

# Minutes of Regular Meeting Princeton Parks & Recreation Board Held on May 26, 2015, at the civic center

Chairperson Todd Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:01. Members present were Todd Frederick, Judy Ludwig, Jill Papesh, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. Absent were Bob Beattie & Chris Pruet. Also attending were Bob Gerold & Jules Zimmer.

## **Minutes for April 27, 2015, Meeting**

Papesh made a motion to approve the minutes for April 27<sup>th</sup>. Ludwig seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS BY STAFF**

### **Mark Park:**

**School Use of JV Baseball Field (Solheim #2):** With the construction of the new elementary school taking out some field space, the school district needs space elsewhere to run some of its programs. Frederick and Gerold have been in communication with the school with regards to this subject. The school wants to use the JV baseball field for soccer practices. The concern is that the placement of the nets will create wear spots if the nets aren't moved on a regular basis (the school would have to reline the fields for such movements). The school district has money set aside to address such issues and is more than willing to work with the city to make things work. Frederick and Gerold will continue to work with the school district to address present and new issues as they arise.

**Shade Update:** The big umbrella is up. Frederick has already gotten positive feedback on that. The playground shades will be in soon and may be up by the end of June. West Branch has offered to pick the umbrellas up to save the city a trip.

**Stand Alone Bathroom:** Gerold reported that the stand alone bathroom has become such a maintenance issue with regards to cleanliness and vandalism that it would be cost effective to close the building and use portable toilets. He has city employees check the building daily but still gets complaints about the building for cleanliness and functioning toilets. The board had a few questions but the general consensus was that after this year the building would be closed up and two portable toilets (one handicap accessible) would be put next to the south side of the building after the wood screen on that side is taken down. There would still be the use of the restrooms in the splash park picnic shelter and the concession building when those are open.

**Splash Park:** Gerold reported that the splash park opened on Saturday of Memorial weekend. No one showed up so the park was shut down at 3:00. The park was shut down on Sunday and Monday due to rain.

**Riverside Park:** Gerold reported that campground was recently closed briefly due to flooding but is now open and getting some use. Staff checks to make sure the users have paid their fees.

**Rainbow Park:** Gerold reported that the park is getting well used with one garbage complaint (someone apparently dumped a bunch of stuff when moving) that was taken care.

**Reibe Park:** Gerold has a portable toilet ordered. The water hasn't been turned on for the dog park yet because it is now required to have a back flow preventer and without proper protection against vandalism, the brass piece, which is expensive, would get broken off and stolen.

**Pioneer Park:** Gerold reviewed the erosion project with the MPCA. The banks are holding up well and the trees and seeding are doing well. There is a silt fence to be pulled out yet. Nothing else to report.

**Riverview Terrace Nature Park:** Gerold reported the police had caught some 4-wheelers in the Park and taken action. A sign has been ordered for the access point thru which they entered the park.

**Civic Center Park:** Gerold pointed out the tether ball has been replaced.

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**Concrete Culverts:** Suhsen asked if there could be use, specifically for playground use, of two concrete culverts removed as the bike trail on the south end of town has been prepared for paving. Gerold said the culverts are 24 inch diameter by 8 foot long. We discussed the pros and cons of placement in different parks and whether to put them both in one park, potentially together or in separate parks. We finally decided that Civic Center Park and Riebe Park would be the two parks to place them in. Exact location will be left to the city staff.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Bike Trail Review:** We discussed the progress on the bike trail as well as the recent disagreements between the city and Baldwin township regarding the south end of the trail at Baldwin township. The trail is nearly ready for paving and final stopping point of the trail on the south end may hinge on a meeting between the two governing bodies on Thursday night.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

**PAVC & 4R board updates:** Suhsen said 4R board is taking a summer hiatus to regroup. PAVC continues to work on fund raising ideas.

**Dogs in Mark Park:** Zimmer brought up that people have used Mark Park for walking their dogs and not properly cleaning up after them. He had explored the idea of being able to lock up the ball fields to prevent this from occurring when they aren't in use but that wasn't possible. Frederick said that it is an ordinance that people have to clean up after their animals but that they have to be caught. Ge old is going to look into signage for those areas to remind people of their responsibilities.

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

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary

**Please Note, Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be at Mark Park on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.