

## PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on March 31, 2022 remotely via Zoom.

- Present: Dr. Nosker, Ms. Germaine, Mr. Koontz, Dr. Frawley, Dr. Cahill, Mr. Young, Ms. Pirone Lambros, Ms. Rogers & Mr. Burt
- Also Present: Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Marroli, Ms. Paulucci, Mr. Petrucelli, Mr. Marshall & Ms. Liu

### Public Comment

Tracy O'Toole (Ridgeview Road) commended the Princeton Recreation Department for the addition of several adaptive and inclusive programs. Ms. O'Toole also recognized Program Supervisor Nicole Paulucci for her efforts in running PRD's adaptive programs. Ms. O'Toole encouraged PRD to keep promoting their adaptive and inclusive programs, as well as explore adaptive and inclusive aquatic programming. Mr. Koontz commented that when the new CP Pool was built, the zero depth entry feature was added to assist with accessibility and feels adaptive aquatic programming at CP Pool is possible due to this feature.

### Corner House Student Board

Ms. Liu commented that Corner House held their 2022 recruiting night recently to recruit new members. There are a few upcoming events, such as an open mic night, currently slated to take place at Small World Coffee. Mr. Marshall added members are also working on an Acapella Night that will be held either at the Library Plaza or PHS Auditorium.

### Activities Report

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

- **Dillon Youth Basketball Update:** The 50<sup>th</sup> season of Dillon Youth Basketball recently concluded. The season was a great success and feedback from participants was excellent. Mr. Petrucelli thanked the Hun School for providing use of their gymnasiums to run the league. PRD Staff will run a variety of basketball programming this summer, including; basketball leagues, clinics and camps. We will also partner with US Sports Institute on several programs and camps this spring and summer.

In addition to the activities in the agenda packet, Ms. Paulucci reported on the following:

- **Adaptive Programming Update:** Ms. Paulucci thanked Ms. O'Toole for the kind words she shared during Public Comment. Ms. Paulucci stated that PRD is looking to run more adaptive track clinics this year. Ms. Paulucci thanked Rec Commissioner Dr. Matt Frawley for his efforts in running adaptive platform tennis clinics. For the first time ever, the Annual Adaptive Formal will be held outdoors at CP Pool for 2022 on Friday, May 6. The rain site will be the Suzanne Patterson Center, if needed.
- **Summer Programing Update:** In the next week or two, PRD will open registration for several programs, including; Chess Class, Empowerment, Magic, Dance, and Basketball Clinics for boys

and girls. Staff is excited to bring back 2 weeks of Teen Travel Camp in July. This will be the first summer since '19 that TTC has been offered in any capacity.

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

- **CP Pool Staffing Update:** 71 Lifeguards from the '21 staff have indicated they plan to return this summer. Thus far, five new lifeguards have applied to work at CP Pool this summer. Mr. Marroli commented the total number of new applicants is very low, but is a sign of the current employment market.

### Director's Report

Mr. Moorhead thanked Ms. O'Toole for her kind comments regarding the efforts of Ms. Paulucci and the passion she puts into her programs, especially the adaptive programs she oversees. Mr. Moorhead also recognized Mr. Petrucelli for running a successful Dillon Youth Basketball League, despite all the challenges that 2022 brought and not having the run the program in 2 years. Dr. Nosker asked if there is a chance the Dillon League will continue playing games at the Hun School in future seasons. Mr. Moorhead is grateful for being able to utilize the Hun School for Dillon this season, however, he does hope to get back into Dillon Gym for future seasons for several reasons. *Discussion was held.*

Ms. Cahill asked what type of impact not running PRD Day Camp for the summer of 2022 will have on the budget. Mr. Moorhead stated that PRD Day Camp has a large overhead due to the number of staff required to run the program and that typically it does not generate much revenue. The absence of day camp will not have a negative impact on the department's finances for '22 according to Mr. Moorhead. *Discussion was held.*

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- **Staffing Update:** Echoing Mr. Marroli's comments earlier regarding the current employment market, Mr. Moorhead shared the difficulty staff is having in finding qualified candidates to fill open positions. This includes part-time positions, as well as full-time positions. PRD currently has several part-time openings, including Seasonal Maintenance, Pool Customer Service and Summer Secretary. In addition, one of our current full-time laborers recently gave notice bringing the total of open full-time laborer positions to two. This is a tough time of year to be shorthanded in our maintenance crew due to volume of athletic field work, as well as the pool preparation that is underway.

Dr. Nosker inquired about the salary range for the advertised positions. Mr. Moorhead stated that staff did try to broaden the salary ranges of advertised positions for this year, but we have limited flexibility to do so based on the range of current staff salaries in similar positions. Mr. Moorhead agreed with Dr. Nosker that this is something to monitor moving forward.

- **CPO Update:** Mr. Moorhead recognized Mr. Marroli for recently passing the Certified Pool Operator exam and obtaining his national certification. Mr. Marroli is now the 4<sup>th</sup> member on staff to have a current CPO certification.
- **2022 Mowing & Turf Management Bid Update:** The 2022 Municipal Mowing & Turf Management contracts increased substantially in cost from the last time the contracts went out to bid in 2019. The Mowing contract increased from roughly \$60,000 in 2019 to approximately \$100,000 in 2022, while the Turf Management contract also increased a significant percentage.

- **Maintenance Staff Update:** The maintenance staff is preparing all athletic fields for play with the hopes of opening them up for the 4/2/22 weekend. Running water has been turned back on at all park restrooms, and the maintenance staff will check all facilities for leaks prior to opening them to the public. Mr. Young asked if all of the usual youth sports groups will be returning to play this spring season. Mr. Moorhead stated that all of our normal spring groups are back. In addition, Princeton public schools has requested use of some facilities and we have received several rental requests.
- **Park Projects Update:** The Grover Park retaining wall behind the dugout areas at Grover Park Fields 2 & 3 has been repaired. The wall had been leaning and was in danger of toppling over in the future. The Farmview Fields Lower Baseball Field warning track has now been repaired, along with a regrading of the infield. The costs of these repairs were shared between PRD and Princeton Little League, who have always been willing to step up and direct money towards various field improvements. Mr. Moorhead thanked PLL for this cost-sharing partnership.
- **CP Pool Kiddie Pool Update:** The Kiddie pool is in the process of being completely re-plastered. The existing plaster has been removed and as soon as the weather gets warm enough, the contractor will return and complete the install of the new plaster.
- **PTP Tennis Courts Update:** Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Marrolli recently met with Gina Pileggi from Princeton Tennis Program and Steve Nickolaus from Nickolas Construction, to discuss tennis court surface crack repairs. PTP will cover the cost of the repair as part of their annual contribution per our current lease agreement. Nickolaus Construction started repairing several of the tennis courts this week and will also perform some minor crack repairs on the CP School basketball courts in the near future.

Dr. Cahill asked if there had been any recent discussion regarding installation of pickleball lines on tennis courts at CP. Mr. Moorhead informed the Commission that discussions have been held at the staff level and reminded the Commission that we are in the middle of a multi-year lease of those courts by PTP. Installation of pickleball lines on existing tennis courts would have a direct impact on PTP's programming. Staff has also sought input from colleagues around the state regarding their experiences with pickleball courts. Staff continues to gather information on this topic. Ms. Germaine asked if there was any possibility of lining tennis courts at Princeton High School for pickleball. *Discussion was held.*

- **Registration Update:** PRD online registration opened on 3/11/22 and there are currently almost 1600 people registered for 2022 CP Pool Membership. The Early-Bird specials on various pool memberships are active until 4/17/22. CP Bluefish Swim & Dive Team is out to an outstanding start at roughly 190 total registrants. There are over 200 people already registered throughout Swim & Dive Lessons, as well as Parent/Toddler Swim Classes. Mr. Moorhead remarked that it has been extremely encouraging to see how many people have already signed up to take part in the 2022 swim season. PRD Track & Running Programs, as well as US Sports Institute Spring & Summer programs, are currently open for registration, as well.
- **Financial Aid Update:** Staff recently met with our financial aid partners in the Princeton Public Schools to make sure we are all on the same page and that all FA programs have the information they need prior to the start of the summer season.
- **In-person Meeting Update:** Council meetings, as well as many boards and commission may start to meet in person again according to information that Mr. Moorhead has received. This is something for the Commission to keep on their radar.

## Old Business

- **Mercer at Play:** The sub-committee continues to explore the idea of an adaptive playground installation at Hilltop Park. Staff reached out to several colleagues around the state who have experience with the adaptive community and requested their feedback on the proposals. The sub-committee has requested some additional information and design updates from the prospective vendors. Once received, the plan is to meet again with the Subcommittee and continue the review process. Mr. Moorhead will also reach out to the Township Administrator and Engineer to schedule a meeting once we are further along with the process.

Dr. Cahill asked if there was an update regarding new swim/dive lesson programming to attract youth that might otherwise have received lessons via PRD Day Camp. Mr. Moorhead stated that staff are continuing to discuss options on how to replace such a program but that there is no easy answer to that question. Mr. Moorhead also reached out to Princeton Middle School and learned their indoor swimming pool is essentially booked with rental groups during the summer and that one of those groups does offer lessons. Mr. Moorhead reminded the Commission that CP Pool is in use starting at 6 am each day until closing at 8pm which makes finding time for additional programs challenging. There is also a delicate equilibrium which exists between the programs and user groups that must be taken into consideration, as well. Mr. Moorhead added that staff are also discussing adaptive aquatic programming options. Registration for public swim lessons is very strong, according to Mr. Marroli and several classes have already reached maximum capacity. Dr. Cahill commented that it sounds as though there may not be any room for additional programming at CP Pool during the summer. *Discussion was held.*

## New Business

- **CP Pool Community Room Reservation Fee:** Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the CP Pool Community Room Reservation Fee increase, seconded by Mr. Koontz and approved.
- **Plaque – CP Pool:** Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve installing a Plaque at CP Pool honoring Debbie Green, seconded by Ms. Germaine and approved.
- **Pool Membership Request – Police (Wheels Rodeo):** Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the Pool Membership Donation Request for the 2022 Wheels Rodeo, seconded by Ms. Rodgers and approved.
- **New Program – Volleyball Clinic:** Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the addition of Volleyball Clinics to the PRD Program Menu, seconded by Mr. Burt and approved.
- **CP Pool Concession Contract:** Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the CP Pool Concession Agreement with A’Mary’s House LLC by resolution, seconded by Dr. Cahill and approved.

## Communications

*Communications shared in agenda packet.*

## Approval of Minutes

No minutes to approve

## Approval of Bills

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

**Next Meeting Date**

*April 28, 2022*