining wall by the splash park and preparing the site for the landscape block to re-terrace the area. Frederick said that the park has been busy with activities like youth football and that the grass has held up well and looks good. Gerold complimented James Sinkel on the grass condition.

Splash Park: Winterization will be done this week including taking the big umbrella down. LeeAnn Hartigan will join us, possibly at the next meeting with a summary of the park costs and revenue.

Riverside Park: Gerold said that the hosts will be leaving the middle of next month. They have sent the park board a thank you for the thanks that the park board had given them again this year. They pick up garbage, make park improvements and there are nearly no troubles at all in the park thanks to them. Gerold, when asked, said that the hosts were interested in coming back again next year.

Rainbow Park: Gerold said that other than some oak wilt victims to be removed there was nothing to report.

Reibe Park: Gerold reported that Fairview had donated a bench for the park. Where exactly it will be put has not been determined. Once that is determined the sod will be cut for footings and the bench will be put in place. A plaque on the back of the bench will specify the donor. Gerold is going to put the bathroom in the CIP for Reibe for next year. He is still looking at the self contained composting toilet (which might be donated) as a possibility.

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Pioneer Park: Gerold reported that the Mark Schneider bench had been thrown into the river (for the second time). Frederick mentioned that the police department is looking at cameras that send an email when they take a picture. In the cases of Pioneer Park and Mark Park where vehicular checks are almost impossible it would be helpful to get that kind of feedback on activities in the parks.

Riverview Park: Nothing to report.

Civic Center Park: Gerold reported that the park is well used. He commented also that the remodeling of the Civic Center itself seems to have sparked more use of the park and a lot less problems there.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

MISCELLANEOUS

On Road Bike Lane: Fuhrman reported that we did not get the grant for the on road bike lane and that is was as much from how many applied for the grant money as anything.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Vita made a motion to adjourn. Chapman seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:11.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary

NOTE: We are still looking for a new board member.