

**Minutes of Regular Meeting**  
**Princeton Parks & Recreation Board**  
Held on September 24, 2012, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Blake Broding called the meeting to order at 6:03. Members present were Bob Beattie, Blake Broding, Mary Chapman, Michael Misiura, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. Todd Frederick was absent. Also present were Bob Gerold, Dick Dobson, Carie Fuhrman.

**Minutes for August 27, 2012, Meeting**

Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 27th, 2012, meeting. Vita seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Mountain Bike Trails:** Chapman presented a copy of Milaca's mountain bike trails and asked if we should consider something like what they have done with the trails rated for difficulty. She brought up the trails in Mark Park and Pioneer Park. Suhsen expressed concern that the entrance to Pioneer Park might not be able to handle that kind of traffic but Gerold said that the material that was put down for the wheel chair access is substantial and should it need it easy to fix. Suhsen also mentioned that all the trails in Pioneer Park would not even rate as moderate let alone advanced as they are pretty flat. At the most we would put signs up for mountain biking but nothing more (no advertising or promotion). Suhsen suggested that this subject could also to the 4R board as an outlying township might have better parkland for mountain bike trails.

**Geocaching:** The board reviewed a copy of proposed geocaching guidelines. There was some discussion about the distance presented for spacing between caches and after which we determined to leave it at the proposed 1/10 of a mile (item number 3). Suhsen asked that the description of the cache (in item number 7) indicate that the cache could not look dangerous as well as not being dangerous such as to look like a bomb. Chapman mentioned that item #7 was a little vague in that something could be 'buried' in bushes while our intention is that it can't be physically buried in the ground or as Gerold put it, no one should need a shovel to find it. Suhsen made a motion to accept the guidelines with those amendments. Vita seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken. Motion passed.

**Park Dedication For Property Near Pikes Auction:** Fuhrman reported that the Haehns have changed their purchase to 19.18 acres from the originally planned 24. She presented a sheet showing city park dedication fees and said that the park dedication for this plat would be \$4455 (5% of the unplatted land value). Suhsen asked about a bike trail right of way and Broding asked about the snowmobile clubs plans for their trail. Fuhrman said that the plan Haehns have is for a fence around the property and that the fence would have to be moved enough to create a bike trail right of way of about 10 feet. She said there is also room thought on Mndot property as the right of way is very wide in that area. Gerold said that the snowmobile club is discussing moving their trail substantially to the west and if they did it wouldn't be an issue for them.

There was also some discussion about how the park dedication could be used. Vita said it was her understanding that the funds couldn't be used for maintenance, only new parks or new park amenities. Carie confirmed that but also offered to have material for the park board to help them understand better what is appropriate for future use.

Chapman made a motion to accept the park dedication as proposed. Suhsen seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion carried.

## **Page 2 – Minutes of Regular Meeting – Princeton Parks and Recreation Board, September 24, 2012**

**\$25,000 TIF Fund From City:** Vita reported that Frederick had put together a proposal with help from Chapman and Dobson and herself. He also presented it to the city council and they approved a maximum of \$25,000 for six Mark Park projects:

- ▲ Continue asphalt trail from playground area to Splash Park
- ▲ Retaining Wall in front of Splash Park.
- ▲ Green Space Addition east of Splash Park Picnic Shelter
- ▲ Add picnic tables on concrete pads east of the same picnic shelter.
- ▲ Two large umbrellas to provide additional shade in and near the Splash Park.
- ▲ Splash Park attendant building.

There was discussion about when Gerold, with his short staff, might have time to complete these. Gerold said that with the new treatment plant coming on line, the only thing that might get done this fall is the asphalt trail. He was confident that later next year he would be able to start addressing the other projects. Board members asked if volunteer help might be utilized but Gerold said that being short of staff, it was difficult to get the planning for such projects done right now, let alone coordinating materials and volunteers.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Mark Park:** Beattie had a couple questions:

- ▲ First regarding who pays for fertilizing the fields at Mark Park. Gerold said that Solheim is paid for by Legion and the others with park budget money. He added that the weather has not been favorable for fertilizing this fall so it has not been done other than Solheim.
- ▲ The lot outside Mark Park main entrance, what is going on with that?: Fuhrman said that the developer has expressed interest in the city having it but was not sure if that was intended to be sold or not to the city. The property is getting mowed but only has to be done when the grass is over 6". Beattie said that cars have occasionally parked on the property but it is very rough. There was discussion about it being used for additional parking but Gerold is concerned for having more park land to take care of and the issue of broken windshields being so close to the ball field. Beattie countered that windshields are occasionally broken already on the parking lot to the north of the ball field. Whether the school might want it was discussed before dropping the topic.

There was nothing else to report on for Mark Park.

**Splash Park:** Gerold reported that the soda machine is still in the picnic shelter but otherwise the splash park is pretty much prepared for the winter

**Riverside Park:** The hosts (Fred & Darlene Ritenour) will be at the park until mid November. After Vita brought up the subject of a thank you gift to the hosts again, Suhsen made a motion to give them a \$50 gift certificate to Steven's as we did last year. Vita seconded the motion. The value to the park and the incentive for them to come back is well worth the money. It was made clear also that the money had to come from park operating budget, not park dedication. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken, motion passed. Suhsen reported that he had recently talked to the hosts and they had expressed interest in coming back next year.

**Rainbow Park:** Broding mentioned to Gerold that the light by the basketball court is not working properly. Gerold will pu in a work order.

**Riebe Park:** Gerold said that the mason has been too busy to get the pillars up. Suhsen and Dobson have both heard positive comments even on the slab being in.

**Pioneer Park:** Gerold reported that Minnesota Native Landscapes is finishing up in the park. Any irrigation they are doing is water pulled from the river but otherwise seeding is intended for sprig germination.

**Page 3 – Minutes of Regular Meeting – Princeton Parks and Recreation Board,  
September 24, 2012**

**MnDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Count:** Fuhrman reported that the count had been completed with counts made by the depot, at Coffee Corner and by the public works garage. They got good data which was turned in to the state. The state will compile the information along with that taken in other communities. The key to this is that this information may help in applying for certain grants in the future.

**Road / Way-finding Signage and Bike Racks:** Fuhrman & Gerold presented a few sign designs. One, yellow with black graphics is a 30" on each side diamond with others being white with black graphics. The sign costs (sign and posts) run about \$58 each. Fuhrman is going to look into the details of the SHIP grants. Broding has given the school a picture of the bike rack design we were most interested in the response was good although it would be a while into the school year before this type of a project could be taken on by the students. We still need to determine exact number and location for bike racks. Broding asked about if wall mount racks might be appropriate any place but while it would maybe make snow removal easier in places it raises other issues and the discussion was dropped.

**Comprehensive Park and Trail Plan:** Fuhrman present a current map of the plan. Vita asked if there shouldn't be a sidewalk around the new Wal-Mart site, on the Wal-Mart side of the street. There was discussion that a fair number of people walk in the area and they presently are not always using the existing sidewalk and instead walking in the street. Fuhrman said that should that sidewalk be put in, Wal-Mart would be assessed for it. They did modify the landscaping to accommodate that if it should happen. We discussed presenting the plan to the 4R board but decided to wait.

**Lions Picnic Tables:** Broding said that if he gets 6 table frames, the freight would be free. Suhsen mentioned the possibility of D & N trucking, which serves Crystal Cabinets, back hauling them for less and then the number of table frames wouldn't be an issue. Broding was going to check into it.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Suhsen mentioned that the band that came to Princeton to entertain in Riverside Park for after the chili fest had a hard time finding the park. He suggested that there should be signs for Riverview Park and Campground both on Rum River Drive and out on Hwy 95.

Suhsen shared an old piece of literature on the trees in Pioneer Park. The exact origination of the piece is unknown but Suhsen suggested it might be nice to redo it and post it on the city website for people to download and use. Chapman offered to redo it.

**Adjournment** There being no further discussion, Chapman made a motion to adjourn. Misiura seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary