

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
**Princeton Parks & Recreation Board**  
Held on January 27, 2014, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Todd Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:02. Members present were Bob Beattie, Blake Broding,, Todd Frederick, Chris Pruett, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. Absent was Mary Chapman. Also present was Bob Gerold.

**Election of Officers:** Vita made a motion for Frederick to be chairperson again this year. Broding seconded the motion. Frederick accepted the nomination. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

Vita made a motion for Suhsen to be secretary. Frederick seconded the motion. Suhsen accepted the nomination. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

Frederick made a motion for Vita to be vice chairperson again this year. Broding seconded the motion. Frederick accepted the nomination. A vote was taken. Motion passed.

**Minutes for November 28, 2013, Meeting**

Vita made a motion to accept the minutes of the last meeting as presented. Pruett seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Dave Ziemke Property Near Riebe Park:** We were joined by Dave Ziemke who presented that he has a piece of property near but not adjoining Riebe Park. He has had to remove an old building on the property but, for lack of adequate space, cannot build a new one given today's setback requirements. He had hopes that the park board might be interested in the property. With one land owner between his property and the park, the park board could not see an immediate benefit to obtaining the property. Besides the cost of acquisition, Frederick brought up the added cost of even minimal maintenance. Ziemke was thanked for approaching the board about the property and offered to keep him in mind should anything change.

**TAP Grant Application:** Gerold reported that Carie Fuhrman had been given approval by the city council to pursue the Transportation Alternatives Program grant for the purpose of funding for the trail from the water treatment plant on the south end of town to the intersection of Rum River Drive and Northland Drive, along Northland and then the old railroad bed to near the depot.

**Legacy Grant for Riverside Park Upgrade / Amphitheater Start:** Gerold reported that earlier in the day it had been learned that we had not received the grant for upgrading Riverside Park and starting work on the amphitheater.

**REPORTS BY STAFF**

**Mark Park:** We reviewed the picnic shelter fees for the Splash Park picnic shelter. Current fees are \$50 per side. With little discussion there was consensus to leave the fees as is. Current fees seem to be covering costs for cleanup and all. Gerold mentioned that LeeAnn Hartigan is planning on a booth at the business expo for the splash park.

**Splash Park:** We reviewed the splash park fees. We had just changed the fees and fee schedule last year and while there were some complaints, they were not enough to justify changes to the schedule. Present fees are \$4 per all persons entering the splash park with group rates at \$65 for 1 to 45 people, \$120 for 46 to 80 people and \$150 for groups of 81 or more people. There was consensus among the board members to leave fees and fee schedules as they are.

**Riverside Park:** Campsites using electricity are presently \$25 per evening for the first 10 days, \$30 thereafter. Without electricity: \$15 per evening for the first 10 days and \$20 thereafter. There seems to have been an uptick in usage the last couple years and that may be related to the hosts. We determined there was no need to change the fees.

**Page 2 – Regular Meeting – Princeton Parks & Recreation Board, January 27, 2014**

**Rainbow Park:** Gerold reported that the dead tree cleanup is on hold until spring. Most of the oak wilt victims have been removed but there is a lot of oak wilt across the street from the park. Pruetz asked if trees were being planted to replace those lost. Gerold briefly summarized that they are getting bare root stock and putting them in a gravel bed near the water treatment facility. The trees can develop better root systems that way so that when planted they have a better chance of surviving. We discussed using water bags for the purpose of helping young trees get established and Gerold is going to look further into that.

**Reibe Park:** Gerold reported that the park is still getting used. Pruetz asked if there had been any consideration to putting in obstacles and such for the dogs. There has been no such consideration nor did anyone remember seeing such. Pruetz was encouraged to take pictures of anything he might see at other parks that might be appropriate.

**Pioneer Park:** Gerold said the park is getting used by snow shoers and cross country skiers. He added that he is planning on new duck houses for Pioneer, Reibe and Riverside Park. Vita thought we might be able to find an organization that might help with the project.

**Riverview Park:** Nothing to report.

**Civic Center Park:** There had been some people using the skating rink. The Legion has not written the check for the renovation of the building as there is some wording in the lease agreement to be finalized yet.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

We had a brief discussion about the softball field scheduling and the concession building use at Mark Park. There was some feeling that more could be made at the concession booth if it were open for more events like the youth programs.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**PAVC & 4R board updates:** Suhsen reported that in addition to the news on the Legacy Grant the PAVC board is continuing to work on funding for the amphitheater and that includes a planned fund raising event at the end of March at Steven's. The 4R board continues to work on fund raising as well and the fund raiser that the board hired is looking at a possible large corporate donor. Both organizations will have a combined booth at the business expo again.

**Parks Brochure:** Frederick brought up the idea of a brochure with park information in it that could be handed out at the business expo. A map showing park locations was suggested as part of the brochure. Having it available for the business expo would be great. Suhsen suggested it could be passed out from the PAVC / 4R board booth if it would be too confusing for the splash park booth. The information is available on the city web site but many people might miss it there. Suhsen suggested that Carie Fuhrman might have a lot of the information already compiled. Frederick is going to look into it further with both Fuhrman and Shawna Jenkins.

**Adjournment** There being no further discussion, Vita made a motion to adjourn. Broding seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:53.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary