

PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on January 28, 2021 remotely via Zoom.

- Present: Dr. Nosker, Mr. Young, Dr. Cahill, Ms. Germaine, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Koontz, Mr. Burt, Ms. Rogers & Dr. Frawley
- Also Present: Mr. Stentz, Mr. Moorhead, Aidan McChesney & Andrew DeLuca
- Absent: Ms. Paulucci

Public Comment

- No Public Comment

Activities Report

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

- Ms. Paulucci is enrolled in a Therapeutic Recreation Master's Degree program at Kean University and has an exam this evening.
- **Fall/Winter Programming:** The running program has been very successful and we have continued to run sessions through the fall and into the winter. Enrollment has been strong despite the cooler weather. When temps fall below freezing on any particular day, the program will not be held. We are also continuing with the skateboard clinics (weather dependent) and virtual Mindfulness classes. Staff is trying to engage young people even during the winter months and provide as many options as we are able. One of the few bright spots of the pandemic is that it has expanded our thinking about the type of programming that we can offer.

Corner House Student Board

- Mr. DeLuca reported on the following:
 - **Virtual Events:** There are plans to run a second online cooking in February/March. Virtual game night is scheduled for late February.

Director's Report

- Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:
 - **Dive Well update:** Mr. Moorhead provided a recap of the ongoing issue with the dive well leak. Contractors were not able to locate the leak during their last visit in early December. The dive well has since been winterized. The contractors can return for further exploration once the pool is filled with water and the motors/filters are running. We are also scheduled to have routine maintenance of the seams in both pools prior to the start of the season. Mr. Moorhead explained the difficulty in coordinating the availability of the contractors during the small window of time once the winter weather breaks and before the start of the pool season.
 - **PTP Contract:** Mr. Moorhead provided an update on the negotiations with PTP and subsequent revisions to the agreement for the upcoming year. Mr. Moorhead recently sent the revised tennis agreement to municipal legal counsel for review prior to bringing it to the Commission for approval. Legal Counsel has indicated that there are some

necessary revisions to the document based on Green Acres regulations. In addition, the current agreement must take the form of a lease agreement which will require a municipal ordinance. That ordinance will need approval from mayor and council at an upcoming council meeting. Mr. Moorhead expressed concern about the timing as PTP would like to start advertising soon and begin registration at the beginning of March for their April session.

- Mr. Stentz reported on the following:
 - **Minimum wage:** Increased to \$11.10 on 1/1/21. This increase will have an impact on our budget and we will need to adjust fees accordingly in the upcoming months. We are putting this off until we know more about how the summer might look with regards to covid-19 and subsequent restrictions.
 - **Day Camp:** Staff is spending a lot of time trying to imagine what summer day camp might look like, including the possibility of smaller group sizes and shorter durations. One of the challenges staff faces is whether or not we will have access to CP School for inclement weather. Mr. Stentz will reach out to the PPS Superintendent to discuss this topic. Ms. Paulucci will take the lead on day camp this summer. If we are able to figure out a camp option, Mr. Stentz feels that we need to hire a Nurse to assist with all the extra work that will be required to administer daily health screenings and manage all Covid-19 related challenges such as quarantine, communication with parents, and working directly with our local health staff.
 - **Snow update:** PRD staff is gearing up for a winter storm that is forecast to hit our area early next week.
 - **Financial Document:** Mr. Stentz shared the year end summary for the Revolving Trust and reiterated that this was an abnormal year due to covid-19. In summary, the trust was down over \$24K this year as a result of the limitations in programming and covid-related reduction in pool income. Mr. Stentz credited the staff for coming up with creative ideas to make money and provide new programs or that number could have been much worse. Also, Mr. Stentz reminded the Commission that we did not have to pay the town back our annual \$74K payment as it was deferred for '20. Mr. Stentz expressed concern over what might happen if we have a second year in a row where we don't generate a surplus to pay the reserve account back for capital projects funded by the reserve. *Discussion was held.* Dr. Nosker & Mr. Williamson commended the staff for being both creative and fiscally responsible during difficult times.

Old Business

- **Hilltop Park Project:** The sub-committee met last Thursday with Suburban Consulting (SCE). SCE is working on some revisions to the design concepts that address parking and traffic flow. PRD has previously heard concerns from neighbors about both issues. We are trying to do everything we can within reason/budget to address those concerns. SCE is still fine tuning revisions to that concept which would add additional parking, a drop-off area and separate entrance and exit from the park. There are challenges, however, including working thru the easement issues at the park's entrance with the Campbell Woods Homeowner's Association (HOA). We will need to inquire as to whether their HOA would be willing to work with us on this issue. A neighborhood meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23. We will then take the concept to the Planning Board in

early March. The final plan would come to the Commission for review before going to mayor/council. *Discussion was held.*

New Business

- **Appointment of Commission Chair for 2021:**
 - *Mr. Williamson made motion a motion to approve Mr. Young as Commission Chair for 2021, seconded by Dr. Cahill and approved.*
- **2021 Trust Reserve Improvement Projects:**
 - *Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the 2021 Trust Reserve Improvement Projects, seconded by Mr. Koontz and approved. Discussion was held*

Communications

Communications shared in agenda packet

Approval of Minutes

- *Dr. Nosker moved the minutes of 12/17/20, seconded by Mr. Koontz and approved. Ms. Rogers abstained.*

Approval of Bills

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

Next Meeting Date

February 25, 2021