

June 22, 2020 Park & Recreation Minutes

Park Board Members Present: Blake Broding, Aaron Gruber, Travis Koenen, Jill Papesh, Robert Peters, Jacqueline Strandberg, and Carla Vita.

Others: Bob Gerold and Stephanie Hillesheim and Jules Zimmer

1. Call to Order.
2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 18, 2020
Koenen motioned, seconded by Broding to approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
3. New Business
Aaron Gruber, new Park Board Member, took his oath of office.

4. Reports by Staff

A. Mark Park

Gerold informed that baseball is starting. The City purchased lime and the school district will spread the lime on the fields. Expect to see baseball activity starting June 24. The virus guidelines now allow practice. 2 weeks later practice with other teams. Then 2 weeks after that, scrimmage.

B. Splash Park

Gerold brought up the splash park opening due to the changes in State virus requirements. In his research, some cities are opening splash pads, others are not. Papesh stated that the Park Board decided in previous meetings to not open the splash park due to the virus, social distancing requirements, limiting crowds, and the difficulties of all requirements to balance. Papesh stated that the funds from the splash park were also reallocated to the Reibe-Riverside Park grant due to the previous funding issues. Vita stated that it is tough for anyone, especially little kids to stay 6 feet apart.

C. Riverside Park.

1) Rocking on the Rum

Hilleshiem informed that the band is still coming for the event. A new item will have a virtual fishing contest. Papesh questioned the prizes. Hillesheim stated that she has funds to cover the prizes. Koenen stated that multiple small prizes allows many people to win and might entice more people to take place in the competition. Vita recommended not asking businesses to donate due to how many businesses affected due to the virus. Instead she recommended to use the funds to purchase many gift cards for local businesses to support them. The Park Board unanimously recommended to the purchase small gift cards for Princeton businesses as prizes for the virtual fishing contest.

2) Canoe

Hilleshiem stated that City Hall has received numerous phone calls on canoe usage and many canoe outings. Broding stated that he appreciates the pier design. Gerold informed that his staff constructed. Gerold also stated that the online camping booking is working.

3) Chamber Presentation

Zimmer informed that Hilleshiem presented to the Chamber about Riverside Park. The Chamber appreciated the work.

D. Rainbow Park

Gerold informed that some vandalism has occurred. He is seal-coating the parking lot this year.

E. Riebe Park

1) Funding options

Hillshiem asked the Park Board to approve the funding that was presented to the Park Board and some fundraising ideas. Discussion on cobblestone fundraising. Discussion on a fence slat fundraiser. More research by staff on the cost benefit analysis is needed.

Papesh stated that the amounts were approved at the special meeting. No changes are needed.

2) Bench donations

Hillshiem presented 3 options for bench donations all of which are low maintenance. Motion by Broding, second by Strandberg for the Georgetown bench model. Motion carried unanimously.

Vita recommended that when benches are donated, that the appreciation of the donation should be stated among other methods, to include the City's website and Facebook as many people are interested in social media.

F. Pioneer Park

Gerold informed that repair is taking place on the river bank.

G. Riverview Terrace Nature Park

Gerold is spraying for buckthorne.

H. Civic Center Park

Hillesheim stated that she is waiting on a grant for multi-generational equipment.

5. Old Business

None

6. Miscellaneous

1) Grant Process

Vita sent out to all that receive the Park Agenda packets a proposed process for matching grant funds that she has used in cities in which she worked/s to improve the process of Princeton. The situation being that three times staff have applied for grants without determining funds which has caused issues. Peters questioned Hillsheim and Zimmer on where the problem with funding occurred. Papesh stated that the issue arose with City Administrator Barbian came to the Park Board requesting to use all/portion of Park Dedication fees for the Reibe-Riverside Park due to significant overages. Upon her investigation she found many items were added to the project, that the Grand Trail project went over budget and Barbian did not look innovatively on other places to fund the trail and the issue was resolved. Papesch stated that communication from the City Administrator to the Park Board is a concern, Papesch also stated that better communication to the City Council on all that the Park Board is working to complete needs to occur.

Significant conversation took place. Zimmer stated that he believes that no issues exist as staff has no idea where matching grants might be funded, but funding has occurred. Vita stated that

this is the exact issue that required the franchise fee. Zimmer stated that people like the trail. Vita stated that the issue is not the trail it is the process and lack of communication. Vita stated that her expectation is better professionalism on bother. Significant conversation took place in Vita stating that it is clear that there is no support from Zimmer to memorialize a grant process to prevent this situation again.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Vita second by Broding to adjourn at 7:25pm. Motion carried unanimously.