

PRINCETON RECREATION BOARD

August 28, 2014

A meeting of the Recreation Board of Princeton was held on August 28, 2014 in the Princeton Recreation Department (PRD) lower level Conference Room, 380 Witherspoon Street.

Present: Dr. Nosker, Dr. Frawley, Mr. Koontz, Ms. Olivares-Weber, Mr. Young, Ms. Asagra Stanley, Ms. Germaine, Ms. Rogers, Ms. Butler, Mr. Groeger, Mr. Moorhead & Mr. Stentz

Absent: Dr. Cahill & Mr. Marroli

Activities

Mr. Groeger reported on the following activities:

- Travel Camp ended on 8/15/14.
- Day Camp Cardboard Canoe race was held on 8/2/14.
- Day Camp concluded with the annual carnival on 8/15/14.
- The 4th and final week of basketball camp took place August 4 - August 8.
- Camp season was very successful across the board with strong registration numbers in all camps.

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following activities

- Men's Summer Basketball ended on July 30.
- Mr. Marroli and Mr. Moorhead met with PRD Travel Basketball Coordinator, Clarence White on 8/21/14 to discuss the schedule for the upcoming travel basketball season and determine the dates for the travel tryouts.
- Mr. Marroli and Mr. Moorhead met with PRD Aquatics Director and Head Bluefish Coach, Mike Uchri on 8/22/14 to wrap up the 2014 season and discuss planning and scheduling for 2015.
- On 8/18/14 changes to the morning lap swim lane assignments went into effect on a trial basis for the final two weeks of the pool season. During this two-week period, lanes were divided by swimming speed (slow, medium, fast and walking) as opposed to lanes that were previously separated by age (18-59 and 60 & over). PRD Staff researched the topic and was unable to find any other pools that separated lap lanes by age rather than swimming speed. So far reaction from lap swimmers has been mixed but the new system seems to be working well. Mr. Moorhead pointed out that if we continue this into next year, the true test will be during the eight weeks of the summer when swim lessons are occupying a large portion of the pool at the same time as lap swimming is taking place.
- Scheduling is ongoing for the athletic fields for this fall. Most youth sports organizations are starting back either the 1st or 2nd weekend in September. The process of scheduling the fields continues to be very challenging. Mr. Moorhead reported that it gets worse every season as the youth sports organizations grow in size, their requests for field space increase and the number of fields remains the same.
- PRD will host a Rutgers SAFETY Clinic for volunteer youth sports coaches on 9/10/14 from 7-10pm in the courtroom at 400 Witherspoon St.
 - Ms. Rogers raised a question regarding concussion education for volunteer coaches. *Discussion was held.* The board requested that the staff research concussion training options and best practices around the state and then report back.

Directors Report

Mr. Stentz reported on the following:

- Pool Update:
 - 86 days into our 94 day season
 - Preparing for the end of season maintenance/improvements and final pool shutdown starting the week of September 15.
 - 1 heat wave all summer: July 1-3 (3 consecutive days of 90+)
 - Zero 90 degree days to date in August (same as 2013)
 - Approaching 100,000 total visits to pool – 99,800 to date
- Recent Events: Highlighted in folder: Community Night Out, Family Golf, Cardboard Canoe Race, Kids Aquathon
- Mr. Stentz thanked the PRD staff (Full-time and seasonal) for the long hours and hard work that they put in to make the summer season so successful.
- The J. Seward Johnson Princeton Recreation Scholarship Fund is growing. This began as a 250K donation, held

with PACF, to be used only to fund scholarships. Once per year we take money from it and put it into our Trust Account to offset financial aid that was offered. The fund started 2014 with a balance of \$247,951 and as of 6/30/14 the balance was \$257,458.

- Mr. Stentz is currently working on 3 tax-supported budgets to submit to Administration by 9/5/14: Recreation Operating & Expenses, Parks Operating & Expenses and the six-year capital plan. Administration, Mayor & Council are working hard to move up the timeline on the budgeting process, specifically the capital budget so that funds may be available much earlier in the calendar year. For '14, funds just became available and that creates a problem for PRD. Some of those projects may not be worth doing now until spring '15. The months of September and October are when Mr. Stentz encourages staff to take time off, as they are unable to take many days off from May – August due to work commitments.
- Access Princeton Update: The soft-launch happened on 8/5. The full launch will take place on 9/18. Residents can access the system through princetonnj.gov or by downloading the See/Click/Fix app to their smart phone.
- Mayor & Council are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Event at CP Pool on 9/3 from 6 – 8 pm (Ms. Caines & Mr. Groeger are planning the event).
- The Administration is hosting a Staff cookout on 9/4 at CP Pool (Ms. Caines & Mr. Groeger are planning the event).
- Mary Moss Park Update: The proposed project will likely be on the Mercer County Freeholder agenda for 10/9/14. If approved, the project can begin. The year-old sub-committee of the Board consists of Ms. Germaine, Ms. Rogers and Ms. Olivares-Weber. Ms. Butler asked to be on the sub-committee. Mr. Stentz stated that getting public input on the future of the park would be crucial.
- Mr. Stentz provided an update on Revelstone, the performance measurement program being implemented by the Administration. Recreation & Police are taking the 1st steps to go public with some measurable items. This is a tool that will help our department share what we are doing, how well (or not well) we are doing it and to compare data to similarly sized towns through the state and the country. Mr. Stentz provided a document that illustrated some measurable data in graph form.
- Mr. Stentz reported that he received a request from a private, for-profit enterprise asking that we post a flyer on our bulletin board advertising their business. *Discussion was held.* The board reiterated their policy that the Recreation Department does not provide advertising opportunities for businesses that are for-profit entities.
- Park Maintenance Update:
 - Playground mulch is being replenished at all playgrounds
 - The maintenance staff spent a good part of today troubleshooting an irrigation leak at Farmview.
 - A maintenance staffer hit a transformer box at Smoyer Park yesterday while dumping mulch at the playground. This was potentially a very dangerous situation with live current touching the truck and it resulted in power being knocked out to the park. Emergency responders were called and PSE&G had a team there within 30 minutes. The necessary repairs were made by the end of the day. PRD has not received the bill but Mr. Stentz anticipates the town will file an insurance claim.

Communications

- Thank you letter from SAVE Animal Shelter for donation of pool lost & found towels. In year's past, leftover towels were donated to the Vietnam Vets but Ms. Caines connected with SAVE and staff preference is to donate them to a local organization.

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the July 2014 meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Asagra-Stanley and approved. Dr. Frawley abstained.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

- A. Fee for new Community Trip: Longwood Gardens on 10/30/14
 - a. Suggested fee: \$55 – same as our other community trips.

- b. Ms. Caines is working with the Women's College Club of Princeton to plan this trip
- c. Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the fee for the Longwood Garden Trip; seconded by Dr. Frawley and unanimously approved.

Approval of Bills

- A. Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the Bills; seconded by Ms. Germaine and unanimously approved.

Next Meeting Date

September 25, 2014

Adjournment