

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
**Princeton Parks & Recreation Board**  
Held on May 21, 2012, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Blake Broding called the meeting to order at 6:03. Members present were Bob Beattie, Blake Broding, Mary Chapman, Todd Frederick, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. No members were absent. Also present were Bob Gerold, Dick Dobson and Carie Fuhrman.

**Minutes for April 23, 2012, Meeting**

Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes for the April 23rd, 2012, meeting. Vita seconded the motion with one minor spelling error under Riebe Park where it should say Waste not Waster. There being no further discussion a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

We started with new business to be able to phone conference with Ciara Schlichting with regards to bike lanes and trails.

**Bicycle Facilities along First Street and Rum River Drive** (continued discussion from last meeting): Frederick had not been able to talk to the police chief of Little Falls but did talk to their public works supervisor. Their transition was relatively easy because they had no real prior trails or appointed lanes so the dedicated bike lanes preceded by 6 months of intense publicity through radio and other venues worked well for them. They did have a little bit of an issue with using solid and dashed lines and had to place dashed lines where it was appropriate for drivers to move into the bike lane to make a right turn. They have seen an increase in bike usage as a result of the bike lanes.

There is general consensus that the situations for Rum River Drive and 1<sup>st</sup> street are different. Rum River Drive has heavier traffic and it is more discomforting to think of young people biking there.

Mike from WSB had stated that we could eliminate parking on one side of 1<sup>st</sup> street and move the center line over to create enough room for a dedicated bike lane in either direction. The board was in general agreement though that, especially at the east end of 1<sup>st</sup> in the business area up past Elim home, the parking is too important to give up. There was talk that we could have the bike traffic move to adjoining east west streets with less traffic and parking needs.

For Rum River Drive there really is no such option meaning that it would probably require a sharrow.

Schlichting offered advice on several parts: biking lanes should have at least 4 feet of space to allow room to prevent dooring and anything less than that is uncomfortable for bikers. Municipalities have allowed biking on sidewalks, Minneapolis allows it in areas that aren't business districts. Generally though, faster bike traffic should be limited to dedicated lanes or to streets. Basically a sharrow is a reminder to drivers to share the lane with bike traffic while for bikers it is an indicator where they should bike.

Vita expressed concern about having different facilities for different streets and how that would confuse drivers and bikers. Board members agreed that having consistent facilities would make it easier for everyone.

One option and a minimal cost option would be to start with yellow share the road signs. This improves awareness for drivers and requires little or no pavement demarcations.

The discussion turned to the need for bike racks in town in order to really encourage the use of bikes more. The style of rack was discussed as well as locations. As far as bike rack style, we determined that there really is a need for two styles. One style might be termed a low profile style that could fit on the side walks in front of business and whether in use or not would not block pedestrian traffic. That type of rack would typically only accommodate a couple bikes.

The second type of rack is more of the bigger rack, more space, more bikes type rack.

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### **Bicycle Facilities along First Street and Rum River Drive (continued):**

Frederick has talked to Leif Storbakken about building the benches which they did and the bike racks. The high school has built benches for Riebe Park and did not have time for making bike racks but there is confidence that the school can build bike racks for us. We need to determine style and number. The board members were asked to come up with locations for the next meeting. Dobson offered that the VFW might be willing to pay for materials for one as they were going to buy one possibly anyway.

### **Comprehensive Park and Trail Plan:**

Fuhrman presented a packet of maps and aerials of the parks. This was the same packet that had been presented at the open house prior to the park board meeting. Carrie asked board members to look everything over and submit corrections and more importantly things the board members would like to see changed or added. Suhsen suggested a 'nice to have' and a 'want to have' to which was added a 'need to have' category.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Mark Park:** The Linn property buildings are being used for fire training already. Gerold hopes to have both buildings disposed of by the end of summer. Also this spring there were some issues with sprinklers. One line hadn't drained properly in the fall and 75' had to be dug up. Cameras are working. Beattie asked if there was a solution to a missing door knob on the baseball building and Gerold already has it lined up to get fixed. Beattie also asked about using sandwich board for events and he was told to contact Fuhrman (left earlier for another meeting).

**Splash Park:** Ready to open. Unfortunately one of the electric pumps was burned out and cost \$2500 to replace. Hartigan has the schedules made up and Gerold will have a person there to help with any problems on opening day this coming Saturday.

**Riverside Park:** Doing well since it was flooded. We have the hosts and campers.

**Rainbow Park:** Chips have been placed around the playground structures. Wood parts of the structure are deteriorating and Gerold has figured out an inexpensive way to replace those parts needed.

### **Riebe Park:**

Dobson had offered before he left earlier that the dog park looks great. Both he and Frederick commented on how busy the park has been. As mentioned the school has put together some rustic benches which will fit well with the park. Vita asked if we could somehow give recognition to the school and the teacher for their efforts. The comment was made that when the school is involved, there is less likelihood of vandalism.

**Pioneer Park:** Phosphorus amendment program has not been started yet.

**Riverview Park:** Nothing to report.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Chapman has the tickets for the DSA banquet, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and reminded Gerold and Broding of their attendance with the honoree, Rick Johnson, and his wife.

**Adjournment** There being no further discussion, Vita made a motion to adjourn. Chapman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:10.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary