

PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on June 23, 2022 remotely via Zoom.

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

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Corner House Student Board

No Corner House Student Board report. Mr. Moorhead stated this is typically the time of year where the CH board is not active, and a new board will form in September.

Activities Report

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

- **Girls' Volleyball Clinic:** 40 girls participated in the first-ever, PRD Girls' Volleyball Clinic, and PHS Volleyball Coaches did an excellent job running the program.
- **PRD Boys' Basketball Camp/US Sports Lacrosse Camp:** Both camps begin the week of June 27th.

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

- **Summer Programming Update:** Several programs and camps start up on June 27th. Many of our camps and programs are at full capacity.
- **School-to-Work Program:** Ms. Paulucci will have an individual with a disability from the School-to-Work program assisting her with several programs this summer.
- **Teen Travel Camp Update:** Ms. Paulucci is excited that Teen Travel Camp will be brought back this summer for 2 weeks for the first time since the summer of 2019.

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

- **Additional Saturday Swim Classes :** Three extra Saturday swim classes have been added during the 11am hour, a Level 1 class, a Level 2 class and a Parent/Toddler class. A total of 33 kids have been added into those classes. Mr. Marroli thanked PRD Director of Aquatics Mike Uchirin and the Customer Service Staff for creating and filling the classes with participants so efficiently.
- **PFC Update:** PFC hosted a State Playoff soccer game at Farmview Fields on 6/22/22 and won.
- **Field Prep:** Mr. Marroli thanked the maintenance staff for their efforts for prepping fields for the spring season. Most of the youth sports group seasons are finished, aside from several playoff games. The Maintenance staff has been doing a great job of making the fields look great for the games.

Director's Report

Mr. Moorhead echoed Mr. Marrolli's comments about the addition of swim classes for the summer of 2022. These classes were added in direct response due to the amount of participants on the waitlist for Saturday swim lessons, as well as the Rec Commission's recommendation to add more opportunities for Princeton youth to learn how to swim. Historically, swim lessons have been conducted from 9 am – 11 am on Saturday, and we will now also be running classes from 11 am – noon. The main pool will be split to allow both general public usage and swim lessons to coexist from 11am – 12pm. However the slide will likely need to be closed during the 11am-12pm hour as we will not have the available guards during that hour to open it.

Mrs. Germaine asked if Mr. Moorhead felt some of the potential 2022 PRD Day Campers were captured in Saturday swim lessons. Mr. Moorhead responded it is impossible to measure such a metric since we haven't run Day Camp since the summer of 2019 and we do not know who the camp kids are at this point. Dr. Nosker asked if there was a waiting list for swim lessons. Mr. Moorhead commented there is a waiting list for Saturday lessons, and in terms of pool programming and staff availability, we are at full capacity for being able to run weekend swim lessons. Mr. Moorhead commented the only way to add additional swim lessons right now would be pushing back the time the pool opens to the public. Ms. Pirone-Lambros asked if there is any room for evening swim classes. Dr. Cahill asked if there is any availability to operate swim classes on Sunday mornings. Mr. Moorhead explained evenings do not work well logistically speaking as the pool becomes more crowded. Regarding Sunday mornings, there have been scheduling issues and other logistical concerns. Mr. Moorhead stated he would speak with Aquatics Director Mike Uchrin and inquire on the history of attempting to run swim lessons on Sunday mornings. *Discussion was held.*

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- **Girls' Volleyball Clinic:** The PRD Girls' Volleyball Clinic was extremely successful and Mr. Moorhead thanked the Commission for allowing staff to move forward with the program.
- **PU Women's Basketball Update:** Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Petrucelli met with the PU Women's Basketball Team Coaching Staff in early June. PRD is looking forward to running some clinics with the Women's Basketball team in the future. Dr. Nosker expressed his hope that the PU Women's Basketball Team is able to help run some programming with PRD. *Discussion was held.*
- **Community Night Out Update:** PRD Staff met with several members of the Princeton Police Dept. to discuss the idea of hosting Community Night Out for the summer of 2022. The event will take place on Tuesday, August 2nd at the Municipal lot and Community Park Pool. Recreation's request for the event this time year is that all non-aquatic events and activities take place in the Municipal parking lot in order to cut down on the amount of noise and overall volume of people in the pool complex. PRD Staff feel this change will make the event much more manageable from a safety perspective.
- **Safe Streets Basketball Clinic Update:** Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Petrucelli met with John Bailey, who runs Safe Streets Community events, and confirmed multiple Safe Streets events will be held the week of 8/6 – 8/14. The free youth basketball clinics/events will be held on 8/13 and 8/14 at Community Park and PRD will provide equipment.
- **CP Pool Membership Update:** 2022 Pool registration is up to approximately 4600 total members, which has now eclipsed 2021 membership. Over 1300 residents have registered for a DAC. The PRD office has been open the first four weekends of the season, and will also be open the

weekend of 6/25. CP Pool opened on Memorial Day Weekend, which was incredible busy. Memorial Day '22 was the 2nd highest single-day patron total (over 2,000 people) since Memorial Day '12 (opening weekend of the new pool complex). Mr. Moorhead commented the warm weather played a big role in drawing such a large crowd to the pool. Staff did keep CP Pool closed for one Sunday in June due to poor weather.

- **Pre-season Pool Programs:** Prior to CP Pool opening full-time, PRD hosted and accommodated seven different school groups for weekday swim days. The schools included Community Park School, Princeton Middle School and Littlebrook School. Across all seven schools groups, over 1000 children utilized the pool complex. Registration for the Bluefish Swim & Dive Team is at an all-time high, with over 275 swim team members and over 75 dive team members. BF Team afternoon practices started on 6/6 and transitioned to morning practices as of 6/20. CP Pool hosted both a Lifeguard Training Course, as well as Fire and Emergency Services Training during the weekdays when the pool was operational, but not open to the general-public. In-service Lifeguard training will begin the weekend of 6/25 and run every other Sunday morning through early to mid-August.
- **Debbie Green Plaque:** PRD honored long-time staffer, Debbie Green, with a plaque, as well as some ornamental plants on 6/17, all on display at CP Pool.
- **Mary Moss Park Update:** The spray pad is currently open every day from 10 am – 7 pm. The pad was offline over Memorial Day Weekend due to an issue with the controller. The spray pad was back up and running the morning of 5/31 and has been operational ever since. Separately, Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Marroli met with Engineering Dept. staff on site to address loose grout from rock walls that is deteriorating in some spots. Engineering Dept. Staff recommended a concrete patch to address the loose areas of grout. They believe that drainage behind the wall and the freeze-thaw cycle in the winter may be to blame for the conditions.
- **Project Update:** This summer, a round-a-bout will be installed by the county at the entrance of Johnson Park School (General Johnson Dr) on Rosedale Road. This project is set to begin on 6/27. This will have an impact on access to Greenway Meadows as portions of Rosedale will be closed to thru traffic for the duration of the project.
- **Smoyer Pond Aerator Fountain:** A new aerator fountain was recently installed in the Smoyer Park pond. Thus far, the new aerator seems to be working very well, and greatly assists in cutting down on any potential algae blooming.
- **Pickleball Update:** Staff continues to research local pickleball court locations and information pertaining to the best way to provide pickleball for the general public. Mr. Moorhead is aiming to schedule the first pickleball sub-group meeting for late July. Dr. Cahill commented she'd like to meet before any decisions are made. Mr. Moorhead said he has no plans to make any decisions regarding the location of pickleball courts until the sub-group is able to meet and formally make a recommendation to the Recreation Commission. *Discussion was held.*
- **Potts Park Donation Request :** A resident who lives next to Potts Park reached out to the Municipality and offered to donate \$10,000 in park improvements. Mr. Moorhead, Ms. Pirone-Lambros and Cindy Taylor (Open Space Manager) met with the resident to discuss details of the donation. Staff have been obtaining quotes on various improvements that Mr. Moorhead will present to the resident when ready. Dr. Nosker asked about the location of the park. Mr. Moorhead commented the park is located at the corner of Erdman Ave and Tee-Ar Place and is a smaller, pocket park. *Discussion was held.*
- **Princeton Council Meeting Update :** Princeton Council is scheduled to resume in-person meetings in July in some type of hybrid form. Mr. Moorhead commented things may be slightly different for boards and commissions, and that the Recreation Commission is welcome to take a wait-and-see approach to how they conduct their meetings. Dr. Cahill asked how the Princeton Tennis

Programming is going for the season. Mr. Moorhead commented PTP has ended their Spring season, and that summer camps are slated to begin very shortly at the courts. Mr. Moorhead noted there is currently a good amount of weeknight activity at the tennis courts.

Old Business

- **Mercer at Play:** The sub-committee continued to meet to discuss the latest revisions to the proposed playground design. The Subcommittee, along with Ms. Pirone-Lambros, Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Marroli, also met with the Municipal Administrator & Municipal Engineer to present the latest version of the proposal and review all components of the MAP grant. From that meeting, it was determined that feedback on the proposed Hilltop Park improvements should be sought from the Campbell Woods Homeowner Association and Princeton Community Village Management Group. Mr. Moorhead, Ms. Pirone-Lambros and Mr. Marroli met with the Campbell Woods Homeowner Association 3-member board the morning of 6/23 and walked them through the proposed improvements to Hilltop Park. The board appeared very receptive and liked the idea of a newly designed playground, addition of batting cages and installation of LED field lights. Ms. Pirone-Lambros commented the board really liked the idea of various improvements to Hilltop Park and feel the improvements would truly benefit the community. Ms. Pirone-Lambros noted the board expressed a few traffic safety-related concerns they would like to see the Municipality follow-up on. Dr. Nosker asked if staff will meet with any additional groups. Mr. Moorhead commented the next meeting will include management staff from Princeton Community Village. *Discussion was held.*

Mr. Moorhead also reported he was contacted by the Mercer County Planning Department for a status report on spending the MAP grant funds. The County representative was very receptive of the update from Mr. Moorhead, and they also noted there are other towns besides Princeton that have yet to spend their approved grant funds.

New Business

- **Main Pool Motor (Back-up) – RT Reserve:** Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the purchase of a back-up main pool motor, seconded by Dr. Nosker and approved.
- **Lane Line Storage Reel:** Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the purchase of a lane line storage reel, seconded by Ms. Rodgers and approved.

Communications

Communications shared in agenda packet. Ms. Germaine asked about the bench drawings that were included in the Communications Section of the agenda packet. Mr. Moorhead stated that a resident reached out to Mr. Marroli and inquired about constructing two park benches to install at Grover Park for his Eagle Scout project. Dr. Nosker commented that he objects to the use of pinewood for the construction of the benches, and recommended a hard wood be utilized instead. Dr. Cahill mentioned she finds it difficult to locate scholarship information on the Recreation Dept. website. Ms. Paulucci stated that most financial aid applicants do not utilize the website, however, all financial aid information is located under the “Handouts” section of the website. Ms. Germaine asked about an update on dog parks. Ms. Pirone-Lambros stated that a small dog park will be installed at the new Wynn property on the corner of Terhune and Harrison Street which has yet to begin construction. *Discussion was held.*

Approval of Minutes

- **March 31, 2022:** Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the March 31, 2022 minutes, seconded by Ms. Rogers and approved.
- **April 28, 2022:** Ms. Germaine made a motion to approve the April 28, 2022 minutes, seconded by Ms. Pirone-Lambros and approved. Dr. Nosker, Dr. Cahill and Mr. Koontz all abstained.

Approval of Bills

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

Next Meeting Date

July 28, 2022