

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Princeton Parks & Recreation Board

Held on April 27, 2015, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Todd Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:01. Members present were Judy Ludwig (joined in at 6:26), Jill Papesh, Chris Pruett, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. Absent was Bob Beattie. Also attending was Bob Gerold.

Minutes for March 23, 2015, Meeting

Papesh asked for a correction to the minutes in that Ludwig, not herself had mentioned that Kemps often is interested in donating to causes. There being no further discussion, Vita made a motion to approve the minutes for March 23rd as amended. Papesh seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Riverside Park Donation: Frederick and Suhsen summarized a special meeting held April 22 with himself, Suhsen, Gerold, Jolene Foss, Karen Michels and Mark Karnowski joining family members of Betty Umbehoeker Amdall. Etty Amdall had recently passed away and though she and her husband had lived for many years in Illinois, they were originally from Princeton and Betty returned to Princeton for burial. The family is looking to create some kind of memorial in her honor and had researched what is going on in Princeton quite thoroughly, especially with regards to the parks and the organizations involved in them, including the park board and PAVC. Members of the Princeton contingent presented more on what has been going on and filled in some details as requested by the Amdalls (Ken, John & Sharon). In addition a number of suggestions were made for possible memorial ideas including fishing piers, the bridge, amphitheater, etc. Amdalls especially would like to see their donation to be used to compound the impact by encouraging something like matching donations from the community ('1 + 1 = 3' was the term John Amdall put forth). The figure the Amdalls are initially interested in donating is \$30,000 but depending on what project they decide on and the reaction from the community, it could be more.

The canoe launch and the fishing piers are items we have discussed off and on for a couple years and the fishing piers are something the Amdalls were interested in since their family history ties in to the Rum River. Jolene Foss had taken the task to see if the DNR had stock plans that could be used so that there wouldn't be a big engineering development cost for that. As it is, the park board has been waiting for the DNR to participate in updating the canoe launch and possible fishing piers.

One other idea had been offered to the Amdalls later, after the meeting, and that was to recreate the swimming hole on the West Branch of the Rum River. The Amdall family had been instrumental in creating a swimming hole behind the damn there many years ago. Whether the DNR would allow that, and because the West Branch is not a designated Wild and Scenic River there seems to be some possibility to that.

There were no actionable items at this time as this was more an informative agenda item than anything.

Temporary Fences for the Mark Park Softball Fields: The softball and baseball associations have approached Gerold and Frederick about putting in temporary outfield fences on the softball fields. The fences would shorten up the fields for softball and youth baseball. The shorter fields would give Princeton the potential to host high school soft ball section competitions and youth baseball tournaments. The board looks at that as an economic benefit to the community by drawing people to local restaurants, hotels, etc. Gerold and Frederick said that as it was presented, the city would not be responsible for putting up or taking down fences or for any damage or loss. Gerold thought the biggest issue would be mowing around the fences but it could be worked out that the fences would be taken down for mowing. The fence posts would be set into sleeves that would be permanently embedded flush with the playing field surface in a manner so that when the fences are removed they would not be an issue for soccer, regular soft ball or any other programs that also use those fields. Gerold would also ensure that when the sleeves are put in initially, they would not interfere with or damage the sprinkler systems. The other main discussion point was leaving at least one field open when not being used for organized activities to have the fence removed to open it up for other activities.

Temporary Fences for the Mark Park Softball Fields (continued): Suhsen made a motion that all three soft ball fields can be set up for temporary outfield fencing with approval to leave the fences up on one lit field and one unlit field while the third field fence must be taken down at the end of each day and all fences must be taken down at the end of each day after the end of June. Vita seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

Playground Shade Proposal: We have had frequent complaints that the playground equipment gets too hot in the sun in the summer. To address this issue, Gerold had approached Amber Aspengren at Flagship Recreation from whom we had gotten the updated playground equipment for Mark Park last year. Aspengren put together a quote for two single pole 'Toppers' for the younger playground set and three 'Toppers' for the older children playground set. The quote was for \$16,068 which is more than the \$15,000 Gerold had budgeted for. We discussed alternatives such as not putting up all the 'Toppers' this year but it was brought up that they would be faded differently then. We also discussed what color to use. Vita made a motion to purchase all five 'Toppers' at once in Royal Blue with Gerold responsible for adjusting his budget elsewhere to make up the difference. Ludwig seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

REPORTS BY STAFF

Mark Park: Gerold reported that trees were planted around the fall field and concession stand. They also got more bare root trees and those that didn't do as well in the gravel bed last year were planted right away and the others were put in the gravel bed to mature more. Sprinkler systems are getting set up for when they're needed.

Pruett asked about the playground equipment at South Elementary. Gerold and Frederick expressed that while we might have some interest in the equipment, it would have to be brought up to code if we got it so that the savings over buying new might not be worth it. That is in part why the school district is potentially going to auction it off instead of reusing it themselves.

Splash Park: Gerold reported that the employees would be having training May 16th and the Splash Park would open for Memorial weekend and then close until the following weekend when school is done.

Riverside Park: Gerold reported that campground is open and has even been used already. We do not have hosts for this year. Suhsen asked about how the state parks get hosts and Gerold was going to check into that.

Rainbow Park: Gerold reported that wood chips have been brought in for around the playground equipment. There was vandalism, spray paint, on the block building which has been covered up.

Reibe Park: The park has been busy. Gerold said that the Yetzer crew cleared brush really opened up the views in the park. Pruet asked about getting another garbage can and also about a couple missing tee signs; Gerold will look into both. Frederick reported that there was a dog vs dog bite report recently, the first that he remembers. The person reporting the incident did not have enough information to follow up on. Frederick also reported that there has been misuse of the park recently and steps are being taken to address that issue.

Pioneer Park: Gerold reported that a person has asked to host a 10 k run that will start and end in Pioneer with the route taking it around all the trails in Pioneer as well as out to the the civic center and near the middle school. The run will be a fund raiser for the food shelf and will be held in October.

Riverview Terrace Nature Park: Gerold reported he has the park posted for no motorized vehicles but there are still people sneaking in with 4-wheelers.

Civic Center Park: Papesh asked about the tether ball; Gerold answered that he has to order a new one as it was stolen. Nothing else to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

MISCELLANEOUS

PAVC & 4R board updates: Suhsen said 4R board did not have an official meeting this month for lack of quorum. PAVC met this morning and their main focus is on fund raising and today's discussion also included the Amdall donation.

Distinguished Service Award Nomination: Frederick asked if anyone had suggestions for nominees. There being no suggestions, the discussion was tabled until next meeting. Any nominations have to be in by early June though.

Next Meeting: The next meeting would fall on Memorial Day so we decided to change the date. We discussed alternative locations as well. Vita made a motion to have the next meeting on May 26 at the Civic Center. Second by Ludwig. Motion passed.

Papesh suggested that when the bike trail gets paved on the south end of town we have a meeting there. She also mentioned looking into a bike repair station for there. She will look into it further as she has seen one in St. Cloud.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Pruettt made a motion to adjourn. Ludwig seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:10.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary

Please note next meeting at Civic Center on May 26 at 6:00.