

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Princeton Parks & Recreation Board
Held on August 27, 2012, in the Chambers of City Hall

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

Minutes for July 23, 2012, Meeting

Chapman made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 23rd, 2012, meeting. Frederick seconded the motion. There being no further discussion a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

For the sake of guests we went to new business first:

Geocaching: The city, and thus the board had been asked about using city parks for geocaching. In reality this has been happening for a while. The park board has discussed this a couple, most recently probably about a half year ago. Steve and Michelle Koenigsfeld joined the meeting for the discussion and presented a couple city policies from opposite ends of the spectrum of control with Anoka's being a multi-page document and Maple Groves a fairly simple set of rules. The board in their packet had gotten a copy of Isanti's policy which fell somewhere in between the two. This issue of registering any geocache locations that are on park property were discussed. Frederick thought that it might be good to at least register the sites online, there are official websites for this, so that the police could at least check and verify such activity. Also he would like to see the caches labeled as the Koenigsfelds described so that it was more evident that it isn't something to be alarmed about. Chapman made a motion to have city staff come up with guidelines before the next meeting. Frederick seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. Among the web sites the Koenigsfelds recommended was that for the Minnesota Geocaching Association.

MnDOT Pedestrian and Bicycle Count: Fuhrman presented that MnDOT and University of Minnesota are seeking communities to volunteer a pedestrian and bicycle count. The thought is that if we do this, it will help us with our grant writing efforts for parks and rec. She described the program briefly and then was asking for volunteers and for ideas on where to do the counts given the time frame requested. Several board members volunteered. We discussed locations (they need three) and came up with the most likely places to be by the coffee shop (2nd street & Rum River Drive), at 5th Avenue and 11th Street and at 1st Street and 11th Avenue.

Park Dedication For Property Near Pikes Auction: Fuhrman reported that the Haehns are buying property (24 acres) from Rick Johnson and will be platting it for developing a portion for a business. The present park dedication would require property or \$5300. Fuhrman asked which the board would be interested in. The board was in general consensus that we don't need more parks. A couple board members felt the sum of \$5300 might be low but weren't sure what determined that amount. The concern was also raised that at some point the bike trail that comes from Elk River was to eventually connect with the trail all the way to Onamia along the old rail bed but where that might be on this property was not known (nor planned at this time). It was also questioned if the present snowmobile trail might also be affected. Another concern was that there are no plans for how bike and other trails do and will connect around the area. Fuhrman agreed and mentioned that this is being worked on.

Gerold took the task to talk to Joel Thompson (Mystic Riders) about where the snowmobile trail is. Fuhrman took the task to talk with Haehns more to see what they knew about the trails and what their plans were with regards to that.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Park: Frederick brought up a few suggested projects for the area between the splash park and the picnic shelter. He and Gerold had discussed these projects and Gerold had pulled together some rough cost estimates.

- ⤴ Continue the Mark Park Trail to connect to the splash park trail. Redo the path from the playground to the splash park which is in need of repair. Redo the steps from the splash park up to the picnic shelter; these are also in need of repair. This would cost in the neighborhood of \$6000.
- ⤴ Redo the retaining wall between the splash park and the picnic shelter. The wood that was used in the initial construction is decaying and starting to fall apart. This would cost about \$2200.
- ⤴ Take out the wood chips around the picnic shelter and create a green area. This would require irrigation, seeding and fertilizing and a berm on the east side but would create more room for people to set up outside of the splash park. This would cost about \$3000 plus future maintenance costs. NOTE: the irrigation would take care of sand burrs in this area which is an issue for most of the park that isn't irrigated.
- ⤴ Add picnic tables on concrete pads in the aforementioned green area for people to sit and picnic. This would cost about \$4000.
- ⤴ Look into giant umbrellas like other parks have that provide shade over a larger area. Frederick has observed that people hurry to the splash park so that they can get one of the tables in the shade which there is a limited number of. One of these would cost in the neighborhood of \$3000 to \$5000.
- ⤴ Build a more permanent structure for the splash park attendant. This should be built with the potential use for running a mini golf course in mind. There could be shelter for the park attendant from the sun and provide storage for concessions that are now hauled from the storage area of the picnic shelter on a daily basis. The school might even build this for the cost of materials as a class project. Final cost has not been estimated as further design is necessary.

Frederick suggested that the park board approach city council about getting TIF money to cover some or maybe all of these projects. Chapman made a motion to not approach the city for TIF money but instead use the money we have in the park dedication. Vita seconded the motion. Gerold and Frederick reminded everyone that that money had been earmarked for the mini golf course. Fuhrman also reminded the board that while our initial grant request for money to pave the bike trail south of the water treatment plant had failed, it wasn't out of the question that we would apply again and the grant required a dollar match. Vita asked that her second be retracted as she had misunderstood the motion by Chapman. There was no second to the motion and the motion by Chapman died for lack of the second. Vita made a motion to ask the city for \$25,000 from the TIF money to cover these projects, less if Gerold is able to bring the projects under budget. Suhsen seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. The motion passed with Chapman being the only opposed vote.

Splash Park: Very busy. This is the last week before the end of the season.

Riverside Park: The hosts are still at the park and providing good services with little problems from park users.

Rainbow Park: Nothing to report.

Riebe Park: Gerold has the slab in for the big sign. Dave Land is volunteering his time to do the block work as soon as he has time. The only lighting at this time will be solar. Frederick reported that he had recently been to the park and there were 15 to 20 cars there with several people in the dog park and all the rest playing or waiting to play disc golf.

Pioneer Park: Gerold reported that the contractor for the bank reconstruction is on school property right now but anticipates being off the school property by the end of the week. They are about 500 feet along the bank.

Riverview Park: Nothing to report.

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Funding for Road / Wayfinding Signage and Bike Racks: Fuhrman is still looking into funding. Perlick said there is \$1500 available from Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). A discussion about bike racks and having the school build racks for us ensued. The board took particular interest in some designs that Chapman had found. The school may not be able to bend the metal in the configuration needed but Broding thought he had someone that could do that for the school. Gerold said he would get the racks powder coated once they were prepared for finish.

Comprehensive Park and Trail Plan: Fuhrman presented a summary of the survey results along with a request of the board members to look over the formulation of goals and policies section of the handout she had prepared and let her know of any changes or additions. As part of the whole presentation by Fuhrman we got into a lengthy discussion about what we can do with volunteers to alleviate some of the pressure on the city crew for park maintenance and upkeep (“Adopt a Park”). One of the questions was how volunteers might be covered by city insurance in the case of an accident.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lions Picnic Tables: Broding said that Lions Club wants to build picnic tables for the parks. He can get six frames for the price of 5 (\$300 each). The boards (2 x 10 – 8') are about \$8.50 each and each table requires five of those. Broding asked if there might be money to pay for some of the table parts if Lions didn't want to pay for all of them. Gerold is going to check on that. Broding will be coordinating the construction at his place. Gerold offered to give city help with unloading the frames if necessary.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Chapman made a motion to adjourn. Frederick seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:54.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary