

MINUTES
OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON IN THE COUNTY OF MILLE LACS
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023

1. Call to Order

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board met in Regular Session and Carla Vita called the meeting to order at 6:05pm.

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Jill Papesh	Chair	Absent
Carla Vita	Vice-Chair	Present
Christina Dearman	Secretary	Present
Elisabeth Burd	Board Member	Present
Aaron Gruber	Board Member	Absent
Travis Koenen	Board Member	Present
Robert Peters	Board Member	Absent
Bob Gerold	Staff	Present
Jenny Gerold	Council Member Liaison	Present

2. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of the July 27, 2023 meeting.

Motion by Travis Koenen, second by Elisabeth Burd to approve the July 27, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business:

3.1 Park Dedication Fee for new apartments.

The 58 units apartment development is now 62 units, so the new amount for park dedication fees will be \$111,600. Phase 3 & 4 of the development is adding units to the project which will require a motion to change the dedication fee due to the change in the number of units. Burd inquired as to how the funds can be used. B Gerold explained that these funds will be usable to create new facilities, similar to the new pickleball court.

Motion by Travis Koenen second by Carla Vita to accept the recommendation by staff to update the project with the additional units from phase 3 & 4 (for a total of 62 units) of the apartment complex development, increasing the dedication fee to \$111,600. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Reports by Staff:

4.1. Mark Park

4.1.1. Vandalism update / Handicap swing has been reinstalled

The individuals responsible for the vandalism have been identified, this will not go through the judicial system due to their age. There will be a fine paid to the city by these individuals.

The handicap swing has been reinstalled after maintenance. Working on budget for the three fields (including Solheim) for cleaning, maintenance etc.

Koenen inquired about an additional dog waste station for the park to help keep the park clean. Koenen reported there was an incident where an individual he encountered had failed to pick up dog waste. Koenen spoke with the individual about the problem, and the individual reported there was no waste station available along the path which the individual had taken with their dog. Koenen suggested installing a new waste station on the trail behind the ball field. B Gerold agreed to put in the request for the additional pet waste station.

Koenen also inquired about additional shade umbrellas/sails for the seating area. B Gerold mentioned that the cost of these range from 13 to 25 thousand each depending on size, and that this high cost has delayed these as a priority to order and install. B Gerold also mentioned that the number of these units needed for the city parks overall has increased, so he will be revising the numbers when they are ordered.

4.2. Splash Park

4.2.1. Adding bigger gate at the entrance

Many days this season have been sponsored as “free days”. These days have gone very well.

There was a request to add a bigger gate at the north-east corner gate area. This gate used to be a service entrance but now will be used as a secondary guest entrance. Although there is not a high demand for ADA access at this entrance, the north-east gate area is not ADA compliant. We will be installing a larger gate to make this gate area more ADA compliant. This will give the park two ADA compliant entrances.

The splash park will be closing next week for the season.

4.3. Riverside Park

4.3.1. Camp host is working out great

Camp host who left has been replaced with a new camp host. The new camp host Chris is working out very well and enjoying the role. No reported issues in the month or so that the new host has been here. The hope is that the same host will return next season.

Dearman inquired if the camp host had been provided with any helpful information for the unhoused (prior reported issues at this park predominantly involved unhoused individuals) as far as assistance programs locally. B Gerold stated that the parks staff doesn't have the funding or appropriate staffing to adequately provide counseling for these individuals. J Gerold mentioned that many of these individuals are already aware of available local programs and are unwilling to utilize them.

A new bench has been donated.

There will be a new bulletin board installed to inform people of park happenings with postings similar to those found at the Mark Park bulletin board. The Chamber of Commerce is requesting this. Only Chamber and city events will be posted here. There is an old bulletin board in storage that will be repurposed so the cost will be low.

Burd enquired if the bulletin board would be available for businesses to advertise and B Gerold reiterated that these boards only display City and Chamber events

4.4. Rainbow Park

4.4.1. Woodchips were added to the playground

Working on maintenance, B Gerold educated the group about a 10 year trade agreement with Sylva Corporation for 10 years where the city gets free material. City receives up to 90 yards of material per year for free and any needs above this the city pays for.

4.5. Riebe Park

A few issues with garbage were worked on. There were also a few incidents with campers who had failed to pay for the sites they were occupying. These campers were asked to vacate the sites. Sites are regularly monitored by staff and when an incident occurs with failure to pay, the Police Department is usually involved in asking the unregistered campers to leave.

Dearman inquired about tires in the water she had mentioned at the last meeting. B Gerold says tires in the river are a frequent occurrence and they are removed when staff spots them.

4.6. Pioneer Park

4.6.1. Cross County meet was held

Last Thursday, the cross country team had their annual meet in the park. This seemed to go well, otherwise quiet.

4.7. Riverview Terrace Nature Park

All quiet.

4.8. Civic Center Park

4.8.1. Pickleball courts are painted and being used

Had a complaint that the court was not fenced and there were not sufficient court markings. The user who lodged the complaint wanted the entire court area to be a solid color and the out of bound lines painted as contrast to this. B Gerold stated that the courts are already delineated according to pickleball court standards. Painting the whole court a solid

color would not work well when the courts are flooded for ice skating in the winter, therefore this request will not be addressed.

Although this is not directly parks related, B Gerold updated the group that repainting has been done in the hallways and other areas inside the building to address Vita's earlier report about the conditions and stained ceiling.

4.9. Veteran's Park

All quiet.

5. Old Business:

6. Miscellaneous:

Stacy is working on finding a contractor to fix the features at Splash Park that involves re-lining the pipes. This has been a very challenging problem to solve.

7. Adjourn

Park Board chose Veteran's Park for their next regular meeting. **Motion by Carla Vita second by Travis Koenen to adjourn at 6:54pm.**