

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PARK & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON IN THE COUNTY OF MILLE LACS
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2022

1. Call to Order

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board met in Regular Session and Chair Jill Papesh called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jill Papesh	Chair	Present
Carla Vita	Secretary	Present
Andrea Gerrard	Board Member	Present
Aaron Gruber	Board Member	Present
Travis Koenen	Board Member	Present
Robert Peters	Board Member	Present
Bob Gerold	Staff	Present
Heather Brooks	Staff	Present
Jules Zimmer	Council Member Liaison	Absent

Others present: None

2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 23, 2022

Papesh stated that the May minutes need to be modified to show Zimmer as absent. Motion by Peters, second by Gerrard to approve the minutes with the modification as stated by Papesh. Motion carried 6- 0.

3. New Business:

None.

4. Reports by Staff

4.1. Mark Park

Papesh stated that the park has a few dead trees. Gerold stated that the trees are on his task list to be removed.

4.1.1. Security Camera Update

Gerold informed that he is working on security cameras for the park. Gruber stated that he thinks the cameras are a good idea. Koenen educated that people have been climbing the softball building, Gerold indicated that cameras will hopefully assist in eliminating this situation.

Koenen inquired to the fence toppers to be installed at the softball fields. Gerold in that the toppers will be installed soon.

Papesh stated that the park is well used.

4.2. Splash Park

Gerrard informed that the free Splash Park days are great for the community. She has been happy to see that the cost to a business to have a free splash park day has been decreased from \$1000 to \$300.

4.2.1. Season update

Brooks informed that the Splash Park is open 11 to 6. Staffing includes an intern that manages the park and 9 staff. She stated that the workers are great and have a good work ethic. She stated that the hot days help in making the splash park busy. This year they had 5 free days, otherwise it is \$4 per person. Businesses can sponsor a free day for \$300. Nonprofits and churches can sponsor for \$200. The city also has passes.

4.3 Riverside Park

Papesh stated that under the bridge has some inappropriate language painted on it. Gerold stated that he would contact the County to remove the language.

Gerold informed that the campground is doing well. The camp host is doing a great job. The dock was installed, however an individual vandalized the cables and anchors for the dock. The person was found.

Brooks informed that the July park challenge is for Riverside park.

4.3.1. Canoe/Kayak Update

Brooks informed that the camp host is assisting on the canoe/kayaking. It is going well.

Brooks presented the stickers people receive for the Park Challenge.

4.3.1.1. Campground Update

Gerold informed that the campground has been active.

4.4. Rainbow Park

Gerold stated that they have been removing graffiti and some dead trees.

4.5. Riebe Park

Gerold educated that work is being completed on the trails. Volunteers are helping with the Dog Park fence. Papesh stated that she is delighted to see the community working together.

4.6. Pioneer Park

Gerold informed that the park received a tree and bench donation.

4.7. Riverview Terrace Nature Park

Gerold stated that the park is quiet. Papesh informed that the park has some bears. Gerrard added that river otters are also active in the park.

4.8. Civic Center Park

Gerold informed that he is working on cameras for the park.

4.9. Veterans Park

No updates.

5. Old Business:

Gruber indicated that his employer, New Life, is looking at their property and subsequent uses. One area that they are exploring is pickle ball courts. He inquired to a partnership with the City and the courts at the church location. Gerold informed that pickle ball courts exist at Civic Center park and the church is outside city limits.

6. Miscellaneous:

Gruber inquired to the Parks Plan that the Park Board indicated that we wanted to work on last year. Vita stated that the plan was on the project list of the former Community Development

Manager, when she left, the project was tabled. We should give Brooks time to learn before having her start the plan.

Gruber stated that the New Life Girls group wants to help with the December 21 luminary project. They have approximately 35 girls and their parents to assist. Gerold informed that Crystal Cabinets also has expressed an interest to assist; maybe they can work together. Vita stated her excitement of people wanting to volunteer for their city, she offered another idea that they all can assist with the Light Up Princeton event that needs many volunteers over the month-long event.

Vita stated that in the past that Zimmer had stated he wanted the Park Board's input on future franchise fees, specifically for the parks. Gerold stated he will place the item on a future agenda.

Papesh stated that the website is outdated. Brooks stated that she will request that the interns update. She is also requesting that they update the brochure.

Papesh stated that the can collection at the liquor store indicates that the funds go to the parks. She inquired to more information. Gerold stated that the funds go towards the canoe and kayaking program. He stated that it offsets a portion of the costs, not 100%.

7. Adjourn

Motion by Vita second by Gerrard to adjourn at 6:45pm.