

MINUTES
OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON IN THE COUNTY OF MILLE LACS
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2024

1. Call to Order

The Park and Recreation Advisory Board met in Regular Session and Christina Dearman called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

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

2. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

B Gerold requested to add a Discussion of improvement to Mark Park to the agenda.

Motion by Aaron Gruber, second by Travis Koenen to add a discussion of Mark Park improvements to the agenda under item 5.1.2 Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of the July 22, 2024 meeting.

Motion by Aaron Gruber, second by Elisabeth Burd to approve the July 22, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. New Business:

4.1. Recap from the City Interns

For the meeting, Abby, the Splash Park Coordinator, will have additional analytical information regarding the Splash Park to hand out to the Park Board.

The group heard from Abby Benson who is an intern with the city. She reviewed the revenue from the splash park for the group. June was the highest month. The top-earning concession for the 2nd year in a row was the ice cream cone. Facebook engagement was up and a contest was run for a free pass.

4.2. School District signed a 5-year lease agreement

The city is in a lease agreement with the school district to put into the park dedication fund 20k/year for the next 5 years starting July 2025. There is an additional 5K that will be used for maintenance. The dedication fees will be focused on baseball and softball fields at Mark Park. The interested parties will bring requests to the board for review, so while the funds are unofficially earmarked for Mark Park improvements, the board will still have oversight into what specific improvements will be made.

5. Reports by Staff:

5.1. Mark Park

5.1.1. Hard surface project complete

The contractor donated a lot of resources and most paving companies were not interested in the project due to the high amount of labor. All quotes were very high, and our contracted paving company gave us a 12K donation toward the project.

5.1.2 Discussion of improvements for Mark Park by Todd Fredrick and Nick Spain

Todd introduced the team and reminded us that they had spoken to us before about the paving project. He reported the group rose over \$1,800 toward the project. The group is focused on making the baseball/softball fields into destination locations to draw in tournaments.

Todd proposed an idea to the group of putting in a new scoreboard up at the varsity softball field (field 1). They proposed duplicating the Soleheim scoreboard. Design may differ, but would follow a similar format. The board would include sponsors (8 slots). The goal is to have the board up by next season.

B. Gerold has quotes in already to move the existing fence and upgrade the posts. There may be a future opportunity to sell advertising on the fence.

Todd explained that the scoreboard would be smaller than Solheim due to the size of the field.

T. Koenen enquired about the state HS league adopting college rules, and if the fence would meet those criteria. Todd explained that we would be keeping an 8-foot fence at 200 ft. It would allow for advertising as well as being able to recycle the fence since the fence now is 8 ft. There would be an additional cost to replace the 6 ft fence.

Todd explained that with fundraising, if the group raises more funds than needed it would be redirected to other projects. Todd said his opinion is that the fence should be moved first to put the scoreboard up for good aesthetics.

B. Gerold asked for a consensus from the group to be ok with allowing the group to fundraise for this project and the board agreed this was a good direction to go. The group agreed.

The group will return next month for an update.

B. Gerold explained the scoreboards we have now could be salvaged and used for another field.

5.2. Splash Park

5.2.1. Closing after Labor Day

Pumps will be pulled, and should not need to be rebuilt as they were likely rebuilt last year.

E. Burd enquired about an update on moving water features to a new location and B. Gerold said that it is still in storage but there is a challenge in finding water and sewer.

E. Burd suggested putting the feature in Riverside Park

5.3. Riverside Park

5.3.1. Cornhole boards have been installed

The camp host has worked out very well this year. Running well. The new toy bin (like a toy library) has worked well. We filled it with some items from Amazon.

5.4. Rainbow Park

5.4.1. School used trails for cross-country event

Meet happened last Thursday. B. Gerold is working with Anoka County which is looking for stream bank projects. The stream bank in this location is part of our wastewater treatment permit requirements. This might happen next year if it is feasible.

5.5. Riebe Park

Disc golf is going well, the team is still working on wood chip distribution.

5.6. Pioneer Park

No update.

5.7. Riverview Terrace Nature Park

Spoke with the tree tapper who is looking to increase his taps from 500 to 1200-1500. This provides \$1/tap of funds to plant city trees.

5.8. Civic Center Park

Installed a new tetherball which was well received. These are frequently vandalized. Pickleball courts are going well also.

5.9. Veteran's Park

Maintaining flowers and flag, all quiet.

T Konen updated the group as to adding this park to Google Maps and getting views

6. Old Business:

6.1. Todd Olin Request for Park Dedication

Todd Olin is requesting to allow parkland in lieu of cash for the park dedication.

Motion by Travis Koenen, second by Aaron Gruber to recommend that the city council accept Todd Olin's request to donate park land (approximately 13.5 acres) in lieu of cash for a park dedication fee of \$304,200 (169 units x \$1,800). With the premise that we will have the land valued and if the value of the land is not equal to the amount of park dedication fees stated, to be able to ask for additional funds or structures to make the Motion carried unanimously.

The assisted living facility will begin in spring 2025 and row homes starting later that

year will begin Dec 2025 and will begin sales with the whole project wrapped up around 2027-2028.

B Gerold explained to the group that we could come up with a different package.

Several options for what to place in the park as well as a discussion on the budget available to build a park in this location.

6.2 CIP for 2025 - 2030

7. Miscellaneous:

8. Adjourn

Park Board chose Riverside Park ▾ for their next regular meeting.

Motion by Aaron Gruber second by Travis Koenen to adjourn at 7:11 PM.