

PRINCETON BOARD OF RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

December 18, 2014

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Recreation Commissioners was held on December 18, 2014 in the Princeton Recreation Department (PRD) lower level Conference Room, 380 Witherspoon Street.

Present: Dr. Nosker, Dr. Frawley, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Koontz, Dr. Cahill and Ms. Butler

Also present: Mr. Stentz, Mr. Marroli, Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Groeger and Ms. Horan

Absent: Ms. Germaine, Ms. Asagra Stanley, Mr. Young & Ms. Olivares-Weber

Activities

Mr. Groeger reported on the following activities:

- The Dillon Basketball League began the 14/15 season on 12/13/14. Games will also be played on 12/20/14 prior to a two-week holiday break.
- PAWS Wrestling will have their first match on 1/4/15. The first home meet is scheduled for 2/1/15. PAWS has switched from the Grapevine League to the Delaware River Wrestling League for the upcoming season.

Mr. Marroli reported on the following activities:

- Final Special Needs dance of 2014 was held on 12/12/14 at Community Park School. 49 youth attended the event. The next dance will be held on 1/9/15.
- Travel Basketball played their first games during the weekend of December 5-6. All teams will compete during the weekend of December 20-21 before a two-week holiday break.
- Mr. Marroli attended the IT Steering Committee meeting on 12/8/14.
- The first weekend of Dillon Basketball was very successful. Mr. Marroli will be transitioning the supervision of that program to Mr. Groeger over the course of this season. Mr. Marroli anticipates that many of the volunteer coaches will not be available for the upcoming set of games on 12/20/14 due to Princeton University's break schedule. In those instances, PRD staff will fill-in as coaches. ***Discussion was held.***

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following activities:

- PRD is waiting on Princeton University (PU) to provide a list of dates when the Jadwin Gym squash courts are available for rental. This is the latest the university has gone without confirming those dates. Registration and marketing for our Youth Squash Clinic cannot begin until we receive those dates from PU. This program typically begins in mid-January.
- All athletic playing fields closed as of the November 21-22 weekend. PRD maintenance has been busy the last several weeks doing repair work on areas that were particularly worn from heavy use. This work includes aeration, adding topsoil & seed and putting down germination blankets for the winter.
- Preliminary research is underway regarding a new shade structure in the area between the Main Pool and the Dive Well where the English Oak was removed last month. Mr. Moorhead is obtaining quotes for two different options. Those options are either one large structure or 3-4 smaller structures. In addition to the shape/size of the structure, Mr. Moorhead informed the board that they will ultimately have to decide on the type of surfacing (concrete, rubber or grass) that will go underneath those structures. ***Discussion was held.***

Corner House Report

Ms. Horan reported on the following:

- Two events have been held since the last meeting: City-Wide Dodgeball at Princeton HS and A Capella Night at the Public Library.
- Planning is ongoing for another event at the Public Library to be held in early 2015.

Directors Report

Mr. Stentz reported on the following:

- The 1st Mary Moss Park Subcommittee meeting was held on 12/10/14. In attendance were Ms. Rogers, Ms. Germaine, Deanna Stockton from Princeton Engineering, Vikki Caines, Mr. Moorhead & Mr. Stentz. This meeting served as a kick-off to the process of renovating the park through the Mercer (County) At-Play Grant. Topics discussed included: the need to solicit community feedback, parking and the possibility of having an architecture student serve as intern on the subcommittee. Mr. Stentz stressed the need to be proactive in soliciting feedback from the community on this project. The next meeting is scheduled for 1/7/15, at which Princeton Police Sgt. Tom

Murray in attendance to discuss traffic and parking issues in the Witherspoon neighborhood. ***Discussion was held***

- The current agreement between the Recreation Commission and Princeton Tennis Program (PTP) that allows PTP to schedule and program the CP tennis courts expires on 12/31/14. Mr. Stentz requested volunteers from the Recreation Commission to serve on a sub-committee to analyze the expiring agreement and work towards crafting a new agreement with PTP. Dr. Cahill volunteered to serve on this sub-committee.
- The Radio City Music Hall trip took place on 12/4/14. The bus was sold out and the trip was a success.
- The computer/software conversion for PRD is underway. Thus far, only Mr. Stentz's computer has been replaced. The software conversion is complete but the data cannot be moved onto town servers until all computers in the department have been replaced. Based on the pace of the computer conversion, Mr. Stentz expressed concern about being able to access the financial data in time to provide a year-end report to the Commission in January or February of 2015. ***Discussion was held.***
- Mr. Stentz is serving on the committee that is currently interviewing candidates for Town Arborist/Open Space Manager. In the current reporting structure, this position is part of the Department of Public Works. Dr. Nosker raised the question as to whether the town would be better served if this position was part of either the Recreation Department or a combined Parks & Recreation Department. ***Discussion was held.***
- Mr. Moorhead and PRD Maintenance Foreman Joe Scullion met on 12/17/14 at the Mountain Lakes House with representatives from Friends of Princeton Open Space (FOPOS) and Adam Schellhammer, a Natural Resource Manager who works several days a week for FOPOS. The purpose of the meeting was to identify cleanup tasks & trail maintenance in and around the Mt. Lakes Property that the PRD Maintenance Staff can assist in completing and a list of common dates when staff is available. ***Discussion was held.***
- The total number of hours lost to workers comp by the Recreation Department's 5 full-time maintenance employees in 2014 was 4.5. Mr. Stentz credited Foreman Scullion and Mr. Moorhead for making safety a consistent topic of discussion throughout the year.
- The Recreation Department office staff worked a total of 504 hours of uncompensated time on behalf of the municipality in 2014. Mr. Stentz thanked the staff for their remarkable commitment to the job.
- Upcoming Dates:
 - 1/5/15: Mayor & Council Reorganization meeting
 - 1/26/15: Community Works Program at Princeton University
 - 1/9/15: Mr. Stentz & Mr. Moorhead will meet with Princeton Little League (PLL) to discuss their annual list of facility requests

Communications

- The folder of communications was distributed
- FOPOS passed along a request that came to them from outdoor equipment retailer REI, to run educational/outdoor classes at Mt Lakes. REI is opening up a store at Mercer Mall in the near future. Mr. Stentz has requested guidance from town legal counsel on this request since REI is a retail store and is not a not-for-profit entity. The Commission requested that Mr. Stentz follow up with REI and request more information about their community-based programs. The point was made that going forward, requests from REI (or any outside entity) for use of Princeton park space should come directly to the Recreation Department and not through FOPOS. ***Discussion was held.***

Public Comment

No Comment

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the November 2014 Board meeting minutes, seconded by Dr. Frawley, and approved. Dr. Cahill abstained.

New Business

A. *Minimum Wage/Starting Pay-rate Increase for 1/1/15*

- *Minimum wage in NJ increasing to \$8.38/hour on 1/1/15.*
- *Proposal to increase PRD starting pay-rate to \$8.50/hour on 1/1/15.*
- *Proposal to increase PRD starting lifeguard pay-rate to \$9.00/hour and bump returning guards accordingly. This rate reflects the extra training that is required to become a lifeguard and the need to stay competitive with other pools in attracting/hiring new lifeguards.*

Mr. Koontz made the motion to approve the proposed increases to the starting pay-rates for 2015, seconded by Ms. Rogers and unanimously approved. **Discussion was held.**

B. *Bookkeeping contract for 2015*

Dr. Frawley made the motion to approve 712 Paperwork as the Recreation Commission bookkeeper for 2015, seconded by Ms. Rogers and unanimously approved.

C. *Commission meeting schedule for 2015*

Mr. Koontz made the motion to approve the meeting schedule for 2015, seconded by Ms. Rogers and unanimously approved. **Discussion was held.**

D. *Appointment of Executive Director of Recreation*

Dr. Frawley made the motion to appoint Mr. Stentz to a three-year term as the Executive Director of Recreation, seconded by Dr. Cahill and unanimously approved. Mr. Stentz thanked the Commission for their support and for the confidence they continue to show in him. Mr. Stentz reiterated his belief that the Recreation Department is the shining star of the municipality and he praised the Recreation Commission for their long-standing record of effective governance and their ability to work together towards common community goals.

Old Business

NO OLD BUSINESS

Approval of Bills

Mr. Koontz made the motion to approve the bills, seconded by Ms. Rogers and unanimously approved. **Discussion was held.**

Next Meeting Date

January 22, 2015

Adjournment