

Minutes of Regular Meeting

Princeton Parks & Recreation Board

Held on May 19, 2014, in the Chambers of City Hall

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

Jill Papesh Oath of Office: Mark Karnowski administered the oath of office to Jill Papesh as our newest park board member.

Minutes for April 28, 2014, Meeting

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

Mark Park Presentation: Amber Aspengren from Flagship Recreation joined us to present a summary of the playground equipment at Mark Park along with proposals to upgrade both the younger and older sets of equipment to renew the equipment and to bring everything up to present code, especially with regards to ADA standards. While the equipment that doesn't meet code it is grandfathered in. The design Aspengren presented took into account different activities for different kids: Sliding, spinning, swinging, climbing, social and tactile.

The question was raised that if we do anything to the equipment would we have to bring it up to code. The play ground equipment is showing its age; the original equipment is approaching 20 years old. Some pieces are just faded but other pieces have worn coatings as well although nothing is unsafe to use. The proposed updates and additions total \$36,442.62. We can chose to do nothing, pick different features than those proposed by Aspengren, do a project in stages over several years. The board was in agreement that it would be good to do something but the issue of how we would pay for this was the biggest issue. Board members were happy that this was a relatively local company (Buffalo). Aspengren left the board members with materials to review and we determined to look at this further at Mark Park.

At this point Broding left for another meeting.

REPORTS BY STAFF

Mark Park: Gerold reported that he had been approached about the possibility of Princeton hosting a world series tournament for youth baseball for a weekend or possibly as long as a week in June. In addition to the ball fields themselves, there would need to be adequate places for participants to stay including possibly campers, parking, restaurants and places to set up booths. They don't want concessions money either. The business this could bring to Princeton could be immense and the board was very enthusiastic about the idea. Bob will learn more in the future.

This led into a discussion about how we can get people to use the overflow parking at Mark Park. There are signs but people don't seem to notice or want to use that parking. Even just getting buses to move there would significantly help.

To finish up the Mark Park discussion, Frederick pointed out that the landscaping is going well and looking good including the retaining wall. Gerold said that the irrigation is to be put in soon and the sidewalks and steps poured. If there is money left over from the project, he might purchase sod simply to complete the project so the area can be used sooner.

Splash Park: Gerold said that the splash park employees had their training this past weekend and it looks as if the planned opening for Memorial will happen.

Riverside Park: Gerold reported that the water finally has receded and they have been able to get the picnic tables in and the Ritenours are moving in tomorrow (May 20).

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Rainbow Park: Gerold reported that there is still some cleanup from the trees brought down. Papesh asked if there were any plans to replace the trees that have come down. There was discussion about keeping some open areas for playing catch and similar activities but also that it is nice to have shade, especially on the basketball court. Papesh was filled in on the gravel bed being used to strengthen bare root trees before putting them in place. We discussed putting trees not only in Rainbow but also Mark Park but no specific numbers or locations were determined. Frederick mentioned that Elk River had gotten some self watering appliances free from the state that would be good for our use too. He is going to look into it further.

Reibe Park: Gerold said that fencing is getting redone now that the flood water have receded. Nothing else to report.

Pioneer Park: Nothing to report.

Riverview Park: There is nothing to report other than the park is flooded. Papesh asked about the entrance and its location as she had talked to a resident adjoining the entrance and they seemed to be under the belief that it was just an abandoned easement. We discussed changing the name to something like Riverview Preserve so that there wouldn't be the misconception of what is there. We need to consider what we might do with the park in the future so that we don't have to rename it again should the new name no longer be appropriate. It isn't clear how difficult or what the process would be to change the name. Gerold is going to look into that.

Civic Center Park: Gerold said the renovation of the building is in progress. As far as the park goes there wasn't anything to report although we discussed if there were additional pieces of playground equipment we should add.

NEW BUSINESS

Dugouts at Mark Park JV Field: Frederick said that the Nate House had planned on building dugouts but hadn't gotten permission from the park board. Frederick asked them to present their plans to the park board and get approval before proceeding. He had photos of a similar set of dug outs (with bat and helmet racks) at another location that were what was planned and the board was concerned about the future upkeep of that.

MISCELLANEOUS

PAVC & 4R board updates: Suhsen said that there was nothing new to report since the 4R Board hasn't met since our last park board meeting and PAVC has met only once.

Park Ideas: Suhsen offered that Menard's has plastic culverts on sale right now if we should decide to pursue using one or more for playground. He also had a simple diagram of a balance beam set up that kids enjoy playing on that would be cheap to add to one of the parks.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be at Mark Park in the splash park picnic shelter.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Pruettt made a motion to adjourn. Papesh seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary