

## PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on January 27, 2022 remotely via Zoom.

- Present: Dr. Nosker, Ms. Germaine, Mr. Koontz, Dr. Frawley, Dr. Cahill, Mr. Young & Ms. Pirone Lambros
- Also Present: Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Marrolli, Mr. MacFarlan & Mr. Hurley
- Absent: Ms. Rogers, Mr. Burt, Ms. Paulucci & Mr. Petrucelli

Mr. Moorhead introduced PRD Maintenance Foreman, Gerry MacFarlan and Assistant Foreman, Adam Hurley. Both were recently promoted to their new positions and Mr. Moorhead expressed his pleasure at being able to promote hard working and valuable staff members from within our ranks. Mr. Moorhead mentioned that at Commission meetings, he often praises the entire maintenance staff for their efforts. Mr. Macfarlan commented that he looks forward to continuing to work with the PRD staff.

The Commission congratulated Mr. MacFarlan and Mr. Hurley on their recent promotions.

Mr. Moorhead also introduced Michelle Pirone Lambros, recently appointed as the Princeton Council liaison to the Commission. Ms. Pirone Lambros replaced Mr. Williamson and expressed that she is looking forward to serving in this role. Mr. Young welcomed Ms. Lambros to the group on behalf of the Commission.

### Public Comment

No Public Comment

### Corner House Student Board

No Corner House Student Board Report

### Activities Report

In addition to the activities in the agenda packet, Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- **Dillon Youth Basketball Update:** The 7-10<sup>th</sup> Grade Division of the Dillon Youth Basketball League has games tonight at the Hun School. Ms. Paulucci and Mr. Petrucelli are on hand to supervise. There are approximately 160 youth registered (total) in the three divisions. All 3 divisions have met at least twice so far, for either a practice or a clinic. Saturday morning games will begin in February at the Hun School. Dr. Nosker asked if enough coaches have signed up to volunteer. Mr. Moorhead commented the number of volunteer coaches are down from past years. Since we are not able to play on campus at Princeton University, volunteering may not be as attractive or logistically feasible for PU students. As in year's past, we will supplement the lack of PU students with both paid staff, as well as high school volunteers. Mr. Moorhead noted that registration numbers are also down considerably from pre-pandemic levels.

Dr. Cahill asked whether or not ice skating will happen this winter. Mr. Moorhead explained PRD Maintenance Staff has been checking ice daily, however, the ice has not reached the required 5" threshold across all skating areas to be deemed safe for skating. Recreation maintenance checks the ice at Lake Carnegie (Between Harrison St and Washington Rd Bridges, CP North & Smoyer Park. Dr. Nosker asked how thick the ice is at Lake Carnegie. Mr. Moorhead explained there are some areas on the lake that have reached 5", but not the entire area. One suggestion staff have recently discussed would be to reduce the size of ice skating area. The current area between Harrison Street and Washington Street is extremely large and it is rare that the entire area ever reaches 5" or more. *Discussion was held.*

### Director's Report

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- **Personnel Update:** Staff is in the process of taking applications for a maintenance laborer position. The position has been posted for the past 10 days. Staff will begin the interview process as soon as the posting closes. Once this position is filled, the PRD Maintenance Staff will be back to full strength for the first time since early December. Mr. Moorhead commented that over the course of the past nine months, six (6) full-time positions in Recreation (Executive Director, Assistant Director, Program Supervisor, Maintenance Foreman, Assistant Foreman and Laborer) have experienced turnover and the department has not skipped a beat during this time in terms of either output or efficiency. Mr. Moorhead also noted that the PRD Maintenance staff is gearing up for a potentially large snow storm starting tomorrow night.
- **CP Pool Filter Update:** PRD has received the shipment of new pool filter parts. PRD Maintenance staff have begun the process of reassembling all of the pool filters with the new parts. Dr. Nosker asked if it is expensive to have back-up filter parts on-site. Mr. Moorhead commented that we typically have a few parts in stock as back-up, however this most recent order was to replace every pool filter part due to damage from Hurricane Ida, and as such, it cost approximately \$30,000. The municipality is seeking reimbursement from FEMA for cost of the pool filter parts.
- **2022 Mowing & Turf Management Bid Update:** Mr. Marrolli is currently working on assembling the 2022 Mowing & Turf Management Bid documents. The mowing bid consists primarily of park locations, as well as several auxiliary municipal sites in town. The plan is to have the bid out by early February, review all bids in early March, and have the contract awarded by late March prior to the start of the mowing season in early April.
- **2022 CP Pool Concessionaire Contract Update:** The pool concession contract will go out for proposals in February. Mr. Moorhead expects to have the notice advertised publicly in February with a deadline of early to mid-March. Mr. Moorhead hopes to bring the selected proposal to the Commission for approval at the March meeting. Ms. Pirone Lambros asked if the concession is private. Mr. Moorhead stated it has typically been a "Mom and Pop" type vendor and not a corporate entity.
- **CP North:** The beaver is still currently active at CP North. Recently, there has been some public pushback against trapping the beaver. The Municipal Open Space Manager is working with an outside vendor on ways to provide protection to the trees around the pond in order to mitigate beaver damage.
- **Park Repair Updates:** PRD staff are working on obtaining quotes to repair restroom doors at Smoyer Park and storage doors at both Smoyer and Grover Park. Staff members are also working on obtaining quotes for retaining wall repairs at Quarry Park and Grover Park.

- **2022 Summer Programming Update:** Recently, a school referendum passed by public vote that includes roofing replacement at all six (6) public schools. This will have a major impact on facility availability this summer with some school facilities being off-line for an extended period. We have been informed by the schools that we will not have access to CP Elementary School (inclement weather site for day camp) and that we may not have access to the gyms at PHS or PMS for part or all of the summer, as well. PRD staff has reached out to public school personnel to set up a meeting to discuss further.

Without an inclement weather location for day camp, PRD will once again need to pivot and offer alternative programs with shorter duration and smaller capacity. Mr. Moorhead commented that our menu of programs in '21 was extremely popular and we hope to improve on that for '22. Mr. Moorhead does not see an alternative to holding PRD Day Camp without having a viable indoor location within the immediate vicinity of the pool/CP South that can accommodate 250+ kids when there is rain, thunder/lightning or excessive heat. Mr. Moorhead said this situation underscores the importance of having an indoor facility of our own and that we continue to be at the mercy of other entities such as the Public Schools and Princeton University when it comes to running certain programs.

If both the Middle School and High School gyms are also offline this summer, our basketball programs will be impacted. If that is the case, we will reach out to Princeton Charter and the private schools to inquire about facility availability. Dr. Cahill remarked that the timeline for the referendum project to begin this summer seems ambitious. Mr. Moorhead stated that he wants to hear from school staff as soon as possible, but they have told us that this project will start as soon as school ends in June. Ms. Pirone Lambros commented she would like to offer her help in any way possible. *Discussion was held.*

- **CP South Update:** Mr. Moorhead wants to push forward the idea of a CP South conceptual design as soon as possible and that there seems to be some momentum to do so. The first step in this process would involve the municipality requesting design proposals from interested firms. At the staff level, PRD staff will start compiling a list of feedback and desired park features received from various user groups to help envision what a redesigned park might include. Staff will also solicit feedback from the Commission. Ms. Pirone Lambros commented one of the main reasons she volunteered to be Council liaison to the Commission is to assist with pushing forward the redesign and redevelopment CP South. Ms. Pirone Lambros also commented there is a need for improving our athletic field inventory, as well as redesigning Grover Park. *Discussion was held.*

### Old Business

- **Mercer at Play:** At the request of the Commission, Mr. Marroli contacted two additional playground companies regarding proposals for an Adaptive/Inclusive Playground at Hilltop Park. In addition to the playground proposals, staff has requested quotes for the following; installing a batting cage near the Hilltop baseball field, and replacing the existing ballfield lighting with more energy efficient LED lights. Mr. Moorhead commented that Hilltop is the only ballfield in town that does not currently have a batting cage. The existing lighting on the ballfield dates back to when the park was built in the late '80's/early 90's and will need to be replaced in the near future regardless. Current lighting technology is much more energy efficient and the amount of light "spillage" into neighboring properties should be greatly reduced.

Ms. Germaine asked if the additional items Mr. Moorhead referred to, aside from the playground, are a part of the Mercer at Play Grant. Mr. Moorhead explained that in addition to the county grant money (\$500K) there are matching funds from the town (\$500K), as well as additional funding beyond the match, initially earmarked for the Hilltop Turf Project that has since been tabled. Those funds are still designated for Hilltop Park Improvements and could be used as part of this project. The county grant money must be utilized for items aligned with the grant's stated mission. Mr. Koontz commented that an Inclusive Playground installation perfectly suites the intention of the Mercer at Play grant, and would be a great addition to the Princeton community. *Discussion was held.*

Dr. Cahill commented that she would like to see the total number of handicapped parking spots at Hilltop exceed the minimum required. She also expressed concern that the current lot does not have enough parking stalls and that a drop-off area is needed to address safety concerns. Mr. Moorhead has previously relayed those concerns to Administration and Engineering but does not have an answer as to whether or not parking could be addressed as part of this project. Mr. Moorhead noted that during the Hilltop Turf Project discussions there were design proposals to add 8-10 additional parking spots to the baseball field side of the parking lot, as well as a round-about drop-off area near the current restroom building. *Discussion was held.*

Mr. Moorhead would like the Commission to provide additional feedback on a playground design in order to establish a formal direction. Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Marroli will continue to work through the Commission Sub-Committee towards that end. Mr. Koontz asked what type of support Mr. Moorhead would like to receive from the Commission. Mr. Moorhead believes that ultimately the Commission will need to make a formal recommendation to Council for the use of the Mercer at Play Funds. This would be followed by a work session at a future council meeting to discuss the project, receive feedback and answer questions. Ms. Pirone Lambros commented this is the appropriate direction to take. *Discussion was held.*

### New Business

- **Appointment of Commission Chair for 2022:** Mr. Koontz made a motion to appoint Mr. Young as the Commission Chair for 2022, seconded by Dr. Cahill and approved.
- **End of Year Financial Transfers:** Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the End of Year Transfers, seconded by Dr. Nosker and approved.

Dr. Nosker commented that he personally knows former day campers and travel campers who have thoroughly enriched their lives through being a part of our programs and feels those programs are incredibly important to the community. Mr. Moorhead agreed that both programs are at the heart of the mission of our department and he would like to get back to running both as soon as it is possible. Mr. Young acknowledged and thanked PRD staff for coming up with a diverse program menu despite the difficulties presented by Covid-19 and facility challenges.

- **Revolving Trust Reserve Purchases 2022:** Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the Revolving Trust Reserve Purchases for 2022, seconded by Dr. Cahill and approved.

Dr. Cahill asked if PTP's annual financial contribution would go towards the purchase of new wind screens. Mr. Moorhead stated that PTP's entire financial contribution was paid in full for '21 and went directly to court crack repair. Mr. Moorhead has been in touch with PTP regarding potential 2022 projects and will revisit potential additional crack repair in the spring.

### Communications

*Communications shared in agenda packet.* Mr. Moorhead highlighted the Heritage Plaque was installed recently at Mary Moss Playground and is currently on display for the public.

### Approval of Minutes

- **December 16, 2021:** Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the December 16, 2021 minutes, seconded by Dr. Cahill and approved. Mr. Young, Dr. Frawley, Dr. Cahill and Ms. Pirone Lambros abstained.

### Approval of Bills

- Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Dr. Nosker and approved.

### Next Meeting Date

*February 24, 2022*