

MINUTES
OF THE CITY OF PRINCETON IN THE COUNTY OF MILLE LACS
IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2023

1. Call to Order

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

Attendee Name	Title	Status
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

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

Motion by Travis Koenen, second by Robert Peters to approve the March 27, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business:

3.1. Early Childhood Fair - Saturday, April 29th, 10 AM - 1 PM

Jeff Fulner, WSB the City's Engineering firm, educated on the process that will be used to gather information on the park plan. A flier has been developed that has a survey of 2 questions to begin gathering information. The survey will link to the city's park maps and will allow people to comment. Information will be continued to be gathered at a few pop-up events including the County Fair and the Rum River Festival. WSB will visit all parks to perform a gap analysis.

Vita inquired on whether they will also educate on the cost of park elements as a part of the feasibility study. For example, a pool is very expensive, but adding trees is less expensive; she also stated that the on-going cost for upkeep, maintenance, etc. needs to be a part of the equation to transparently educate the public. Fulner stated that all items she brought up will be addressed. He stated that if it is desired, that WSB will also identify locations for certain elements to be located within parks as it fits within the system.

Fulner stated that the information gathering is starting with the Early Childhood Fair. Communication on the progress of the project will occur through Gerold. Vita asked if they will suggest or recommend upcoming trends in the parks and recreation world such as a few years ago pickle-ball was relatively unknown, today it is quite important. Fulner informed that a new recreational item is bank-shot mini-golf using basketballs.

The Early Childhood Fair is May 2 at the Primary School from 10am to 1pm flyers will be on the table for people to pick up. Vita inquired if they need volunteers as discussing the importance of the survey is very important to the success of the project. Gerold stated that if any Park Board member wants to attend to educate at the booth to let him know. Fulner stated that a thorough look of the system will occur - looking at all areas.

Papesh inquired to the level of experience that WSB has on Parks and Park Plans. Fulner informed that WSB has numerous years in park development, upgrades and redevelopment. WSB has a team of people with a variety of experiences.

3.2 Faith Fest

Kathy Kraft and Myla Tolmie presented a packet of information on a non-denominational event that they are working on with many others called Faith Fest. They are requesting the use of the entire Mark Park on August 26 - including parking, concession stands, play equipment, ball fields and Shelter. The event will be all day and at no cost to attendees. Tables with resources for the community will also take place. Information that they plan to have available for interested people include food assistance, housing, mental health, addiction, aging services, homelessness services, and others. They will also be having a school drive and a food drive.

The event will have free food for those in attendance. Their goal is 2000 to 3000 people. Kids activities from crafts to softball games and adult games of corn hole and horseshoe will happen simultaneously. The event will also have speakers and religious bands. All local churches have been invited. Freshwaters Church will host using their 501(c) 3.

Marketing will occur through churches, advertising and social media. Churches from Zimmerman to Milaca and Glendorado to EC's corner are invited. The first meeting occurred on April 22. No charge for the churches to attend. Many event committees exist to make this event successful. Committees include set-up/tear-down, food, marketing among others.

Papesh informed that Sherburne County has a mobile unit that educates on services. Kraft stated that they are pooling resources - local, regional, and state. She stated that they are planning for 25 resources at the most.

Burd inquired about pet blessings. Tolmie stated that if people bring their pets, which will be welcomed, that they will be blessed at the event. She continued that bags to clean up after animals will exist.

Kraft stated that a tent will be available for those that need time for prayer. Gerold stated that they need to work with staff to locating the tent as underground sprinklers exist and tent stakes could damage the system if not placed correctly.

Significant conversation on parking took place. No parking on the grass is allowed. The parking lot needs to be used for parking versus closed to the public as sketched. Safety for all attending is important.

Kraft inquired to renting the splash park. Gerold informed that parties can rent from 9 to 11 and 6 -8 or they can sponsor for the entire day.

Gerold reminded all that the park is a public place and needs to be open to all.

Gerold also stated that no tents are allowed on the ballfields as they also have a sprinkling system.

Vita inquired about their severe weather plans. Kathy stated that they have a safety committee that will work on the matter. Council Member Gerold stated that City Staff will review the plans to ensure that details will be addressed prior to city council action.

Gerold stated that the Faith Fest committee needs to walk the park with him to discuss the locations of items that will be located during the proposed event.

Kraft informed that the event does not conflict with any Chamber events.

Gerold stated that the ballfields have no reservations for that day.

Kraft informed that the committee will have insurance for the event.

Gruber made a motion to move the request forward to City Council and that prior to City Council action that they must work with City Staff on safety, location of event structures, parking and any other significant issue. Second by Koenen. Vote passed unanimously.

4. Reports by Staff:

4.1. Mark Park

Gerold stated that the scoreboard is repaired. The cost to fix was borne by PSYBA, the school and a few thousand from the City Maintenance fund. The softball fields are ready.

4.2. Splash Park

Gerold informed that he is working on the pumps with a contractor. He stated that everything will be ready for the May opener.

4.3. Riverside Park

4.3.1. Public Works staff picked up the last of the Light Up Princeton decorations. Gerold provided an update on the lights for “Light Up Princeton” as it related to the winter storms and the river bounce. Gerold stated that when the river recedes, they will be working on cleaning up the park.

Papesh inquired about an update regarding the annual summer campsite at the park. Gerold stated that the online reservations are working very well, PD and others continue to patrol the park frequently, thus the need for a camp host is currently not needed.

Koenen inquired how it is known if people pay for a camp location. Gerold educated that during the online reservation, people are to print the receipt and post the receipt on the post at the campsite for those patrolling to view.

4.4. Rainbow Park

Gerold informed that the clean up of the area that snow is piled during the winter, tree trimming is occurring.

Gerold stated that the City Administrator is reviewing all City property and is divesting on properties unneeded/used for public purposes. In doing so, she identified a location

abutting Rainbow park from when the road to the east of the park was highway 169, that is not currently used for park purposes. The property was purchased not using park funds, thus the proceeds of the sale will not be available for park purposes. The City is reviewing the possibility to sell the triangular piece of property for the development of a single-family home.

Koenen inquired as to how much land the city owns at the west end of Meadow View Drive. Gerold stated that the alley was vacated and given to Winkleman for the development of a housing project. He continued that the City owns the stormwater retention pond.

4.5. Riebe Park

4.5.1. Maintenance is needed to spring flooding

Gerold informed that maintenance will occur once flooding recedes.

4.6. Pioneer Park

Gerold stated that they are trimming trees and working on the streambank.

4.7. Riverview Terrace Nature Park

Gerold educated that the maple tree tapper has been tapping trees.

4.8. Civic Center Park

4.8.1. Waiting for quotes for pickleball courts

Gerold stated that pickleball court estimates have been received. The project should be under budget. Vita requested a ground-breaking or ribbon-cutting event to promote the project. Gerold stated that that would occur. Gerold continued that Milaca has hockey rink on top of their pickleball court as a dual purpose amenity. Gerold explained how the transition takes place in Milaca to preserve the pickleball courts in the winter for ice flooding.

Gerold informed that pickleball nets cost \$1300.

4.9. Veterans Park

No updates.

5. Old Business:

Papesh inquired whether the newly instated lodging tax will go to parks. Council Member Gerald informed that the tax can only be used for tourism per State Statute. The Chamber is managing the funds received and it is to be used for marketing Princeton.

6. Miscellaneous:

6.1. WSB will be touring the parks May 2nd to help develop an updated Park Plan

7. Adjourn

Park Board chose Riebe Park for their next regular meeting. Motion by Carla Vita second by Travis Koenen to adjourn at 7:07pm. Motion carried unanimously.