

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Princeton Parks & Recreation Board
Held on November 26, 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, Todd Frederick, Michael Misiura, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. Also present were Bob Gerold, Dick Dobson.

Minutes for October 22, 2012, Meeting

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

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

Splash Park: Chapman asked if Broding had gotten more information on some splash park budget items that she requested at the last meeting. He hadn't and wasn't sure of what she was referring to. Chapman made copies of the budget sheet she had from the last meeting and which the entire board hadn't been copied on before. Chapman expressed concern that the splash park summary indicated a loss of over \$17,000 for the year. She especially noted that the largest expense on the summary was utilities and asked if there wasn't some community mindedness on the part of PUC and that they might give reduced rates to the park. Gerold pointed out that PUC is reluctant to reduce rates for anyone as it would raise the expectation that others could get reduced rates while at the same time increasing the rates for many others.

There was much discussion about other parts of the summary and their impact on the costs and a brief comparison to last years summary. When asked Gerold did point out that there were some bigger expenses this year compared to last year for replacement of components. Gerold made the point that the splash park was not intended as a money making machine and confirmed this with Suhsen who was on the board before and during the development of the splash park.

Frederick said that none of the parks made money. Vita mentioned that Conexus is able to give out grants and such and why wouldn't PUC be able to do that as well. Dobson pointed out that PUC is a government agency that is regulated by different laws than Conexus is.

Suhsen offered that while we should be conscious of the costs and always trying to keep them in order we should remember that none of the parks make money and that isn't their purpose. Vita offered that she had not seen where any parks had made a profit with only a couple exceptions.

Dobson offered to bring up the issue with PUC at their next meeting but said that PUC has generally been pretty much immovable on this type of action and perhaps understandably so.

Mark Park: We briefly discussed the large umbrellas that we are going to order for the park to provide shade in the area around the splash park. Frederick has talked with Anchor Industries and while they won't promise the prices won't go up, they indicated that prices probably wouldn't go up before spring. Frederick thought that it would be better to wait until towards spring to order the umbrellas so that we don't have to store them over the winter. Vita offered to look into some alternative sources for the umbrellas in the meantime to see if there might be better prices available.

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Park Signs: We discussed the idea of signs for raising funds with Frederick filling us in on more of what he learned from Three Rivers. Review: the signs are posted in and around parks and recreational areas and have a number to text that will automatically add \$5 to your cell phone bill, the \$5 is in turn relayed by the phone company to the donation processor. The signs also encourage people to go to a web site to make additional or larger donations and this has proven to be popular with Three Rivers. Frederick said that Three Rivers said that \$5 was the optimal donation, more readily made than more or less than that. The company that administers the process takes \$0.40 of each \$5 donation.

Frederick said that there is some inclination on the cell phone companies' part to add a fee of their own to the cell phone bill. This is being discussed by the state. Three Rivers cautioned Frederick that the company that administers the process may not be interested in a city the size of Princeton (too low of a return on their investment and there is a limited number of text numbers available).

Frederick also mentioned that this type of system can be used at events, with the recommendation that during the event the opportunity to donate to the event is available and what the text number is. This should be supported with signs and / or handouts at the event.

We had a brief discussion about whether these donations would be tax deductible and the general consensus was that they probably are; this could be an added incentive to people wishing to donate.

Riverside Park: Dobson brought up the subject of a fishing pier. The DNR has asked if we are still interested in a fishing pier. He brought it up at PAVC earlier in the day and will also bring it up at the 4R board meeting this coming Wednesday. He wants to see that there is interest before the subject is pursued further. The DNR will do a site analysis if asked and will build the pier, whether floating or fixed and whether it protrudes out onto the water or is shore bound. The city would be responsible for making it handicap accessible and for maintenance but at the time replacement is necessary, the DNR would be responsible.

Vita offered that anything unique that the city could offer would help draw people to Princeton and she thought it was a good idea. The only opposition to a fishing pier was based on what Public Works might have to absorb. Gerold said that would be determined at the time of the site inspection and he would participate in that to understand the impact to the city. Until that happens there would be no need for a motion or further discussion.

Dobson also mentioned that PAVC has submitted a Legacy Grant application as well as an application for a grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation. Either could be applied to the amphitheater if so awarded. Should PAVC actually get both grants, Dobson asked the board members to consider what other projects they might be interested in tying in with that.

Riebe Park: Gerold reported the sign is in design stage right now and will be similar to the sign at Mark Park. Also, as an offshoot of the phosphorus abatement project on the river in Pioneer Park and the surrounding area, Riebe Park got 4 hours of machine cutting of buck thorn and Gerold had city crew members follow up with spray to the stumps.

MISCELLANEOUS

Chapman made a motion to make it official that there will be no park board meeting in December. Frederick seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Chapman made a motion to adjourn. Frederick seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary