

Minutes of Regular Meeting  
**Princeton Parks & Recreation Board**  
Held on June 25, 2012, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Blake Broding called the meeting to order at 6:00. Members present were Bob Beattie, Blake Broding,, Todd Frederick, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita and new member Michael Misiura. Mary Chapman was absent. Also present were Bob Gerold, Dick Dobson, Carie Fuhrman and Lisa Perlick.

**Minutes for May 21, 2012, Meeting**

Frederick made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 21st, 2012, meeting. Vita seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Mark Park:** Beattie asked about the vacant lot across the street from the main entrance to the park and if it could get mowed. Gerold deferred to Fuhrman to address the issue with the owner. Broding mentioned he had chased kids from one of the back stops they were climbing.

**Splash Park:** Vita reported that the park is getting heavily used including many from outside the community. Gerold said the log dump has broken again and that ARC is supplying repair parts again. It was also reported that someone had climbed the fence and broke into a little concession stand in the park but they didn't get much since little is stored in there over night. The person was caught on camera and they are working on identifying them.

**Riverside Park:** Doing well since it was flooded again. The hosts are still there although when it was flooded they camped by the city garage. There was discussion about other locations we could have the hosts move to for a temporary situation like this but all discussed alternatives had issues.

**Rainbow Park:** Gerold reported that they had torn an old hanger down at the airport and from that had recycled some beams which were used to repair equipment in Rainbow.

**Riebe Park:** Continues to be well used. Some minor vandalism, garbage strewn about. The high school kids put in the benches they made and they fit right in. Vita initiated discussion about how to recognize the high school for their work. Plaques don't necessarily fit with the style of the bench. Routing or stamping something into the wood was discussed and either might be a good choice. Vita also raised the possibility of the school doing a picnic shelter there.

**Pioneer Park:** Needs to be dryer before the Phosphorus amendment program can start.

**Riverview Park:** Broding mentioned he had seen kids hauling materials into the park and building structures. Nothing else to report.

**Bicycle Facilities along First Street and Rum River Drive** (continued discussion from last meeting): Fuhrman presented the most recent map of the bike trails on first and Rum River Drive. Three different routes had been discussed for travel from Rum River Drive to 5 blocks west, one along First, one for those 5 blocks north of First and one for those five blocks south of First. Frederick offered that the police really haven't seen an issue with bikes and cars mixing in that area and that the simplest route might be the most effective and easy. Suhsen offered that the bikeway signs would be a good start and that as bike traffic built, changes could be made as needed.

Perlick said that she had \$6500 for SHIP grants that might be expected to be divided between three or four projects, one of which could be in Princeton. She added that the grants this year must be for active transportation, such as indicating destinations like a school or business district but that parks would not qualify.

Vita suggested bike racks might be part of the grant request as well and Perlick indicated that was an option as well. It might be possible to have the school build racks and the materials would get paid for from grant money.

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

There was further discussion about where trails would lead to as well as what could be designated destinations for bikeway signs. Fuhrman will look further into the costs for the signs and the grant.

**Comprehensive Park and Trail Plan:** At the last meeting Fuhrman had asked board members to come up with ideas for the parks and trails, improvements, additions, etc.

Frederick started:

- ⤴ Update Mark Park Playground.
- ⤴ Fix up area east of splash park picnic shelter for picnic tables, perhaps with larger permanent umbrellas.
- ⤴ Continue to plant trees around Mark Park.
- ⤴ More paths that connect to the new trail in Mark Park which is getting well used.
- ⤴ Add more benches and maybe more trails in Pioneer Park. Fix the map at the entrance to Pioneer. Suhsen added that markers at the trail intersections would make it easier to locate where you are on the map.
- ⤴ At Rainbow upgrade the playground equipment.
- ⤴ At Riebe pave the parking lot.
- ⤴ Add a picnic shelter in Riebe.
- ⤴ Add bathrooms at Riebe.

Successive members added to Frederick's list starting with Broding:

- ⤴ Add a pool. This brought up some discussion as there was immediate concern that Mark Park parking is already full at times. The civic center might be the best remaining location. A quick review of all the other concerns with a pool were brought up such as both initial cost and operating cost.
- ⤴ Add a mini golf course.
- ⤴ More tables at Rainbow Park. With this he mentioned that the Lions Club is interested in doing a community project of building picnic tables for one or more parks. Types of construction were discussed and Suhsen mentioned that some should be wheel chair accessible. Theft deterrence was discussed, especially for tables put in at Riebe. Gerold offered that those in Riebe might be anchored anyway because of flooding.

Vita was next:

- ⤴ There should be a donation policy for the parks. A wish list of items could be available that people could easily find and fulfill any parts they want. She has seen it succeed in other communities.
- ⤴ Picnic shelters in any of the parks which don't have any and where it would make sense.
- ⤴ Bike racks in all of the parks.
- ⤴ Tables at Riebe Park.
- ⤴ Art pieces (sculpture) in one or more parks particularly Triangle Park. There are funds readily available for these types of things and the request can be somewhat open ended even.

Suhsen was next:

- ⤴ The big sign at Riebe is still needed.
- ⤴ Bathrooms at Riebe.
- ⤴ More playground equipment at the Civic Center.
- ⤴ A fire ring and seating at Riebe. It was posed that this might be something the high school could do as well but not to be done before the bike racks.
- ⤴ Someone brought up geocaching and there was a bit of discussion about that, particularly that it is being done already in town and that the park board had been approached several years ago about doing this. The sometimes destructive nature that used to be a feared part of this (digging up park grounds) is not the issue it used to be.

**Comprehensive Park and Trail Plan (continued):**

Beattie was next:

- ⤴ He questioned if there are enough ball fields for little kids and what shape they are in. Those with younger kids felt there are enough fields and even the most recently completed ones are in at least okay condition.

Misiura was next:

- ⤴ He mentioned that he had made it a point to visit all of the parks and his was more a question than a suggestion and that was about what Riverview Park was and if there were other entrances besides the one he had found. Perhaps better signage would make that more clear.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

We discussed funding for projects beyond basic operation and maintenance. Without park dedication fees there isn't really any money to work with for new projects, or perhaps even to address any major overhaul or replacement projects like if we had to replace all the playground equipment at Mark Park. The concern is that just one big project like that could force us to close parks, reduce services or some combination of those. Dobson mentioned that other communities have had to deal with these same issues and some do close parks and others solicit volunteer help with the parks such as mowing. The fact that there is little remaining land to develop in the city limits means that park dedication is a very limited source of any funding in the future.

Vita asked if the city had a depreciation fund that could address some of these issues. No one could confirm or deny if that existed.

**Adjournment** There being no further discussion, Vita made a motion to adjourn. Suhsen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary