

PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

July 28, 2016

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on July 28, 2016 in the Princeton Recreation Department (PRD) lower level Conference Room, 380 Witherspoon Street.

Present: Mr. Koontz, Ms. Germaine, Dr. Nosker, Ms. Rogers, Dr. Frawley and Dr. Cahill
Also Present: Mr. Stentz and Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Marrolli, Mrs. Stockton
Absent: Mr. Young, Ms. Olivares-Weber, Ms. Butler and Mr. Groeger

Activities Report

Mr. Stentz reported that Mr. Marrolli was awaiting the return of the Teen Travel Camp bus and would be joining the meeting shortly and that Mr. Groeger had the night off.

- Mr. Stentz noted that summer camps were about halfway completed and that registration numbers were very strong. Day Camp, in particular, is up 8% over 2015.
- Day Camp and Teen Travel Camp will conclude on August 12.
- Week one of Skateboard Camp concluded on July 29, and week two will begin on August 8.
- Track Camp concluded on July 15 and registration numbers were very strong.
- The Boys Summer Basketball League completed on July 27 and the Girls Basketball League completed on July 28. The Girls League registration doubled from 2015.
- Bluefish Swim and Dive team have their seasons completed and both teams won PASDA Championships for the second year in a row. The Dive Championships were once again held at the Community Park Pool, but for the first time in over 30 years, the Swim Championships were also held at CP. Mr. Stentz gave credit to Mr. Marrolli, Aquatics Director Mike Uchirin, the maintenance crew, and all staff for how well the events were run.
- Mr. Moorhead reported that the Men's Summer Basketball League will conclude on either 7/27 or 7/29.
- Mr. Moorhead reported that the athletic field was in a small window of time where they were not getting as much use by sport groups. The fields are able to rest and rejuvenate during this period.

Public Comments Opened

Kip Cherry (Princeton resident; address not stated):

- Appreciates PRD efforts put forward in regard to the playground.
- Has completed a lot of research on the playground
- There has been multiple neighborhood meetings.
- The playground represents a living heritage and history of the community.
- Ms. Cherry presented many historical facts about Mary Moss.
- There should also be more signage in the playground.

Daniel Harris (Dodds Lane):

- Mr. Harris stated that he is speaking for Shirley Satterfield who is unable to attend the Commission meeting.
- Mr. Harris read a letter that Ms. Satterfield wrote about her history growing up in Princeton and her use of the Mary Moss Playground.
- The letter stated that it was a safe place for African American children

- The town never maintained the playground adequately.
- The playground is being updated because new members have moved into the newly completed houses after many old houses have been demolished.
- Most children will not enjoy the sprinkler as much as they enjoyed the wading pool.
- Members of the Witherspoon Jackson community should be employed in the development process of the playground.
- Ms. Satterfield requests that the name of the playground remain Mary Moss Playground.

Yina Moore (19 Green Street)

- Ms. Moore stated that there were three neighborhood meetings to discuss the playground concept.
- The theme of the playground is play, but history needs to be reflected.
- The corner entrance does not seem safe for children who could run out of the playground.
- There should be more trees for shade around the playground.
- There should also be more of a buffer between the playground and the neighborhood houses.
- Solar panels could be added into the park for a power source to add electricity.
- The slide design should be rethought because sunshine will make the slide very hot.
- A new material should be used for the slide other than metal.
- The boulders that are planned should be a softer material because it could be unsafe for children.
- The theme of storytelling is also very important for history.
- The group would like to be included in the development process moving forward.
- Ms. Moore stated that if the wading pool is removed, the port-a-potty should also be removed so that there is no loitering. Since all people who use the playground are neighborhood residents they do not need the port-a-potty anymore.
- There should also be a “ghost area” or a plaque to show where the wading pool was located originally.

John Heilner (Library Place):

- Mr. Heilner would like to be included in the signage process to make sure all information is included when renovations are started.
- Mr. Heilner asked for the design process to be slowed down so that more thought could go into the design.

Public Comments Closed

Questions/Comments from Commission Members

- Dr. Cahill asked about clarification on the comments about removing the port-a-potty. She noted that it sounds as if there is an effort to keep playground goers who are not from the neighborhood from using the playground. Ms. Moore stated that because the playground is mainly for Witherspoon Jackson Neighborhood residents that individuals should not expect facilities at the playground.
- Mr. Koontz asked Mr. Stentz about clarification on the timeline when RBA would be brought back and what they would show the commission. Mr. Stentz reported that the Mary Moss Subcommittee has spoken with RBA many times recently and that they are in the process of starting to think about the specific equipment that will be used in the playground.

- Dr. Frawley asked if Witherspoon Jackson Historic District Committee was simply formed themselves. Ms. Moore informed the Commission that they did indeed form the group themselves and that it is not a legal entity.

Director's Report

Mr. Stentz reported on the following:

- **PASDA Swim Championship:** The most important thing to keep in mind for the championships is communication. Patrons were notified well in advance about the change in schedule for both days. The other thing to keep in mind is that if there is inclement weather that would change the timeline for opening the pool to the public. *Discussion was held*
- **Larry Ivan Plaque Unveiling Ceremony:** The Larry Ivan plaque dedication ceremony was held Friday, June 10 at CP Pool. There were many people that came from all across the country to be in attendance. Mayor Liz Lempert honored Mr. Ivan with a proclamation.
- **Blue Curtain Concerts:** The first Blue Curtain Concert took place on July 16 at Community Park North. The turnout was great and Mr. Stentz gave credit to Mr. Marrolli and Ms. Caines. The next concert will take place on August 20.
- **Donations:** PRD received a \$5,000 donation from Princeton Community Housing for financial aid to help families looking to attend summer programs. PRD also received around \$2,000 from donations made in honor of Tink Bolster. That money was set to be used to help with financial aid for pool related programs. A ceremonial brick was purchased in honor of Ms. Bolster. Dr. Cahill asked to add a brick at CP pool in honor of Ms. Bolster from the Commission. The Commission was also interested in the idea and would revisit the topic.
- **Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee:** Mr. Stentz was asked to make a presentation to the Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee about Recreation and the collection resources around the department.
- **Community Park Pool Closing Time:** As of August 15 the CP Pool closing time will be adjusted from 8:00 pm, to 7:30 pm as the amount of daylight will start to dwindle.
- **Resident Request:** A parent of a Day Camper reached out to Mr. Stentz because she believed that her daughter had her bathing suit stolen twice while at camp. The parent would like to have money refunded for the cost of the bathing suits, as well as a refund for her daughter's camp registration fee. The commission agreed that there would be no refund granted.

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Friends of Princeton Public Library: The Friends of Princeton Public Library have requested to have a table to sell raffle tickets at the Community Park Pool for a few Saturdays.

Mr. Koontz made a motion to allow the Friends of Princeton Public Library to sell raffle tickets at the CP Pool, seconded by Dr. Cahill, and approved.

Communications:

a. **Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes re: Mercer at play grant opportunity:**

A letter from Mercer County Executive Brian Hughes detailing that the county has unveiled round two of the Mercer at play grant program. The first round helped to fund the skate park at Hilltop Park, as well as the upcoming renovations to the Mary Moss Playground. This round of the grant

does have a new stipulation. Once a town applies for the grant, they have three years to complete their project. The commission will not submit an application until the Mary Moss Playground has completed. *Discussion was held*

b. PPS Asst. Superintendent Bonnie Lehet re: Summer 2017 planning for summer school student/campers:

Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Groeger will attend a meeting on July 29 with assistant superintendent Bonnie Lehet to discuss ways for the Recreation Department and the school to better coordinate transportation and attendance from the summer school programs to the PRD summer camp programs.

Public Comment

Comments detailed above regarding Mary Moss Playground project.

Approval of Minutes

June minutes tabled until July Meeting.

Approval of Bills

- *Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Ms. Germaine, and approved.*

Next Meeting Date

August 25, 2016

Adjournment