

PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

May 28, 2015

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on May 28, 2015 in the Princeton Recreation Department (PRD) lower level Conference Room, 380 Witherspoon Street.

Present: Dr. Nosker, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Koontz, Mr. Young, Ms. Olivares-Weber, Dr. Frawley, Ms. Germaine & Ms. Butler

Also Present: Mr. Stentz, Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Groeger & Mr. Marrolli

Absent: Dr. Cahill & Ms. Horan

Activities Report

Mr. Marrolli reported on the following activities:

- The **Special Needs Prom** on 5/8/15 was an overwhelming success. Mr. Marrolli thanked all PRD staff members who helped out, as well as all of the Commission members who attended the Prom.
- The final Special Needs event of the school year is the **BBQ at CP Pool scheduled for 6/5/15**.

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- The **Men's Summer Basketball League** will begin on 6/10/15 with ten (10) teams in the league this season.
- Annual maintenance to **repair cracks to the CP basketball courts** was performed during the week of May 17, 2015. All repairs are covered under warranty.
- In early April, PRD Maintenance staff noticed **several hollow spots, between 8 – 12 inches in diameter, on the wading pool floor**. Mr. Moorhead reached out to Mainline Commercial Pools, who performed an inspection and found the top coating of wading pool to be "delaminated". There are no visible cracks or sharp edges in the pool, and the current plan is to get through the upcoming summer and perform the repairs in April of 2016, as the pool will still be under warranty at that time. Should the delaminated areas open up mid-season, the repair would require a two-day shut down of the wading pool. *Discussion was held.*
- Mr. Moorhead met with a former CP Pool member to discuss the **recent changes to the morning lap-lane set-up**. The lanes were changed (mid-year 2014) from age-restricted lanes to lanes based on varying swim speeds (slow, medium & fast). The former pool member feels the changes made to the lanes have impacted the seniors in a negative fashion. In addition, she has requested a "no jumping" zone so that kids are not allowed to jump into the pool and bother swimmers. Mr. Moorhead communicated to her that PRD is trying to accommodate all groups that utilize the lanes and this change was made with all groups in mind. *Discussion was held.*
- Mr. Moorhead has received a request from a non-resident who would like to run a **yoga program in the parks**. Mr. Moorhead let her know she would need to put together a proposal to bring to the Commission.
- Mr. Moorhead has received a request from resident Paul Johnson, dba Victory Sports Soccer Academy, **to rent field space in the summer to run soccer camps and clinics**. Mr. Johnson is the brother-in-law of Mr. Moorhead. Victory Sports Soccer Academy is not a 501c3 organization and PRD has no existing relationship with the organization. Mr. Stentz raised concerns about committing to provide field space to a third (PSA & PFC are partner organizations) youth soccer group and how that might impact the existing groups and the wear & tear on fields. Dr. Frawley would like the Staff to investigate what other towns/recreation departments charge for "in-town" and "out-of-town" sports groups to use their fields. *Discussion was held.*

- Mr. Moorhead explained concerns about the **landscape of travel basketball** and how much has changed since PRD started participating in the mid 1990's. The number of individuals trying out for the program has declined the past few years, resulting in PRD entering fewer and fewer teams into competitive play. Mr. Moorhead explained that travel basketball programs have become much more regional than town-based, reducing or completely eliminating any residency requirements. Mr. Moorhead believes this trend will continue. Mr. Young commented that the travel basketball "market" has become extremely saturated with very little difficulty to prevent someone from creating a "travel" team and participating in league play. Mr. Stentz commented that PRD was at the forefront of the town-based travel basketball model in the mid 1990's and that the original Central Jersey League consisted of Princeton, Hopewell, Lawrence, Ewing, Hightstown and Hamilton. Rather than watch the trend continue, Mr. Moorhead feels that shifting our current teams to an in-house organization such as Princeton Basketball Club (PBC) could help save those teams as well as keep Travel Basketball opportunities open to Princeton residents who have an interest in that level of play. Through some preliminary discussions, the PBC board has indicated to PRD that they are open to the possibility of absorbing PRD's current Travel Basketball teams. Mr. Stentz reports one of the added benefits of making this transition would be ensuring the Dillon basketball program receives the staffing resources necessary to make sure the program as fulfilling as possible for the kids. Dr. Frawley & Dr. Nosker support PRD continuing discussions with PBC to see if such a transition would be viable. Mr. Stentz suggested that PRD staff could set up a meeting with the PBC board along with Recreation Commission members to help facilitate the discussion. Mr. Young volunteered to be a part of the discussion. *Discussion was held.*

Corner House Student Board - NO REPORT

Director's Report

Mr. Stentz reported on the following:

- **CP Pool:** Opening weekend was highly successful and the weather cooperated. 3,000+ entries over three-day weekend. The pool will be open the next two weekends and will open full-time on 6/10/15. Registration is currently at 4,008 members which is about 50-60 members ahead of the 2014 pace. *Discussion was held.*
- **PTP & CP Tennis Complex:** Progress has been made on water improvements at CP. PRD staff has met twice with NJ American Water and has a pending application to install a new pit and meter at the end of John Street. Water lines will be run to the tennis shed, as well as near the corner of CP South field #2. This will include the installation of two new drain-less water fountains at those locations. The fountains will cost between \$1,800 - \$2,200 each and about \$10,000 for installation by Jefferson Plumbing. PTP also contributed about \$6,000 towards crack repair on the tennis courts, which is an annual commitment from them.
- **Park Water Fountains:** New water fountains will soon be installed in Potts Park, Quarry Park and possibly Marquand Park. The fountains in Potts & Quarry are completely useless and do not work. Bruce Jefferson is attempting to fix the Marquand park water fountain, as well as the Harrison Street Park water fountain.
- **Events:** Administration is hosting an all-municipal staff cookout at CP Pool on 6/3/15. PRD is coordinating the event.
- **Mary Moss Park Project:** The residents that advocate for affordable housing at 31-33 Lytle Street have presented many different proposals to the governing body to consider, some of which incorporate parts of the existing house into the park as a public restroom. Mr. Stentz feels some

of the options could work, but these options shouldn't be considered until they have been fully researched. *Discussion was held.*

- **Park Detention Basins:** Smoyer Park & Greenway Meadows - Project has been approved by Council and the conversion will happen in either late fall of this year or early 2016 spring. A majority of the cost for the conversion comes from US Fish & Wildlife's Partners Program. Once the conversion is complete, the areas will not require intensive maintenance moving forward.
- **Aerial Filming Company Project:** Mr. Stentz met with the company and received a quote of about \$5,000 to obtain filming of all of our parks. This includes passive areas as well as the editing of all promotional videos. Weather plays an important role in regards to the optimal time to film the parks. This project may not happen until next year. *Discussion was held.*
- **Three NJ legislative issues** are currently on the PRD radar:
 - Proposal to have **baby-changing tables in all restrooms**, not just women and family restrooms. This would include installing them at the pool and all of our parks. *Discussion was held.*
 - Proposal to **make available public restrooms for transgender users**. CP Pool currently has two family-changing restrooms, so this issue would have a larger impact in our parks. This is a challenge that the Princeton Public Schools are facing currently. *Discussion was held.*
 - The requirement of **AED machines in all public recreation facilities** accessible within a 3-minute walk. This would include all municipal parks and recreation spaces.
 - *Discussion was held.*
 - *Mr. Stentz will continue to monitor these and other relevant legislation through his membership on the NJ Recreation & Parks Association's Public Policy Committee.*
- **Open Space Task Force:** Mr. Stentz emailed the commission a summary of the past meeting and the next meeting will be held in June. Ms. Butler hopes the Committee can come up with a list of what needs to be done to help guide DPW & PRD, but this has yet to happen. *Discussion was held.*
- Ms. Butler asked if Staff had any update on **Princeton-wide minimum wage** discussion that Mayor Lempert recently discussed at a Council meeting. Mr. Stentz commented that he does not know if this initiative has any support, but that if it did, the Commission will need to consider the implications for the PRD Trust fund. *Discussion was held.*
- Ms. Butler commented that the **Princeton Special Needs Prom** was a great success and PSS was extremely pleased to receive their proclamation at the 4/27/15 Council meeting. Mr. Stentz commented that PSS and their volunteers are extremely deserving of the proclamation, as are all volunteers in Princeton. *Discussion was held.*

Communications

A. Anne Haas: regarding family definition for CP Pool Membership

- Mr. Stentz explained that we can't change our family definition mid-stream as we've already taken over 3,000 pool memberships, but that the Commission can review the membership structure this fall. *Discussion was held.*

B. Loss Control Report from Mid-Jersey Joint Insurance Fund

- PRD received a positive report from the Mid-Jersey Joint Insurance Fund in regards to playground inspections. There was an entrapment issue at a former borough park (Maggie's Park) due to improper installation. PRD Staff has repaired the equipment. Fresh playground safety surfacing has been ordered for several parks and will be applied ASAP. Mr. Stentz commented that the

report was good from the JIF inspector and that the PRD Maintenance Staff deserves credit for keeping our playgrounds safe and clean. *Discussion was held.*

C. Kim Peterson: Hilltop Park baseball/softball field lights

- Mr. Stentz received an email complaining that the field lights stay on too late in the evenings. Ms. Peterson requests that the lights be turned off by 9 pm each night. Mr. Stentz responded in writing to explain that we are very sensitive to ensuring the lights go off after our user-groups finish using the fields nightly, but we are not going to limit night-time use for our user groups. Hilltop is the only field in town with lights and there are times when we need to use it past 9 pm. *Discussion was held.*

Mr. Stentz acknowledged that in June, Mr. Groeger will have been working at PRD for one year. Mr. Stentz also acknowledged that Mr. Moorhead & Mr. Marrolli recently reached their four year anniversary with PRD.

Public Comment - NO PUBLIC COMMENT

Approval of Minutes

- Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the April 2015 Commission meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Olivares-Weber, and unanimously approved. Dr. Frawley & Ms. Germaine abstained.

Old Business - NO OLD BUSINESS

New Business

D. CP Pool early closing for 7/30/15 Bluefish team picnic

- Mr. Marrolli presented a proposal to close CP Pool early to the public on 7/30/15 for the Bluefish team picnic. Mr. Marrolli reminded the Commission that we closed CP early in 2014 for this event and we did not receive any complaints. The reason for needing to close early is that the picnic typically attracts well over 500 people and includes catered food and music. Ms. Butler commented that if the day of the picnic is an extremely hot day, PRD staff should take the weather into account and close the facility at their discretion. *Discussion was held.*
- Dr. Frawley made a motion to approve closing CP Pool early for the Bluefish team picnic, seconded by Mr. Koontz, and unanimously approved.

E. Purchase of Bluefish 'records' board

- Mr. Marrolli presented a proposal to purchase a Bluefish 'records' board which would display team records at the pool complex. *Discussion was held.*
- Mr. Young made a motion to approve the purchase of the Bluefish 'records' board, seconded by Mr. Koontz and unanimously approved.

Approval of Bills

- Mr. Koontz made the motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mr. Young, and unanimously approved.

Next Meeting Date

June 25, 2015

Adjournment