MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON FEBRUARY 9, 2017 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Mayor Paul Whitcomb called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Council members present were, Thom Walker, Jack Edmonds, Jules Zimmer and Jeff Reynolds. Others present: Administrator Mark Karnowski, Finance Director Steve Jackson, Police Chief Todd Frederick, Development Director Jolene Foss, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Clerk Shawna Jenkins, Engineers Andy Brotzler and Mike Nielson, and Attorney’s Kelli Bourgeois and Damian Toven.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2017
B. Study Session Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2017

EDMONDS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2017 AND STUDY SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2, 2017. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Permits and Licenses
B. Personnel
C. Donations/Designations

OPEN FORUM

PUBLIC HEARINGS

REPORTS OF OFFICERS, BOARDS, AND COMMITTEES

A. EDA Board Meeting of January 19, 2017
B. Planning Commission Meeting of January 23, 2017

PETITIONS, REQUESTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Princeton Comprehensive Plan Update

Eric Zweber from WSB and Associates reported on the Comprehensive Plan progress.

Public Engagement

Public engagement for the Comprehensive Plan Update will be conducted through three methods:
- Online
- Meetings with Residents and Businesses
- The City Council and Existing Boards and Commissions

Online

WSB will use a website called “mySidewalk” to allow for community engagement via the internet. MySidewalk allows residents to access Comprehensive Plan update 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. MySidewalk also allows you to build users based on your existing electronic engagement, including the City’s website and Facebook page. The City website will have a link that allows users to go directly to the mySidewalk page and the City’s Facebook page can distribute updates on the mySidewalk page simply by liking the post.
Meetings with Residents and Businesses
The Comprehensive Plan proposal includes two public Open Houses, one early in the process and one towards the end of the process when the draft Comprehensive Plan will be available for review. In addition to the Open Houses, an additional meeting with a focus group of the City’s choice and a meeting with the neighboring jurisdictions is included within the proposal.

The City Council and Existing Boards and Commissions
The majority of the creation of the Comprehensive Plan Update will occur during City Council, Planning Commission and Economic Development Authority (EDA) meetings. These meetings start with tonight’s joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting. The draft Comprehensive Plan will be developed during two Planning Commission meetings, one City Council meeting and one EDA meeting. Following the public Open House reviewing draft Comprehensive Plan, the Planning Commission and EDA will review and recommend approval of the Plan before the final City Council approval.

Existing Plans
Princeton has conducted a number of issue- and area-specific plans within the last five years. These plans and planning initiatives include the 2016 Industrial Park Expansion Study, the Housing Needs Analysis for East Central Regional Housing Collaborative prepared by Maxfield Research Inc., the Princeton Market Area Profile completed by University of Minnesota Extension MN Design Team, the Sherburne and Mille Lacs Counties Master Parks and Trail Plans, City of Princeton Parks, Trials and Open Space Comprehensive Plan 2016, 2017 City Council Goals, Economic Development Authority (EDA) Strategic Plan 2012, EDA 2017 Goals, and the Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2016 currently being discussed. A major component of the Comprehensive Plan Update will be analyzing the goals and recommendations from these plans, removing any initiatives that have been completed and prioritizing the goals and recommendations that remain. That analysis begins tonight. The City Council, EDA and Planning Commissioners will be asked to review and comment on the goals by the February 22. These responses will be provided to the Planning Commission to be used to guide their recommendations.

Vision
Before WSB begins the technical construction of the Comprehensive Plan, we desire to understand the goals and vision of the elected and appointed official of the City. We will review the 2017 Goals, but to understand your visions we will ask each member to answer the following two questions:

- *If you we speaking with your nephew or niece, how would you describe why you love living in Princeton?*

- *In 2040, Princeton will be the premiere City in central Minnesota. What actions do you need to make this year to allow Princeton to grow into the premiere City?*

WSB will use the responses and 2017 Goals to guide decisions and discussion during the creation of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

2017 City Council Priorities
1. Extend 21st Ave into the Industrial Park to improve Public Safety and reduce traffic on Rum River Dr.
2. Develop the Arcadian Home site to provide additional rental units in the city.
3. Construct a walking bridge between Riebe Park and the west side of the river
4. Construct a boat launch ramp at Riverside or Riebe Park
5. Construct New restrooms in Riverside Park
6. Complete the roundabout at Highway 95 and 21st Avenue.
7. Promote development of both Aero Business Park and Rivertown Crossing
8. Work with the Sherburne County Drug Task Force
9. Complete the bike trail from Crystal Cabinets to Mark Park.
10. Extend the city sidewalks to Coborns grocery store
11. Finalize airport boundary issues
12. Develop a plan for budget surpluses
13. Develop a process for using store profits to benefit public (assessment relief, etc.)
14. Develop additional rental units in the city.
15. Develop an Infrastructure replacement plan,
16. Develop process for repairing, upgrading and/or adding city sidewalks.
17. Develop more middle income housing opportunities
18. Get to the city population up to 5,000
19. Develop a parks and trails park marketing plan
20. Eliminate the sharp corner at Sterling Pointe
21. Upgrade the driving surface of City Streets.

Princeton Economic Development Authority 2016 Goals and Visions
1. Promote: Maintain continuous and ongoing marketing and promotion of our City of Princeton’s unique and increasing amenities through thoughtful and creative use of technology, partnerships with the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce, ISD #477, Small Business Development Center and other local groups. Continue to create a destination location that our residents find value in and prospective residents and business owners will find appealing and exciting.
2. Develop: Plan for the continued growth of the development of the City, including Aero Business Park, Princeton Business Center (new industrial site), River Town Crossing, 21st Avenue Extension, the existing Princeton Industrial Park, and the Downtown Business District through retention, expansion and attraction with the intent to increase job opportunities and tax base for the community. Development shall occur while simultaneously addressing the needs of a healthy community of all age groups and abilities in the areas of housing, transportation, education, employment and services.
3. Compete: Increase and maintain incentives to develop in the Community including Tax Increment Financing, Tax Abatement, Revolving Loan Fund, and Small Cities Development Program. Other possible incentives could include but are not limited to; reduced land price, forgiveness of assessments, incentives based on number of employees, etc.
4. Improve: Maintain responsible land uses and improvements, create an inter-connected regional trail system, grant write and seek support for ongoing improvements to the parks and open spaces within our community. Keep contact and communication with the Princeton Area Visioning Committee (PAVC), Rum River Resources and Recreation Board (4R Board), and Mille Lacs and Sherburne Counties.

East Central Regional Development Commission – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Survey
1. Project 1: Purchase of additional acreage and provision of infrastructure, including sewer, water, sidewalks and streets, to accommodate growing and new business, residential, industrial and commercial development properties through extension of municipal services and land investment. The current availability of developable property is limited and there is a need for growth.
2. Project 2: Marketing analysis and marketing promotion of the Aero Business Park lots. The City’s investment properties include 7 shovel ready lots that were purchased with the intent to sell and continue a retail/commercial corridor along 21st Avenue, near the airport and the new Public Safety Building. Analysis of these lots for professional marketing will increase jobs and tax base.
3. **Project 3**: Create an inter-connected regional trail and open spaces system. Partnering with GMRPT, SHIP, Sherburne and Mille Lacs County, PAVC, 4R Board, and other entities that support this kind of growth, the City hopes to retain and recruit a willing and skilled workforce that wants to reside in our community and to improve the quality of life for all people in our community.

4. **Project 4**: Create an opportunity for the attainment of a higher education opportunity. Research, network and support all ongoing efforts to bring an opportunity to Princeton for higher education through an accredited organization.

5. **Project 5**: Support the creation of additional housing of all types. The recent East Central Housing Study shows a need for housing in our community. The addition of more multi-family dwellings and taking advantage of infill development could be ways of expanding our housing stock. More housing opportunities will help support growth and retention of workforce.

**A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs & Pine Counties in East Central Minnesota (Princeton-Specific Goals)**

1. Purchase of additional acreage and provision of infrastructure, including sewer, water, sidewalks and streets, to accommodate growing and new business
2. Conduct a marketing analysis and implement a marketing promotion of the Aero Business Park lots.
3. In conjunction with strategic partners, create an inter-connected regional trail and open spaces system.
4. With the assistance of strategic partners, work to recruit education providers that offer postsecondary education opportunities locally.
5. Support the creation of additional housing of all types.

**City of Princeton Comprehensive Plan 2008 – 2018**

1. **Overall Goals:**
   a. GOAL 1 - Appeal and Unique Qualities: Enhance the City’s appeal and unique natural amenities, including the Rum River and Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge. Promote the City’s accessibility to the Twin City metropolitan area, the Northern Lakes region, and Princeton’s identity as a complete community that offers great business, housing and recreational opportunities.
   b. GOAL 2 - Life-Time Community: Establish Princeton as a lifetime community by recognizing and addressing the housing and economic needs of all age groups.
   c. GOAL 3 - Tax Base: Expand and diversify the area tax base by promoting sound economic development opportunities and encouraging wise land use patterns in the area.
   d. GOAL 4 - Housing: Support the expansion and diversification of the housing stock within the City to include new neighborhoods in higher-amenity areas of the community and completion of in-fill development.
   e. GOAL 5 - Central Business District: Support the urban core of Princeton by promoting a healthy business climate in downtown. Expand retail and service business options and preserve the unique character of the built and natural environment in downtown.
   f. GOAL 6 - Industrial – Business: Support opportunities for quality manufacturing to expand within the community and encourage new businesses to locate in Princeton.
   g. GOAL 7 - Parks, Trails and Open Space: Develop a balanced Parks, Trails, and Open Space system that includes adequate areas for active and passive recreation sites.
   h. GOAL 8 - Environmental Issues: Support local and regional plans to improve surface water quality and reduce the impact of unwise land use patterns.
   i. GOAL 9 - Infrastructure: Promote the orderly and efficient extension of urban services, such as wastewater treatment, water, transportation, and public safety.
j. GOAL 10 - Growth Management: Support the expansion of the municipal boundary to
growth areas in adjacent townships when development can adequately and efficiently
be served by urban infrastructure. Oppose land use patterns that promote rural sprawl
and prevent the logical extension of urban services.

2. Transportation Policies
   a. Complete System – Incorporate the needs of pedestrians, automobiles, bicycles, trucks,
      air transportation, and transit in neighborhood design.
   b. Street Improvements – Develop a street improvement data base to manage street
      improvement projects and to help prioritize future road improvement projects.
   c. Functional Classification System – Utilize the approved functional Classification Map for
      future road improvement designs and for road right-of-way dedication requirements
      within future subdivisions. Update road construction standards for each functional clas-
      sification as needed.
   d. Arterial Roadways – Support and protect the Arterial status of both Trunk Highways 95
      and 169. Prevent unnecessary access points to these roadways during future develop-
      ment and platting processes.
   e. River Crossings – Support and encourage the increase in capacity of the current river
      crossings on the Rum River and West Branch of the Rum River. Support the construc-
      tion of the Sherburne County Road 19 crossing of the Rum River.
   f. Airport - Promote upgrading, maintenance, and operations of the airport as a viable re-
      gional facility contributing to the full services offered by Princeton. Encourage improved
      access and visibility of the facility.
   g. Park and Ride – Promote more use of the park and ride facility located at CSAH 29 and
      Highway 169. Examine the ability to improve the former MnDOT storage facility at Mille
      Lacs CSAH 29 and Highway 169 into another park and ride location.
   h. Transit – Monitor the need/potential for transit facilities connecting the City of Princeton
      to regional centers and the future Northstar Corridor Facilities in Elk River.
   i. Shared Parking – For efficiency, promote joint or shared parking facilities downtown and
      at other locations where appropriate. Require that parking and sidewalks connect to ad-
      joining uses.
   j. Maintenance - Maintain all transportation facilities (roads, walks, and trails) in good re-
      pair and keep the facilities free from a buildup of dirt, snow, and ice, especially down-
      town at school routes.
   k. Grant Opportunities – Continue to pursue transportation grants and special funding to
      offset the costs of road improvements, including Federal and State transportation pro-
      grams.
   l. State-Aid System – When the City reaches the 5,000 population level, implement a Met-
      ropolitan state aid system program.

3. Housing Policies
   a. Housing Locations – Provide more land suitable for creating new residential neighbor-
      hoods which include upscale housing. Focus on new neighborhoods north to Fog Lake
      & along County Road 102 and Southeast of the City along County State Aid Highway 2.
   b. Housing Stock Diversity – Encourage the development of a variety of housing types and
      sizes, including affordable and upscale, for sale and rental, senior citizen housing,
      apartments/condominiums, townhouses and assisted living. Support mixed housing
      styles within a neighborhood.
   c. Existing Housing and Neighborhoods - Preserve and protect the housing stock, housing
      values, and neighborhoods through enforcement of the housing and zoning codes:
      a. Preserving and protecting neighborhood amenities,
      b. Improving and expanding, where appropriate, infrastructure and community facil-
      ities such as parks and trails,
c. Promote enforcement of housing and zoning codes. Develop more flexible zoning ordinance requirements for the traditional residential neighborhoods.
d. Housing Rehabilitation - Promote rehabilitation and upgrading of single family and multiple family housing.
e. Expand - New Neighborhoods - Expand the community and allow creation of new planned neighborhoods consistent with the comprehensive plan and land use map.
f. Coordination - Work with Baldwin Township, Princeton Township, and private property owners to plan for suitable expansion through subdivisions planned on a neighborhood basis.
g. Downtown Housing - Encourage housing development in and near the downtown area.
h. Energy Efficient Design - Promote a more walkable/bikeable neighborhood design. Work with the local development community to create more energy efficient neighborhoods.

4. Commercial/Industrial Policies

Downtown
a. Update commercial design standards to promote a walkable downtown. Work with the Princeton Area Visionary Committee to plan for trail/sidewalk improvements.
b. Support the efforts of the Historic Preservation Committee to identify historically important buildings within the downtown and support private investment to improve and preserve these structures.
c. Improve parking visibility for shoppers in the downtown area.
d. Promote more housing opportunities in and near the downtown area.
e. Improve access to and visibility of the Rum River in the downtown.
f. Support the redevelopment of Riverside Park and improve the quality of the facilities in that park.
g. Coordinate festivals and special events in and near the downtown. Work with the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce to improve the promotion of these events.

Commercial Development – General
a. Encourage the private development of additional Highway Commercial lots along Trunk Highway 95 near the 169 interchange. Encourage staged development that will reduce public infrastructure costs.
b. Continue to improve the quality of commercial development by enhancing local design standards for the buildings and parking lots.
c. Require that parking lots be shared or connected. Include sidewalks or trails within each development site.
d. Review signage allowances for commercial development.
e. Encourage reduced height and size where possible.
f. Restrict the placement of new off-site advertising signs along Trunk Highways 169 & 95.
g. Support and encourage the development of an anchor store(s) in the west side development area.
h. Respond to request by land owners for the extension of sewer and water services and require the annexation of the parcel at that time.
i. Support the development of mixed commercial/housing uses as part of a medical clinic, hospital, or office complex.

Industrial
a. Encourage the development of new privately owned industrial sites according to the adopted land use map of the City of Princeton.
b. Diversify the types of industrial uses within the City to “recession proof” our jobs base as much as possible.
c. Encourage unique technology based educational programs between our school system and our business community.
d. Support the development of new technology based businesses.

e. Encourage the development of “clusters” in our industrial park, by providing incentives to businesses that support and work with our current businesses.

5. Parks and Recreation Policies

a. Develop a detailed park improvement plan for each city-owned recreational site that identifies future park improvement projects.

b. Monitor changes in the state enabling legislation that affects park dedication requirements.

c. Negotiate park dedication requirements with each developer based on the current land needs and cash in-lieu of land requirements in the City Code.

d. Require land dedication to the City as part of a plat where the City Parks Plans indicate future park land needs. Work with developers to set aside necessary lands for other public purposes, including public safety, public utilities, or schools.

e. Adopt an official trails corridor map that connects local recreational sites and links the community to recreational facilities in the surrounding community.

f. Preserve, protect, and enhance the Rum River and adjacent lands for year-round recreational activities and for the scenic vistas it provides. (Uses could include picnicking, camping, fishing, boating/canoeing, jogging, biking, nature observation/interpreting, and scenic viewing.)

g. Encourage joint use of park and open space for recreation, preservation of natural and visual amenities, drainage, and water storage.

h. Support the acquisition and/or donation of parcels that enhance the natural features of the community. Research State grant programs to offset development and acquisition costs.

City of Princeton Economic Development Authority – 2012 Economic Development Strategic Plan

1. Goal 1: Increase tourism by recognizing and promoting the City’s appeal and unique qualities, including, but not limited to the following:

- Growing regional community on the Rum River
- Accessibility to the metropolitan area and northern lakes
- Location on Highways 169 and 95
- Unique history including the foundation as a railroad town, brick industry, & potato industry
- Identify as a complete community meeting the living, working, recreational, and shopping needs of the area

a. Strategy 1a: Participate in a marketing strategy/plan to attract businesses and visitors to Princeton.

b. Strategy 1b: Participate in the obtainment and installation of a community sign advertising community-wide events.

c. Strategy 1c: Participate in the establishment of a community-wide website advertising community-wide events.

d. Strategy 1d: Support the planning for and construction of an area-wide trail system.

e. Strategy 1e: Recognize the economic benefits of and support the preservation of the unique historic structures in the City.

f. Strategy 1f: Recognize the economic benefits of the community’s natural resources, especially the Rum River, and support the utilization of it.

g. Strategy 1g: Revisit results of the Business Retention and Expansion Report.
2. Goal 2: Encourage and support commercial, manufacturing, and industrial development and redevelopment, including existing business expansions, renovations, and new businesses moving to Princeton.
   a. Strategy 2a: Support the existing businesses and recognize their contributions to the community as a whole.
   b. Strategy 2b: Offer available business incentives, such as JobZ, Revolving Loan Fund, TIF District, etc., in instances where quality jobs for area residents will be promoted and where the development results in a marked increase in the value of property within the community.
   c. Strategy 2c: Encourage business and industry collaboration with area resources, including the East Central Regional Development Commission, Small Business Development Center, Initiative Foundation, area colleges, and so on.
   d. Strategy 2d: Work to receive additional funding in the Small Cities Development Program.
   e. Strategy 2e: Encourage the redevelopment of blighted/ substandard commercial sites.
   f. Strategy 2f: Review land uses to determine where economic opportunities can provide the greatest returns to residents and business owners within the community
   g. Strategy 2g: Review development standards to ensure that they maintain quality and competitive development.
   h. Strategy 2h: Gather and maintain current data regarding existing Princeton area businesses and industries.

   a. Strategy 3a: Explore new marketing tools.
   b. Strategy 3b: Explore utilizing Tax Increment Financing to assist in financing new or relocated businesses into Aero Business Park.
   c. Strategy 3c: Support the extension of 21st Ave South.

   a. Strategy 4a: Support the existing downtown small businesses.
   b. Strategy 4b: Continue partnering with the Chamber of Commerce in the revitalization of downtown, particularly filling vacant commercial spaces.
   c. Strategy 4c: Improve and diversify the goods and services provided.
   d. Strategy 4d: Recognize and embrace the unique character of the historic structures and natural environment of downtown.
   e. Strategy 4e: Encourage investment into renovating existing structures.
   g. Strategy 4g: Support the area-wide efforts of attracting visitors to downtown, including the PAVC amphitheater project, the 4R Board’s regional trail network, and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board’s local trail construction projects.

5. Goal 5: Expand the opportunities for existing and new quality manufacturing and industrial development by expanding available industrial park land.
   b. Strategy 5b: Work with surrounding property owners in identifying viable future industrial areas.
   c. Strategy 5c: Support the extension of 21st Avenue to provide a second entrance and outlet for the Princeton Industrial Park.
   e. Strategy 5e: Encourage the utilizing of JobZ designation.
6. Goal 6: Recognize the interdependence of private and public sector entities in a healthy community.
   a. Strategy 6a: Continue the positive, working relationship with the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce.
   b. Strategy 6b: Encourage the collaboration and cooperation between all public and private sector entities, including the area businesses and industries, service organizations, the Princeton School District, area townships, and intra-governmental units.
   c. Strategy 6c: Support efforts to work with surrounding townships and counties to improve communication and reduce duplication of efforts in business and residential growth efforts.

7. Goal 7: Establish Princeton as a life-time community by addressing the needs of all age groups, including educational, jobs, housing, and services.
   a. Strategy 7a: Explore coordinating with area institutions of higher education to offer college extension classes in Princeton.
   b. Strategy 7b: Attract industries with high-wage jobs.
   c. Strategy 7c: Encourage the development of Market Rate Life Cycle Housing.
   d. Strategy 7d: Support filling existing vacant homes.

8. Goal 8: Expand options for all modes of transportation.
   a. Strategy 8a: Runway extension at the Princeton Municipal Airport to facilitate greater use by all traffic in general.
   b. Strategy 8b: Second bridge across Rum River for parks, industrial, commercial, and residential uses, to address safety concerns and easier access to Princeton schools.
   c. Strategy 8c: Support the planning for and construction of an area-wide trail system.

City of Princeton Industrial Park Expansion Plan – 2016
1. The City should develop a phasing plan for the extension of the city services (water/sewer and roads) to the new site to reduce the financial burden on the community for the costs of those improvements.
2. The City should work with the property owners of Sites 1-4 to allow for the in-fill development of the community on those sites.
3. While we have shown some possible layouts for the Sites 1-5, at this time, the City should not make any changes to sites in relation to subdivision and or the extension of services. This will allow for Sites 1-5 to have the greatest flexibility for their development and use.
4. The City should also work with the companies that are located in the community on their future plans to determine if they are candidates for the use of the available lots.
5. The community should develop a process for the determining of the level of assistance that maybe available for new industrial projects. The plan should include the criteria for assistance and the formula for determining that level of assistance that will be provided. This plan could include the use of TIF, tax abatement, development fee reduction, special energy rates, and state programs.
6. The community should begin the process of developing a marketing plan for the existing lots and the new industrial park. The plan should be based upon reasonable expectations of the development of the properties and should be updated on a regular basis.
7. The City has the added advantage of having its own municipal utility for the provision of electrical power. This allows for the City to set rates that can make the community more attractive for industries that are large energy users. The community will need to incorporate the electric utility in the planning for the growth and development Site 5.

Parks & Rec
1. Mark Park
a. Add trees to park area
b. Improvements to trail (pathway and lights)
c. Add entrance to Splash Park with parking lot and sidewalk to areas
d. Add entrance signage to Splash Park
e. Add Miniature golf course next to Splash Park
f. Continue with upgrade and replacement of Splash Park equipment
g. Construct permanent structure for Splash Park attendant
h. Continue the trail to connect with the Splash Park Trail

2. Sidewalks/Trails
a. Identify First Street as a trail to extend existing trail in township, including adding share the Road Signage.
b. Add wayfinding signage throughout the community to encourage bicycling.
c. Add bicycle racks throughout the community, starting in the existing parks and downtown.

3. Pioneer Park
a. Add maps; Update map at the entrance
b. Add markers at trail intersections for wayfinding.
c. Add walking points / distance locations.
d. Maintenance of natural path.
e. Market and advertise trail system as suitable for mountain biking.
f. Add information regarding vegetation within the park
g. Add more paths.
h. Add Benches.
i. Add Bike rack at park entrance.
j. Update signage (on and off‐site).

4. Rainbow Park
a. Upgrade playground equipment.
b. Maintain basketball court.
c. Add Bike rack(s).
d. Add trees and additional landscaping.
e. Add more tables.
f. Add identification sign

5. Riebe Park
a. Pave the parking lot
b. Add picnic shelter
c. Add bathrooms
d. Add tables and anchor them
e. Add Bike rack(s)
f. Sidewalk/Trail leading to and from the park
g. Maintain and add new features for dog park
h. Fire ring and seating area
i. Pedestrian bridge connection across Rum River to Riverside Park
j. Promotion of park features (disc golf course & dog park)

6. Riverside Park
a. Improve canoe/kayak access
b. Upgrade bathrooms.
c. Add fishing pier.
d. Add Bike rack(s).
e. Pedestrian bridge connection across Rum River to Riebe Park.
f. Work with the PAVC in regards to potential amphitheater project
g. Promotion of campground
h. Explore potential growth/relocation of campground
i. Explore outdoor outfitting business

7. Civic Center Park
   a. Ongoing maintenance and improvements to equipment
   b. Add new equipment
   c. Update signage (on and off-site)
   d. Add skateboard park
   e. Add pool
   f. Promotion of building and park renovation

Zweber asked the council to take a few weeks to look through the lists and prioritize the various goals that have been discussed by different boards and commissions.

Edmonds stated that the large factory vacant building can be difficult to find a good fit for in a downtown district. Jim Gromberg responded that sometimes they can be, but he has also seen some neat things done with those types of vacant buildings. One such business was a Micro-brewery.

Zimmer added that there have been a lot of older buildings that were torn down and still hears feedback from some people wishing some of those buildings could have been saved.

Edmonds wondered if a large vacant building like that could be turned into some type of senior center.

Zimmer said he feels that the parks in Princeton are really an asset to the community.

Karnowski added that on a staff level, they have discussed the possibility of purchasing the large piece of property on the other side of the river that could be used as additional camp sites. He does not see it as a way for the city to make money, but to enhance the city and bring more people to the community.

Whitcomb asked the Council to email Zweber with any questions, comments or concerns throughout the comprehensive plan process.

B. 21st Ave Pending Litigation – see CLOSED SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

A. PFRD request to work at Brainerd International Speedway

Karnowski reported Fire Chief Ron Lawrence is asking the Council for permission to allow our firefighters to take their turnout gear to Brainerd International Raceway and assist the track in providing firefighting and first responder services during certain weekends during the racing season this summer.

Chief Lawrence favors allowing the firefighters to participate because of the training and experience they will receive. Ron points out that most of our firefighters have two sets of turnout gear.

Staff checked with the manager of BIR who advises that BIR has their own fire truck as well as pertinent equipment (Jaws of Life, etc.) The race track does not provide housing or food but the firefighters can use the track’s campgrounds if they have an RV. The firefighters would receive payment for each day they serve...that payment is provided by BIR.
Staff checked with the League’s Insurance Trust and they advised they really have no concerns if the city decides to permit the firefighters to use their city-owned turnout gear while performing this activity for the BIR.

LMCIT wants to make sure that it’s absolutely clear to everyone involved that these activities are not part of the firefighters’ duties as employees of the City of Princeton, but that since they’re being paid by the BIR they would instead be acting either as employees of the BIR or as independent contractors of the BIR.

In other words, if one of the firefighters is injured while performing these functions for the BIR, they would not be entitled to workers compensation benefits from the City of Princeton or from LMCIT; and if they were sued by some third party who claims to have been injured as a result of some action by a firefighter while performing these functions for the BIR, they would also not be covered by the city’s LMCIT liability coverage.

If the Council is okay with allowing the firefighters to use their turnout gear at BIR, then a motion allowing the practice would be in order. It would probably be a good idea to make sure Chief Lawrence advises any interested firefighters of the Worker’s Comp and liability components as noted by LMCIT. A copy of the LMCIT’s complete email has been forwarded to the Chief.

What we have not gotten answers on as of yet, is for instance, if a firefighter was injured while working at the track, or if a driver was injured and the first responders were sued, does BIR have the necessary insurance. Staff suggests something in writing from BIR to state that those situations would be covered by their insurance.

Zimmer stated that if they get the right answers to those questions, it could really provide some good training for the firefighters.

Lawrence added that BIR is asking for assistance from Fire Departments throughout the state.

ZIMMER MOVED TO ALLOW PRINCETON FIREFIGHTERS TO USE THEIR GEAR TO ASSIST AT BRAINERD INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY PROVIDED ALL THE INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS ARE MET. EDMONDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MISCELLANEOUS

BILL LIST
ZIMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE BILL LIST WHICH INCLUDES THE MANUAL CHECKS AS LISTED ON THE MANUAL BILL LIST FOR A TOTAL OF $102,895.75 AND THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE LIQUOR BILL LIST AND GENERAL CITY BILL LIST WHICH WILL BE CHECKS 75021 TO 75100 FOR A TOTAL OF $284,891.70. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

21st Ave Pending Litigation –CLOSED SESSION
Whitcomb stated that this agenda item is to discuss pending litigation In the Matter of the proposed 21st Roundabout Project Assessments.

This portion of the properly noticed regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Princeton will be closed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 13D.05, subdivision 3 (b) under the attorney/client privilege exception to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law to discuss pending litigation related to the matter of the proposed 21st Roundabout Project Assessments
The city’s need for absolute confidentiality outweighs the purposes served by the open-meeting law in this case based on the following:

• Absolute confidentiality is necessary so that the City Council and legal counsel can have a candid and open discussion to determine the available legal options to handle the pending litigation, including strategy and possible areas of resolution.
• The purpose of the closed meeting is not to make a decision behind closed-doors, but instead is to determine the legal options for handling the referenced pending litigation.
• The only business to be discussed in this portion of the meeting is the pending litigation.
• An open session would be detrimental because it may take place in the presence of individuals involved in the litigation.
• A closed session would benefit the public because the ultimate outcome of the litigation may impact the finances of the City.

ZIMMER MOVED CLOSE THE MEETING AT 7:44PM. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. VOTE 4:1 WALKER OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIED.

ZIMMER MOVED ADJOURN THE CLOSED MEETING AT 8:44PM. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business:

ZIMMER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:44 PM. REYNOLDS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

_________________________  ATTEST:

Shawna Jenkins  Paul Whitcomb, Mayor
City Clerk