



Municipality of Princeton

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Department of Recreation

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BEN STENTZ

Executive Director

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MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Council of Princeton

From: Ben Stentz

Date: October 30, 2013

Re: Resolution to redirect matching funding for Mercer County At-Play grant

Dear Mayor Lempert and Members of Council,

The attached resolution relates to the 2006 Mercer County At-Play Grant that was awarded to the municipalities for construction of an artificial turf playing field at Greenway Meadows Park. This project has run into many hurdles since 2006 and the proposed location of this new field has been changed twice since the grant was awarded in 2006. Also during this time, the Community Park Pool project gained momentum and was given a 'green light', therefore pushing the artificial turf project to the back burner, at the request of former Township Mayor Goerner.

Mercer County has made it very clear that they are expecting the municipality to choose a suitable project and to take action on the grant program soon as we are the only town remaining that has not used the funding. Mercer County wants to close out this program and our funding is in jeopardy of being lost.

It is the recommendation of Administration, Recreation Staff and the Recreation Board to shift the existing funding towards the renovation of the Mary Moss Park wading pool. As funding allows, it is also the recommendation to fund a complete feasibility and design study of the Community Park South athletic complex and to partially fund renovations of the Valley Road School gymnasium in partnership with Princeton Public Schools. The three projects detailed are prioritized as follows: Mary Moss Park, Community Park South, and Valley Road gymnasium.

I am poised to submit an official re-application to Mercer County for the above listed projects, but the County requires that the municipality pass a resolution supporting the projects prior to reviewing our reapplication.

I will be at the 11/5/13 agenda meeting to answer any questions about this resolution. Please feel free to contact me any time to discuss further.

**RESOLUTION #
OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REDIRECTION OF EXISTING MATCHING FUNDS
FOR MERCER COUNTY AT-PLAY GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, in 2006, Mercer County created the unique matching grant program to encourage municipalities to team up to create or rehabilitate active recreation areas and has allocated \$6,297,052 in matching grants for 18 projects in Mercer County, and

WHEREAS, Mercer County awarded \$767,660 to the former Princeton Township and Princeton Borough for synthetic turf athletic fields at Greenway Meadows Park, and

WHEREAS, the Princeton Township Committee and Princeton Borough Council approved funding in 2006 in the amount of \$383,830 as matching funds to meet the requirements of the Mercer County At-Play Grant to support the design, construction and installation of the synthetic turf playing fields, and

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2013 the Princeton Recreation Board voted in support of redirecting the existing funds towards improvements of the Mary Moss Park Pool, specifically the installation of an interactive 'sprayground', and towards funding a feasibility and design study of the Community Park South athletic complex, and

WHEREAS, at the completion of the Mary Moss Park and Community Park South projects, as remaining grant funding allows, Town Administration and Recreation Department Staff support partial funding for the refurbishment of the Valley Road School gymnasium for recreational use by the municipality and the public school system, and

WHEREAS, the existing wading pool at Mary Moss Park has shown structural signs of deterioration, has no water filtration system, which presents significant challenges in maintaining clean, safe water and it does not meet current Americans With Disabilities (ADA) codes for accessibility, and

WHEREAS, the Princeton Recreation Board has identified Community Park South, based on its size and location in the relative center of town, as the centerpiece of the municipal active recreation inventory and recognizes the need for a thorough feasibility study to be performed regarding playing field upgrades, potential efficiencies through redesign, accurate cost estimates and potential site work challenges that are unknown at this time, and

WHEREAS, the existing gymnasium at the Valley Road School building will be an important recreational space for both the Princeton Recreation Department and the Princeton Public Schools to administer their respective and joint extracurricular sport programs, and

WHEREAS, the feasibility study of Community Park South is pursuant to funding being available from the Mercer County grant program after the Mary Moss Park improvement project has been 100% funded, and

WHEREAS, the refurbishment of the Valley Road School gymnasium is pursuant to funding being available from the Mercer County grant program after both the Mary Moss Park improvement project and the Community Park South feasibility and design study have been 100% funded, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of Princeton supports the reallocation of the Mercer County At-Play funding to pursue improvements at Mary Moss Park, Community Park South, and the Valley Road School gymnasium, in that order.

Councilperson	Absent	Present	1 st	2 nd	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Disqualified
Ms. Butler								
Ms. Crumiller								
Ms. Howard								
Mr. Liverman								
Mr. Miller								
Mr. Simon								
Mayor Lempert								

I, Linda S. McDermott, Clerk of the Municipality of Princeton, do hereby certify that the above is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Mayor and Council of said Municipality at a meeting held

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and affix the corporate seal of said Municipality, this ___ day of , 2013.

Linda S. McDermott
Municipal Clerk