

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
**Princeton Parks & Recreation Board**  
Held on February 24, 2014, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Todd Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:05. Members present were Blake Broding, Todd Frederick, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. Absent were Bob Beattie, Chris Pruett and Mary Chapman. Also present were Bob Gerold and Jules Zimmer.

**Minutes for January 27, 2014, Meeting**

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Darin Laabs, School Activities Director / Softball Field Backstops:** Darin Laabs joined us to present to the park board that the school district would like to increase the height of the three softball field back stops to make the common area behind the back stops safer. The height that the back stops would be changed to would accommodate fast pitch softball, something the original back stops are inadequate for. Presently balls are foul tipped into the spectator area and can have a fair amount of velocity when landing in the crowds. When softball play-off games were held on those fields last time it was voted by the coaches of the other schools to not have such games in Princeton again unless the back stops were increased to a safer height.. Laabs feels that, especially this year with the likelihood of a late spring that Princeton could end up hosting more games because we have lighting on the fields. There is also a good chance that Princeton could end up hosting section play-off games as the facilities we have with the exception of the back stops is ideal. The school would be paying for the tear down of the old back stops to erect heavier poles to accommodate the higher fencing as well as the fencing itself. He has two companies providing quotes.

Suhsen asked about any use for the old poles and fencing and Laabs said that while some things had been considered there were no plans at the time. Suhsen asked Gerold then if he would have use for the materials.

Broding made a motion to approve the schools changing of the backstops at the school district's expense. Vita asked for a friendly amendment that the tear down be done in a manner in which the old materials would be usable. Broding approved at which point Vita seconded the motion. Laabs admitted that while the contractor selected would prefer to tear down without that stipulation, it made sense even though it could cost more. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

Laabs then outlined that in the future he plans on getting 'dugout's made for each softball field. To keep them from becoming meeting places for kids when the fields aren't in use, the 'dugouts' would be a simple green roof to match the other structures in the park with just fenced in sides so that they would not be a place of concealment (able to see thru them). Laabs also said that the late spring would likely lead to more night games (double headers) with Princeton hosting more games this spring because we have lit fields and that if the electricity costs should mount, the district would be able to, and willing, to pay for those costs, in part because the district would be saving on busing costs.

**REPORTS BY STAFF**

**Mark Park:** Frederick asked if there was any consideration to clearing snow from the trail in Mark Park. Gerold doesn't have the proper equipment for it and man power could also be an issue, especially with a new piece of equipment. It would be a piece of equipment that might help with clearing more sidewalks should the city ever decide to do that but at this point there are no such plans.

**Splash Park:** Leeanne Hartigan has a booth planned for the business expo and has been doing some marketing. We discussed having a pamphlet to hand out. We discussed that a pamphlet for all the parks would be nice to have. Suhsen suggested that Hartigan be contacted to see if she might already have something planned. Frederick and Gerold plan on getting together with Shawna Jenkins to discuss putting together a brochure from our website info.

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**Riverside Park:** Gerold said that the park does get some use even now.

**Rainbow Park:** Other than some snowmobile activity, Gerold had nothing to report. There was some discussion about who the culprit might be and from there Frederick was going to look into it further.

**Reibe Park:** Gerold reported that boy scouts are going to build duck houses. He was able to get the materials cheap and someone is voluntarily making kits from that for the scouts to assemble. Suhsen asked if there was any more on the possibility of a restroom at the park. Gerold still hasn't found out more about if the composting facility could be used. Gerold also reported that there is a tree company working on power lines in the area and he is looking into contracting with them for buck thorn removal in Reibe as well as **Pioneer** and **Riverview**. Should he get a favorable bid from them he will pursue it further.

**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. Broding asked if when the tree company is working in the area if they could possibly use their equipment to pull loose a large piece of erosion control cloth that has been laying in the area for a while. Gerold is going to look into it.

**Civic Center Park:** The park is getting some use with people skating at the rink. It was brought up that most people in the community do not know of the civic center skating rink.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Frederick outlined some plans the hockey association has for their outside rinks including a warming house, garage for the Zamboni and rink lighting.

**Musser Grant:** Frederick reported that Carie Fuhrman had brought up the possibility of getting a \$35,000 Musser grant and that, if received, might be used for projects in Riverside Park to help update that park which is one of our more used parks. Frederick outlined some different ideas on that including the canoe launch. The poor shape of the canoe launch was discussed and we would like to see the DNR do something with it since they claim it as theirs.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**PAVC & 4R board updates:** Suhsen reported that both boards continued to work on funding for their respective projects with little more going on. PAVC had planned on a gala event at Steven's in March but that was canceled to concentrate on funding.

**Adjournment** There being no further discussion, Vita made a motion to adjourn. Suhsen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary