Minutes of Regular Meeting
Princeton Parks & Recreation Board
Held on September 26, 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 was Bob Gerold.

Minutes for July 25, 2016, Meeting
Vita made a motion to approve the minutes for the July 25th, 2016 meeting. Pruett seconded the motion. Motion passed. The minutes for the August 22nd meeting did not need approval as it was not an official meeting due to lack of quorum.

REPORTS BY STAFF
Splash Park: Leeann Hartigan joined us for her report on the splash park. Numbers were down and there was a consensus that it was at least in part due to the weather we had this past summer. There were 11 shut down days due to weather and that could have been a total of 18 as there were seven marginal days. Parties were down, mostly due to weather, 16 cancellations. Parties are $65, $120 or $150 depending on party size. There were some issues with cancellations for other than weather with no prior arrangements made; with no deposit at the time of reservation this is more likely. If a party starts and is canceled before an hour is up, the party is allowed to reschedule at no charge; if over an hour then there is no reimbursement or reschedule.

The splash park had a booth at the block party and a few coupons were turned in from that. Also some coupons were given out at an event in Milaca and some of those were turned in at the splash park as well. Milaca has put in their own splash pad and it is no charge but it is also not supervised and the fence is tight up against the pad with no seating area for adults but still, there could have been some attendance lost to that.

There was further discussion about reservation deposits for parties and other ways to promote the splash park use such as deals for the baseball and softball organizations. Frederick asked about open evenings and Hartigan said that Tuesday evenings are already open; Suhsen asked if that conflicted with music in the park on Tuesdays. It does but Wednesdays are good for scheduling parties and other nights aren't so popular. Hartigan reminded the board there are already punch passes that are a deal.

Hartigan and Gerold are going to work on addressing the issue of cancellations for parties. Pruett added at the end of the discussion how great the splash park employees are. Hartigan mentioned that towards the end of the season there were issues with wasps and hornets in the park.

Mark Park: Frederick mentioned that the park is getting used heavily to the point that it is showing wear and tear. The school district is using it a lot and he doesn't see that changing much even after their new athletic fields are completed and operational. There is concern that we aren't charging enough to cover additional maintenance costs needed to keep things in better shape. There have been issues with the lights turning off at random times for no apparent reason and the portable toilets have been getting over used at times due to the heavy use of the park. As result, Frederick and Gerold have had complaints about the state of the park at times. The general consensus is that we need to raise the fees for the park use (ball fields) to compensate for the increased costs of maintaining the fields under such heavy use. Also adding at least one additional portable toilet is in order for the high use times. When the concession building is opened up, and the bathrooms are opened in that building, then the toilet situation isn't as big of an issue.

When the original fee schedule was put in place, what other communities are charging was looked at for comparison. Suhsen summarized that we need a summary of the fees currently being charged and a list of the additional costs to maintain the fields. We can discuss increasing fees accordingly at the October meeting. Gerold cautioned that any rate changes need to be proposed before the end of the calendar year. Suhsen said that smaller incremental increases on a regular basis would be more acceptable than less common large increases. Vita mentioned that charging the users instead of the city was the more fair approach since this is community use, not city use.
Mark Park (continued):
Broding asked about the overflow parking lot and it's access and egress drives. Gerold is planning on doing a primary seal coat on the surfaces with striping for better definition. After the primary seal coat, normal seal coats can be used. Pruett offered that better signage could help with getting people to use the overflow lot as well.

Papesh mentioned that she had gotten a request to enlarge the concrete pad for the basketball court to improve the play. It is a potential future project to address the issue; for now Gerold recommended that Civic Center park had a better court already.

Riverside Park: We briefly reviewed park suggestions (unsolicited) from a class. There was concern that most of the amenities suggested are in one or more parks already. Gerold mentioned that the class that provided the input is only within walking distance of Riverside Park with little chance of being bused to any of the other parks. He also pointed out that asset duplication becomes prohibitively costly. A couple of the suggestions were mentioned as not fitting in the Riverside Park purposes which include the campground. Gerold reported that the camp hosts just pulled out for the year but they worked out well according to him and a couple others. They are interested in coming back next year too.

The issue of a dump station was raised as Marathon gas station, the only dump station location in town has expressed frustration with the dump station they have. Gerold is looking into an automatic dump station that is operated with a credit card. He is looking at this as an alternative for Marathon that would address a lot of the issues they have. The station has a setup fee and a maintenance fee; it would keep the business in private hands while addressing the need for a pump station for our campground.

Papesh left at 6:50.

Rainbow Park: Broding and Gerold are trying to coordinate a picnic shelter with work and funding at least in part by the Lions. Gerold suggested that a barbecue grill with hood and vent above might be a nice feature. Broding is going to look more into the costs, what the Lions have for a budget for the project (and when it might have to be spent) and get together with Gerold on the project and where the structure would be located.

Reibe Park: The park is getting used.

Pioneer Park and Riverview Terrace Nature Park: Gerold reported that they are going to be working on prickly ash and buck thorn now that they are easily recognizable in the woods. Broding added that Riverview is wet.

Civic Center Park: Nothing to report.

MISCELLANEOUS
Upcoming meeting schedule: There was some discussion as to whether we needed to meet in the next few months. There was consensus that we need to address the fee issue at Mark Park next month (October) and at that time we will discuss the need for November and January meetings. General consensus was that we didn't need a December meeting which comes close to the holidays.

Trapping in the Parks: Broding asked if it was legal to trap in the city parks. Frederick said that except on an individual's personal property it is illegal.

PAVC update: Suhsen had nothing to update for PAVC.

Adjournment There being no further discussion, Vita made a motion to adjourn. Suhsen seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:09.

Respectfully submitted - Scott Suhsen / Secretary

Next Meeting: Next meeting is October 24, 2016.