

**MINUTES**  
**OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON IN THE COUNTY OF MILLE LACS**  
**IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023**

1. Call to Order

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

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

Others Present: Stacy Marquardt, City of Princeton Community Development - Planner

2. Review of Minutes of Regular Meeting of the September 25, 2023 meeting.

Motion by Gruber, second by Koenen to approve the September 25, 2023 minutes with the following modifications:

- a) Under 4.2.3 strike Stephanie and insert Stacy.
- b) Item 4.8.1 should be located under 4.4 (Rainbow Park)

Motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business:

None.

#### 4. Reports by Staff

##### 4.1. Mark Park

###### 4.1.1. Staff stained all buildings (exterior)

Gerold provided updates to the staining.

##### 4.2. Splash Park

###### 4.2.1. Discuss fees and free days

At the September meeting, the desire for an annual Splash Park update was requested from the Park Board. Marquardt provided an update. She informed that the Splash Park attendants polled people visiting the Splash Park and discovered the desire for more variety of snacks. Please see the memo for details. Additional comments included the reasonably priced snacks.

Conversation on the cost for “free days” took place. The cost prior to 2023 was considered too steep to receive many sponsors for “free days”. Marquardt’s analysis is that a fair cost for free days for 2024 should be: \$400 for a business and \$250 for a non-profit. Marquardt informed that sponsors for the free day receive significant marketing for their dollars. The analysis partially came from the 6 sponsorships in 2022 and the 20+/- sponsorships in 2023. Marquardt informed that sponsors pay even if there is a rainout - there are no re-schedules for rain/other bad weather.

Council Member Gerold informed that concession sales are up significantly from the past years which help with the costs of running the splash park.

Continued conversation entailed when Peters asked for input on how to make the Splash Park “break-even”. Staff indicated that they do not anticipate this occurring. Vita stated that in a previous employer analysis discovered that no splash pad or pool breaks even in Minnesota and this is largely due to the short pool season, rain days, and staffing costs. She indicated that an outcome that often occurs is that splash parks bring people to the community (Princeton) and that people patronizing the splash park are very likely to shop, eat or spend money at local businesses which is good for Princeton.

Vita stated that she has received compliments on the Splash Park attendants and she provided her gratitude to them. Peters also stated his appreciation of their good work.

##### 4.3 Riverside Park

4.3.1. Prep work for Light Up Princeton has started

Gerold informed that his team is starting to hang lights. Council Member Gerold stated that lights will not be on 7 days a week as was done in previous years due to lack of volunteers. Lights will be on Thursday thru Sunday, 6 to 9pm, November 25 to Dec 24.

Vita indicated her desire for the Park Board to volunteer as a Board for the event. Consensus to try to find a date for the Board to volunteer and support the event.

4.4. Rainbow Park

Gerold contacted vendors to resurface basketball courts.

Gerold informed that some trees have animal damage.

4.5. Riebe Park

4.5.1. Luminary event for December 21st, looking for volunteer group.

Gerold informed that a volunteer group was found. No funding is needed for 2023.

4.6. Pioneer Park

No updates.

4.7. Riverview Terrace Nature Park

No updates.

4.8. Civic Center Park

4.8.1. Pickleball nets are scheduled to be removed for the season

Gerold educated that the pickleball net was taken down for the season. Marquardt informed that she received a \$20,000 SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Partnership) grant for the pickleball courts. Gratitude for the successful grant was provided by Marquardt.

4.9. Veteran's Park

No update.

5. Old Business:

5.1. Three Rivers has not gotten back about the Cornhole Boards

Gerold stated that he is always looking for new opportunities for the parks. Cornhole Boards is something he noticed in a park elsewhere. The budget has funds to cover the

cost, which is not substantial. His staff will try to construct if time allows. His goal is 2 sets for Mark Park and 2 sets for Civic Center park. People would need to bring their own cornhole bags. He acknowledged that vandalism might occur on the cornholes, but that park amenities are important for park and recreation success. Papesh educated that Cornholes are quite popular and should bring additional people to the park system.

Other:

-Koenen inquired about the details of the park station. Gerold educated on the details of the tools at the station for bikes.

-Papesh inquired about the status of a sign for the wheelchair swing in the hopes a sign will deter vandalism and educate the public on what it is. Gerold informed that a sign is not up yet.

-Vita inquired to the status of the park plan update. Gerold stated that staff is meeting with WSB, the consultants on the matter on November 1.

#### 6. Miscellaneous:

6.1. November meeting date to discuss Mark Park hard surfacing with interested groups. The Park Board is meeting Monday, November 27. Paving around the concession stands will be discussed. Gerold stated that other groups and his team are trying to determine how to pay for the paving. The intent of the paving is to assist with the lack of turf growth in the areas.

#### 7. Adjourn

Park Board chose City Hall for their next meeting. Motion by Vita second by Koenen to adjourn at 7:00pm.