

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Princeton Parks & Recreation Board
Held on February 23, 2015, in the Chambers of City Hall

Vice Chairperson Carla Vita called the meeting to order at 6:00. Members present were Judy Ludwig, Jill Papesh, Chris Pruett, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. Absent were Bob Beattie and Todd Frederick. Also attending were Bob Gerold and Jules Zimmer.

Minutes for January 26, 2015, Meeting

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

NEW BUSINESS

Wal-Mart Funds: Papesh asked Gerold if there had been any discussion with Wal-Mart about the availability of funds. Gerold said that he and Frederick have not been able to get together to discuss and pursue the opportunity.

REPORTS BY STAFF

Mark Park: Gerold has tried to make contact with Amber Aspengren at Flagship Recreation (supplied playground equipment for Mark Park this past year) to inquire about shading options for the playgrounds but has not connected with her yet. Next week he has two staff members going to playground safety training; while educating the staff, it also demonstrates to the public that we are doing everything we can to ensure public safety.

Zimmer brought up that the original plans to upgrade the JV ball field dugouts has fallen through. The baseball association had determined that if they had gotten the extra funds needed they thought there might be better ways to use the money. They still have the \$1000 donation from the liquor fund and what they want to do is use that money to put in seats in the JV dugouts and helmet racks. The seats will be about \$300 each and the remaining money would cover the helmet racks. Pruett made a motion to approve the change in plans to just the aluminum benches and the helmet racks using the \$1000 they have. Suhsen seconded the motion. Vita asked who would be responsible for purchasing the equipment and installing it; Zimmer responded that it would be the baseball association doing the work, not city staff. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

Splash Park: Gerold mentioned that Leanne Hartigan, for the splash park, would be sharing a booth at the business expo with Jolene Foss, Community Development Director.

Riverside Park: Gerold reported that the oversize chair is in the shop to be sealed and then when the weather permits it will be put in place in the park and then later, when the frost goes out, anchored in place. Vita suggested the park board get its picture taken on / around the chair; Suhsen suggested coordinating it with a park board meeting in Riverside Park when the weather is warmer. Gerold said the city continues to advertise for a campground host but has had no luck so far.

Rainbow Park: Gerold reported that they still have dead trees to take down and some pruning to do and with milder weather coming it might be done soon.

Reibe Park: Gerold said that the Yetzer power line crew that is in the area has been hired to brush the area across from Riverside Park so that from the new oversize chair, people would be able to see into Reibe Park. When they are done the maintenance of that area can be done by city staff.

Pioneer Park: Gerold reported that the park isn't getting used much due to a lack of snow. Because of that the drone videos planned showing winter activities in Pioneer Park have been difficult to do.

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Riverview Terrace Nature Park: Gerold reported that the Yetzer crew would be spending a day in the Park to remove more of the brush to a manageable amount. He mentioned that he thought that the removal of the brush done last year helped reduce the problems with four wheelers in the park because of the increased visibility.

Civic Center Park: Gerold reported the skating rink has been getting used and the warming house is still open with no vandalism. He mentioned that local residents are using it and keeping an eye on it. Also, the civic center has been completed and is getting used a fair amount and that activity may also be discouraging any problems. Vita asked about improvements for the playground equipment there; Gerold said that it is in his CIP although he couldn't recall if it was for this year or next.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Thank You Lunch: On Friday, February 27, Park Board members are joining Gerold's staff in an appreciation lunch for the work the staff does. Ludwig was able to get the pizzas donated by Coborn's.

MISCELLANEOUS

Trails Discussion: Papesh asked about the trail paving project at the south end of town and how that coordinated or didn't coordinate with anything else. Gerold summarized that the original funding as appropriated, was not adequate to complete the paving of the 1 mile trail south of the new water treatment plant. It has been changed to a design / build project with the hope that someone will do the path within the original budget. Papesh asked if it wasn't a trail from nowhere to nowhere. Suhsen stepped into the discussion but summarizing that the piece being paved was the north terminus of the Great Northern Trail being done from Elk River to Princeton. PAVC and 4R boards have been putting pressure on Sherburne County to complete the trail and this was seen as an opportunity to create more pressure on the county. Suhsen and Gerold also summarized the trail to be completed from the water treatment plant along Rum River Drive, along Northland Drive to connect to the Fairview trails and then along the old railroad right of way to the depot.

PAVC & 4R board updates: Suhsen said that the latest focus for PAVC is to plan out and work on getting funding for the band shell in Riverside Park. The 4R board has had some shifts in membership which have interrupted some efforts but the focus is still on funding for the Princeton to Kunkel Wildlife Management trail.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be March 23, 2015.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Suhsen made a motion to adjourn. Pruettt seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:38.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary