

## PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on August 27, 2020 remotely via Zoom.

- Present: Dr. Nosker, Ms. Germaine, Mr. Young, Mr. Koontz, Mr. Burt, Mr. Williamson & Ms. Rogers
- Also Present: Mr. Stentz, Mr. Moorhead, Ms. Paulucci, Mr. Parker & Ms. Caines,
- Absent: Dr. Frawley & Dr. Cahill

### Public Comment

- Mr. Stentz: Discussed communications provided to the staff, as well as a petition signed by pool members expressing their interest in having the pool season extended beyond Labor Day. Mr. Stentz stated that each summer, staff examines the feasibility of a pool season extension based on staffing, weather and finances. There are a number of pieces to this. He expects to have an answer by the middle of next week.
- Christine Cifelli: Thankful for pool opening this summer and would like to see an extension of the season.
- Bonnie Tivenan: Expressed her kudos to the pool staff. Sent email communications prior to the meeting. Spoke to the importance of the pool for the seniors in her social group. Raised question of moving over to Princeton Middle School pool for indoor swim.
- Tina Clement & Jim Firestone: Expressed their love of the pool and the socialization aspect, especially for the senior pool members. Mr. Firestone sent the poem previously mentioned in Communications. Both stated that the pool staff has been great.
- Kathryn Weidener: Pool staff has been wonderful and commends everyone. Appreciates any extension of pool season.
- Gordon Kurowski: Wants the pool to stay open thru September. His wife requires physical therapy and the pool has been a great place for her to exercise.

### Activities Report

- Mr. Stentz reported on the following:
  - We will quickly transition to additional outdoor programs in September/October with the idea that we will not have access to indoor sites for traditional winter programs.
- Ms. Paulucci reported on the following:
  - **Mindfulness:** These programs were a big success. Registration underway for both youth and teen classes in the fall.
  - **Summer Programming:** We learned a lot from running summer programs in a smaller capacity with regards to health and safety and working with participants and their parents. Ms. Paulucci was on site much more than she might have ordinarily been to assist with summer programming given the unique circumstances.
  - **Fall Programs:** We expect to run the following programs in the fall: Running Program, basketball & skateboard clinics
  - Ms. Paulucci believes it is important to provide some outdoor and exercise opportunities to youth that will be spending a lot of time online this fall for schooling.

- **Princeton Special Sports:** Working to develop an online Dance.
- Mr. Parker reported on the following:
  - **US Sports Institute:** Plans are underway to offer lacrosse and flag football programs in partnership with USSI this fall.
- Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:
  - **Swim/Dive Clinics:** Our Bluefish Coaching Staff ran a week-long Swim Clinic and a week-long Dive Clinic at CP Pool. Both sessions were completely full.
  - **US Sports Institute:** We are running half-day programs the last 3 weeks in August and registration has been quite strong.

### Director's Report

- Mr. Stentz reported on the following:
  - Expressed pride in the staff for their ability to pull off programming safely and effectively during these difficult times on rather short notice. We received a lot of great feedback from the public for providing these opportunities to exercise and gain social/mental health benefits during an otherwise difficult period. Mr. Stentz believes we are an essential service and that we proved it this summer.
  - **Covid-Ambassador:** Dr. Nosker asked Mr. Parker about his experience as the Covid-Ambassador at the pool. *Discussion was held.* Mr. Stentz commented on pool patrons' overall compliance with wearing masks and social distancing.
  - **Pool Attendance:** Mr. Stentz provided documentation on the average swim block attendance thru 8/23. He remarked that we are not seeing overwhelming numbers in terms of attendance and the overall number of swim sessions for which we've reached capacity has been rather low.
  - **Pool Financial status:** We are down roughly \$22K on public swim blocks thus far. On the flip side, aquatics programs are in the black by about \$21K. Unfortunately, we've had many days when we don't even break 100 people in a public swim block, a number which we've determined to be our approximate break-even point for staffing expenses. Pool overhead continues to add up and make it very difficult to make ends meet in a shorter pool season.
  - **Financial Shortfall:** Dr. Nosker inquired as to what will happen should there be a substantial shortfall regarding the municipality and our annual \$74K payment. *Discussion was held.* Mr. Koontz inquired about transfers from the Reserve Account to cover losses. Mr. Williamson stated that the topic of a financial shortfall for 2020 CP Pool operations had been discussed at a prior council meeting.
  - Mr. Young inquired as to whether going to a 1 block system has been considered. *Discussion was held.*
  - Municipal offices remain closed to the public and have been since March.
  - PRD has had over 3,000 patrons walk thru our doors since July.
  - **Fall After School Programming:** The YMCA and Princeton Public Schools are working to provide after-school opportunities for local youth. PRD has been approached about using the Pool Community Room. Mr. Stentz remains steadfast that without the appropriate staffing, it would be a major liability for the department and municipality to allow outside groups to use that area.

- **Tax Supported Capital Budget:** The budget has yet to be approved or even put in front of council. The budget contains multiple park related projects, including several that are safety related, that we cannot act on until that budget is passed.
- **Executive Director Performance Review:** Mr. Stentz has asked Mr. Young and Dr. Frawley to conduct his performance review for 2020.

### Old Business

- **Hilltop Park Project:** Staff has asked Suburban Consulting Engineers (SCE) to consider the viability of additional parking space. Mr. Moorhead met on site recently with Campbell Woods resident and park neighbor, Ed Madsen to discuss his concerns about the project. SCE owes us a presentation when we are ready and to lead a public meeting.

### New Business

- **Registration Fee: Fall 2020 Track Program:**
  - Mr. Koontz inquired as to whether there might be interest in an adult running club. *Discussion was held.*
    - **Mr. Koontz moved the registration fee for the Fall 2020 Track Program, seconded by Mr. Burt and unanimously approved.**
- **Supplemental Engineering Concepts @Hilltop Park**
  - Preliminary design work to turf the baseball infield at Hilltop. The proposal from SCE was \$10,600. Sub-committee was in favor of pushing this forward to council. *Discussion was held.*
    - **Mr. Koontz made a motion to recommend this contract for Council consideration, seconded by Dr. Nosker and unanimously approved.**

### Communications

*Communications shared in agenda packet*

Mr. Stentz thanked Council Liaison, Mr. Williamson for his assistance on several matters this summer, including the Hilltop Project and a recent inquiry from the Civil Rights Commission.

### Approval of Minutes

- June 18 Minutes:
  - **Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the June 18 minutes, seconded by Dr. Nosker and approved.**
- June 24 minutes:
  - **Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the June 24 minutes, seconded by Ms. Rogers and approved.**
- July 23 minutes:
  - **Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the July 23 minutes with 1 correction as noted by Dr. Nosker, seconded by Dr. Nosker and approved. Mr. Young, Ms. Germaine and Mr. Burt abstained.**

### Approval of Bills

- ***Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Ms. Rogers and approved.***

Next Meeting Date  
*October 8, 2020*