

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Princeton Parks & Recreation Board
Held on October 27, 2014, in the Chambers of City Hall

Chairperson Todd Frederick called the meeting to order at 6:00. Members present were Blake Broding, Todd Frederick, Jill Papesh, Chris Pruett, Scott Suhsen and Carla Vita. Also attending was Bob Gerold. Absent was Bob Beattie.

Minutes for September 22, 2014, Meeting

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

NEW BUSINESS

None

Reports by Staff

Mark Park: Park has been winterized although it is still getting used; soccer and football programs are using the fields. Once there is snow on the ground the park will be closed and the lights shut off since it isn't plowed and it will save money. Most of playground equipment has been completed with the exception of a couple panels that came later. The rails slide has been popular as has some of the new features like the educational pieces like the music piece.

Splash Park: LeeAnn Hartigan joined us to present the final numbers for the year. Attendance and income were both down (compared to last year). The weather played a significant part in the outcome. There were more promotions and new advertising this year as well as some new sponsors of events. Bernicks handled the soda machine this year so we didn't get any profit from that source but Hartigan was happy to not have to deal with that. We discussed ways of increasing attendance and income. There was discussion about how we could increase revenue from the sale of concessions but without a more permanent structure with electricity there are limits to what we can offer. We discussed if there were any other ways of promoting or advertising with no new ideas. If there were an activity for older kids at the same time it might help (like the mini golf course we've discussed). Pruett complimented Hartigan on how nice the employees have been.

Riverside Park: The park has been winterized. The garbage receptacles need to be picked up and the picnic tables stacked in the picnic shelter. Gerold reminded the board of the money donated by the Lions Club; he asked about color selection for the roof, the wood posts and parts and the gable ends. Suhsen mentioned that the board had already determined to match the color of the metal roofs in Mark Park. There was a general consensus that the wood parts be brown and the gable ends finished in the same brown. Frederick said that we should make it a winter project to really work on the DNR to do something with the canoe landing. It's almost a hazard in the condition it is in.

Rainbow Park: Gerold said that citizen pruners will be working the park next week. Carie Fuhrman had set up an agreement with Sherburne Soil and Water to do pruning of the younger trees to raise the height of the canopy.

Reibe Park: Gerold said that there has been some tree trimming done. When we get dry weather again he is planning on burning the pampas grass for winter. Both the disc golf course and the dog park have been busy. The water has been shut off in the park.

Pioneer Park: Some trees need to be removed from trails before winter for skiers and the paths are going to get widened out as the vegetation has encroached on them. Frederick asked if the numbered markers could be pulled up and repainted. Gerold said he could have staff paint them in place. We discussed the workout stations in the park. Most have fallen into disrepair, some even removed, and vegetation taking over some as well. After some discussion it was decided to keep them and see if there might be volunteers (perhaps boy scouts to take on a project to renew the structures).

Riverview Terrace Nature Park: Nothing to report.

Civic Center Park: Gerold said that a tether ball has been installed and it has gotten a fair amount of use from the moment it was put in.

OLD BUSINESS

Drone Video: Gerold reported that Joe Schwartz continues to get video as time allows. Pruett said that some video was shot at night with the lights on while kids were playing soccer.

MISCELLANEOUS

PAVC & 4R board updates: Suhsen said that there haven't been any meetings.

ATVs: Frederick mentioned that ATVs have been a problem, specifically in Mark Park, lately and so far the people responsible haven't been caught but they are working on it.

Bike Trail Pavement Diamonds on Rum River Drive Sidewalk: Suhsen asked if the diamonds on the side walk along the east side of Rum River Drive in the down town area would be repainted in the spring. Frederick pointed out that there had never been an actual resolution for that to be a designated bike path. He understands parents of young kids not wanting to bike with those kids on Rum River Drive but that it isn't legal. Suhsen brought up that a big part of the issue is public education regarding bikes and vehicles sharing the road and that the 4R board is planning on addressing this issue. There was discussion about alternative routes and they work when the downtown isn't the actual destination but otherwise they aren't a full solution. Suhsen also brought up that the Minnesota Design Team had expressed that traffic calming structures would help both pedestrian and bike traffic downtown. The discussion was tabled to see what the 4R board comes up with.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Pruett made a motion to adjourn. Papesh seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:57.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary