Minutes of Regular Meeting  
**Princeton Parks & Recreation Board**  
Held on April 25, 2016, in the Chambers of City Hall.

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

**Minutes for March 28, 2016, Meeting**
Broding made a motion to approve the minutes for March 28th, 2016. Pruett seconded the motion. Suhsen asked about one item regarding the cost of the south elementary playground equipment and was reassured by board members that the minutes were correct. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**
No new business.

**REPORTS BY STAFF**

**Mark Park:** Gerold reported that the water is on thru the park with the exception of the restrooms by the splash park which needs a new valve that they are waiting for. The old bathrooms have been gutted and turned into storage. The softball association has expressed appreciation and baseball is using it as well. Equipment has been moved from the concession building.

There was discussion about the batting cages that were first brought up at the last meeting. There are still more questions than answers and a lot of concern about who would have to pay for maintenance and replacement of both parts and balls. There was discussion about who and how the cages would be operated. Insurance and liability were also brought up. Even whether it would be open to the public is in question. There needs to be more answers before anything can be decided.

Zimmer brought up that he has people lined up to do the painting of the outside fence of the baseball field and when baseball season is done that will get done.

**Splash Park:** Gerold reported that the new chemical controller is ordered but he is still looking at cameras to evaluate what would be best for our needs. He also reported that a new piece has been picked for the splash park, Mega Water Bucket. We were asked to pick the colors for the different components and arrived at blue for the bucket, red for the poles and yellow for the skirts and deflector. The piece costs $15,500 and is scheduled to arrive June 13th. Gerold also said the city crew are also refinishing a number of other fixtures to spruce things up. The board discussed getting some publicity for the addition of the new piece and Suhsen reminded the board that LeeAnn Hartigan should be included in any discussion about any splash park promotion as she might have something already.

**Riverside Park:** Gerold reported that a reserve officer for the city has offered to be the camp host. He lives nearby and can check in frequently. The campground is open.

**Rainbow Park:** Gerold has plans to move the playground equipment from South Elementary to Rainbow as soon as possible. As much as possible the playground equipment will be moved in full or large pieces. They will have to dig out the footings and jack hammer the concrete off before lifting it. The plan is to place the equipment closer to the fire pit to encourage use of that plus it will be more visible from the road.

**Reibe Park:** The park is getting used. A tree had come down and was dealt with.

**Pioneer Park:** Nothing to report. Papesh asked about putting any of the playground equipment in the park. Gerold said that if they do anything it would be to reconstruct the pieces that had been out there since they were made of treated lumber; it's work his crew could do.
Riverview Terrace Nature Park: Gerold noted that he has seen some foot traffic now that so much of it has been cleared out. There was some discussion about allowing fat tire bikes in the park and even having trails and/or organized activities.

Civic Center Park: Gerold said the park is getting used. Some of the South Elementary playground equipment may end up there.

OLD BUSINESS

Survey Monkey: Board members discussed at length doing a survey. What questions would we ask? What input would we be looking for? How do we get the information we are seeking? What has already been gathered? Vita is going to ask for help from Richard Baker with Mille Lacs County since the county had recently completed its comprehensive plan. Frederick brought up the idea of having a QR code at each park that when used, would present a quick little survey for that park.

Amphitheater: Papesh asked for a recap of the amphitheater discussion at the last meeting which she missed. A couple board members mentioned that the minutes from the last minute gave a good recap of the discussion. Broding expressed concern that the city would be on the hook for the maintenance costs. Papesh expressed similar concerns, that they city was going to experience more costs without the payback that the PAVC has promised or at least as quickly as it would be liked. Frederick said he sees value to the project but that for its size, what could we do instead? Suhsen pointed out that rental fees and damage deposits would have to be adjusted if they weren't covering the additional costs experienced by the city; the idea that the amphitheater would be a money maker has maybe been oversold but it isn't intended to cost the city additional costs either. The funds that PAVC has gathered are not available for any other projects as they have been donated specifically for the amphitheater and they are only available for a limited time before they have to be returned if the amphitheater hasn't been built. The concerns about noise from outside the event at the amphitheater is addressed in the draft copy of the business proposal he put together. The issue of alternative venues in the event of weather related is the responsibility of the party using the facility, not the city and that also is addressed in the business plan.

Papesh commented that the whole discussion has been just going in the same circle and nothing has changed. Broding said the board really should give PAVC some sort of response. Papesh made a motion that the board not focus on the amphitheater any longer. Pruett seconded the motion. Frederick made a comment that this isn't to say that PAVC shouldn't pursue this any longer. Suhsen mentioned that the park board has not been focused on the amphitheater, PAVC has. Beattie also said that we should respond to PAVC in some manner. There was no suggestion of actual action though on that. There being no further discussion, a vote was taken. Note that Vita had left just before this discussion started. Four members voted in favor of Papesh's motion. Broding and Suhsen against. Motion passed.

PAVC update: Suhsen said that Carol Ossell had gotten another $500 donation and he couldn't remember for sure if there had been other donations as well.

Next Meeting Location: After a brief discussion we decided to have our next meeting, weather permitting, at Rainbow Park to look at the planned playground locations.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Papesh made a motion to adjourn. Broding seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:11.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary

Next Meeting: The next meeting is May 23, 2016 at Rainbow Park, weather permitting.