Minutes of Regular Meeting
Princeton Parks & Recreation Board
Held on February 22, 2016, at the Civic Center

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

Swearing of member Scott Suhsen.

Minutes for October 26, 2015, Meeting
Papesh made a motion to approve the minutes for January 25th 2016 with just a correction to spelling of her name. Pruett seconded the motion. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS
Jolene Foss was with us for New Business so we started with that.

Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails: Foss handed out a summary sheet on Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails activities and results for 2014 & 2015 along with a generic resolution in support of bonding money for parks and trails. She reported that she is getting more positive feedback for public funding now that she has the master plan completed. She is meeting with representatives this Thursday to continue pushing for support. Finally she presented an application for registration for Legislative Day of Action on March 23rd. Vita made a motion to participate in the event. Frederick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS BY STAFF
Mark Park: Gerold reported that Sherburne Soil and Water volunteers finished trimming trees in Mark Park.

Splash Park: Gerold reported that Flagship Recreation (our recent playground equipment source) has purchased ARC, the maker of the features in our splash park. Mark Antchzak with Boss Control is looking at remedying the fact that some of the activation bollards no longer work properly. It's not possible to rewire them since the wiring is buried under the concrete so he is looking at remote control alternatives.

Riverside Park: There was much discussion about the amphitheater and many questions in response to Carol Ossell's presentation at the last park board meeting. Questions about the bathrooms, flooding, who would manage the facility, advertising, fees, maintenance, damage costs, affect on campsites, noise issues for campers and for amphitheater users, sledding hill, etc. were raised. Suhsen answered some of the concerns and then asked if Ossell hadn't presented the preliminary business plan that he had put together as it addressed many of the questions the board members were asking. Ossell had not presented the plan, so Suhsen took the task to send that to the board members. Suhsen said that he had looked at a number of venues that rent out similar facilities and how they handle it before putting together the plan.

The question was asked as to why there was an effort to put in an amphitheater and not something else and whether that duplicated facilities elsewhere in Princeton. Suhsen responded that one of the missions of PAVC was to encourage traffic in the down town area and this was looked at as a way of generating traffic in town. As for duplicating facilities, Suhsen offered that, for example, an outdoor wedding would not fit in the amphitheater at the fair grounds; the river location is attractive for that sort of event.

Papesh asked if Suhsen had gotten information from any smaller, local communities. Suhsen said he hadn't found anything. Frederick asked the board members to put their questions together by March 7th so that he can compile them and pass them on to Ossell. The intent is to have a well prepared plan before this goes to the city council for their review.

Rainbow Park: Gerold reported that they still have a few dead and diseased trees to cut.
Reibe Park: We reviewed a recent email from a citizen with complaints about trash and how some people may be using the park. Also the person asked if the dog park could be divided into separate areas for large and small dogs as they have a small dog and had an encounter with a larger dog. The board does not want to set a precedent that they haven't seen anywhere else of a divided dog park. As to the users and trash issues, no one has heard any major complaints and as Frederick mentioned, it is a park and people without dogs or discs might chose to use the park and should be welcomed to. Frederick will follow up with the complainant.

Gerold is meeting with Larry Duce from Sylva to determine if there is enough wood for them to come in and clear an area where primitive camp sites could be put in across the river from Riverside Park when a foot bridge would be put in. The sites would be strictly walk in, tent camping only. He offered that for the fully contained camper there might be room for a couple of those as well off Reibe Park parking lot. Asked about bathrooms, Gerold said there is money set aside for it but siting and required elevation needs to be determined yet.

Pioneer Park: Gerold reported that they are done cutting buck thorn and prickly ash and it looks quite different now. He asked Suhsen for the key to the numbered sign posts in the park. Suhsen only has a paper copy but will get that to him.

Riverview Terrace Nature Park: Nothing to report.

Civic Center Park: Gerold that the skating rink got a lot of use but now with the recent warm weather and rain that is probably done for the year. The building itself gets quite a bit of use.

OLD BUSINESS / MISCELLANEOUS

Survey Monkey: Pruett asked about doing a survey of the community to see how and what we should be doing in our parks. Most specifically he asked that if there is a large chunk of money, is the amphitheater the best use of that money in the interest of the community. Suhsen mentioned that prior to the Minnesota Design Team visit there had been community involvement in putting together ideas on issues like this and then MDT took that information and worked with community members and organizations over three days and put together a plan that addressed a lot of these issues. Vita pointed out that the results of such surveys can help immensely in obtaining grants. Frederick asked the board to table the idea until April.

PAVC & 4R board updates: Suhsen said that 4R is dissolved as far as he is concerned. For PAVC, Ossell continues to get donations, now in excess of $30,000 plus in-kind donations that have value that is hard to quantify until the project gets closer to fruition.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Pruett made a motion to adjourn. Papesh seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:12.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary

Please Note, Next Meeting: The next meeting is January 25, 2016.