

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
**Princeton Parks & Recreation Board**  
Held on June 23, 2014, in the Splash Park Picnic Shelter

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

**Minutes for May 19, 2014, Meeting**

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

**Mark Park Playground:** Amber Aspengren from Flagship Recreation joined us again. After a brief summary of where we left off last week she led us around the two playground structures and reviewed her proposed changes while pointing out the parts that are worn and / or faded and / or not up to current code (but acceptable as grandfathered in) from when they were built in 1996 and 1997. On both structures there are more than enough slides and replacing one on each structure with other types of activity would add to the appeal to the kids. The hand grabs are the most worn features on the structures and some of the red and all of the yellow pieces are very faded to severely faded. Especially changing from red, which fades most readily, to a green or blue would brighten and renew the look. We looked at changing the yellow pieces which are all faded to almost not recognizable as yellow any longer; they would all or mostly be changed possibly to a lime or bright green. The updated colors alone would help coordinate with the nearby splash park features. Changing some of the structure features to meet the current codes would help address any concerns people might have regarding that, especially with regards to meeting ADA requirements.

Requests from Aspengren were for talk tubes and steering wheels among other things and if we could figure out a way to retain the track ride. Aspengren suggested more movement type features might work well and after being asked said that their life span wasn't all that much different than fixed features.

There being no further questions or requests or suggestions, Aspengren left.

Pruett suggested that an easy cheap fix for Mark Park was to paint lines on the pavement for the basketball hoop and a new chain net.

There being no further discussion, Frederick made a motion to spend \$37,000 of park dedication money to update the Mark Park playground equipment thru Flagship Recreation. Beattie seconded the motion. Discussion ensued. Broding a couple times asked about getting a second quote. Gerold responded that there were two concerns with that: 1: that any quote would probably not be an apples to apples comparison and thus somewhat meaningless. Also, any new pieces had to be built by the same company to be compatible. Zimmer asked what, if any, minimum size project, dollar wise, would require an additional bid or bids. Gerold was not sure if it was \$25,000 or \$50,000. There was some question as well as to whether it would apply to this type of a project or not. Frederick brought up that Mark Park is Princeton's flagship park, the most visited one and that we shouldn't hesitate to keep it up to date and that this would also fall in line with the other work being done there with the landscaping around the splash park picnic structure. There was additional discussion about the use of park dedication funds which the board is sensitive to the fact that we rarely get any funds like that now.

Gerold thinks that if everything goes right and the city council approves this yet this week, we could see this done as soon as August, depending, of course on how busy Flagship is.

As there seemed to be a sticking point of what we have to do if we do anything and what we could do, Gerold summarized the difference between conformance and compliance to the board with conformance basically being our choice and compliance being basically required.

NOTE:At this point Vita left for another meeting (6:51).

**Mark Park Playground (continued):**

Frederick made a friendly amendment to his motion asking that Gerold look into any other companies that handle the same product and also look into Flagships resume. The point being that if we can save some money it might be worth the work and wait. Broding seconded the amendment. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

Beattie asked if the benches in the area would be painted at the same time and Gerold confirmed that they would be.

## **REPORTS BY STAFF**

**Mark Park:** Zimmer asked if there was anything that could be done to bring down the water bills at Solheim Field, not that it's been bad this year so far but in the past it has. Gerold suggested he talk to Steve Jackson and also to have Jim Sinkel look at their sprinkler settings as he has done a great job reducing water usage in the rest of Mark Park. Zimmer will follow up with both of those suggestions.

**Splash Park:** Gerold said that there have been a number of rain days. One of the two pumps has been pulled for repair and he hopes to get it back and in this week. Without it the splash park has had reduced water pressure but is still usable.

**Riverside Park:** Gerold reported that the Ritenours are still camping at his place until the park is usable again from all the high water.

**Rainbow Park:** Broding said the park is getting used and someone even used the fire pit recently.

**Reibe Park:** Gerold said that fencing is redone again from the latest round of flooding. The back part of the course is still inaccessible. He added that someone had actually tipped out the concrete anchored drinking fountain. That's been put back in place and the water is now on as well. Gerold also added that there as well as at Riverview and Pioneer there has been treatment for mosquitoes.

**Pioneer Park:** Nothing to report other than flooding and the issues that go with that.

**Riverview Park:** There is nothing to report other than the park is flooded.

**Civic Center Park:** Gerold said the building renovation is slow going but there is progress. Nothing else to report there.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**No New Business.**

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**Picnic Shelter at Riverside Park:** Broding said the Lions had approved \$750 for materials and labor to replace the picnic shelter metal roof and gable ends at Riverside Park. This was at a request from Carol Ossell on behalf of the PAVC board. The roof will match metal roofs in the parks including the Solheim roofs which will be done next year.

**PAVC & 4R board updates:** Suhsen said there was nothing new to report.

**Hydro seeding at Mark Park:** Gerold recited how he was able to get Sherburne County to mulch the reseeded areas around the splash park picnic shelter at no cost now but a possible exchange of help for them in the future.

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

**Adjournment** There being no further discussion, Suhsen made a motion to adjourn. Pruett seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:18.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary