

RECREATION BOARD

June 27, 2013

A meeting of the Recreation Board of Princeton was held on June 27, 2013 in the Princeton Recreation Department (PRD) lower level Conference Room, 380 Witherspoon Street.

Present: Ms. Rogers, Ms. Germaine, Mr. Zucosky, Ms. Olivares-Weber, Dr. Nosker, Dr. Cahill & Ms. Butler

Also present: Mr. Stentz, Mr. Moorhead, Ms. Herlihy & Mr. Bruschi

Absent: Mr. Koontz, Dr. Frawley, Ms. Asagra Stanley & Mr. Marroli

Activities:

Ms. Herlihy reported on the following activities:

- Most PRD summer programs started this week, including Day Camp, Master Swim, Bluefish Swim & Dive Team, Swim/Dive Lessons, Parent/Toddler Program & three adult aquatics programs.
- Master Swim program now has 80 + participants which is the most ever for summer session.
- Lifeguard in-service training is scheduled for 6/30, 7/14 & 7/28.

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following activities:

- Men's summer basketball is currently halfway thru the regular season. 10 teams are in the league this season. Playoffs start on 7/22 and will run for 2 weeks. 2013 marks the 25th Anniversary of the league.
- Men's Lacrosse program is experiencing low registration. There are 12 registrants, and the nightly average attendance is between 8-12 (including drop-in players). Unless more people sign up the program will lose money for 2013. Dr. Nosker asked about the dip in registration and discussion was held. Mr. Stentz and Mr. Moorhead explained the growth of private, for-profit lacrosse clubs over the last eight-ten years and that the summer tournament circuit has grown exponentially. This has greatly affected the PRD program, which is very recreational and 'drop-in' in nature.
- CP Fields South: Water has been gathering near storage sheds between field #3 & field #4. A concrete slab was put in several years ago intending to be batting cages, and between the slab & the path, water has built up and leaked into ball fields. Bob Killian from the Engineering Dept. has been assisting Recreation Dept. with the issue and working to find a solution. It is Mr. Killian's belief that the underground drainage system is not working, therefore water is pooling up. There have been multiple neighborhood complaints about this due to the standing water, which can be a breeding ground for mosquitos. Mr. Killian and Mr. Moorhead are working as fast as possible to find a reasonable solution.

Mr. Stentz reported on the following activities from Mr. Marroli:

- The final Princeton Special Sports events were a BBQ/Dance at CP Pool and a BBQ cookout at CP South.
- Travel Camp (8 weeks), Basketball Camps (4 weeks) & Day Camp (8 weeks) all started on 6/24/13.
- Update from Princeton Public Schools in regards to PHS & JW Gyms: As of 7/1, PHS gyms will be offline and all PRD activities will be shifted to John Witherspoon Middle School. This shift is only available until 7/29, where the middle school will then be offline and we will not have a gym for any of our programs after 7/29. Our outdoor basketball programs run through Aug. 2 and the school sites are typically where we go when it rains. Staff will work to find another indoor location for a rain-site.

Directors Report

Mr. Stentz reported on the following:

- On 5/6/13 Vikki Caines supervised the Philadelphia Mural bus trip, which was sold out.
- On 6/8/13 & 6/9/13 the Stone Soup Circus hosted two shows at the CP North Amphitheatre.

- Ms. Herlihy recently passed the National Certified Playground Inspector Course, which makes her the only certified inspector on the municipal staff.
- Mayor Lempert has created a Parks Task Force, which Dr. Nosker, Ms. Butler & Mr. Stentz have all been appointed to. The task force has only met once and the next meeting is on July 10th. Conversation ensued in regards to what the first meeting of the task force consisted of and the idea of a unified “parks and recreation” department.
- 2013 CP Pool membership: on 6/27/12 we had 4,740 members; today we have 5,141. The 2012 total membership was 5,240.
- Financial Aid Update: Currently we have 125 financial aid files/requests. Last year, we had 116. PRD has received funding from a number of our community partners to help subsidize families that are in need: \$4,000 from Community House @ Princeton University, \$3000 from the PBA # 387, \$5000 from Princeton Community Housing, and very active partnerships with the Joe Fund from Littlebrook School which will help about 12 families and the Koko fund at Johnson Park School which will help close to 20 families.
- On 6/26/13, Ms. Stockton, Mr. Stentz & Mr. Kiser met with Hall Building and reached a tentative closeout agreement on a project. Details to follow once finalized.
- There have been two ‘letters to the editor’ about the desire for a dog park recently, as well as a local teenager who presented the idea during the public comment session at a recent Council meeting. Mr. Stentz reports that there is a new, 5-acre dog park scheduled to open in Fall 2013 at Rosedale Park (part of Mercer County Park System) in Lawrence Township. Mr. Stentz also reported that Animal Control Officer Mark Johnson has suggested the alternative of designating some “off-leash” areas around town where dogs were able to be off their leashes at certain points during the day. Mr. Stentz commented that with all of the other capital projects that have been on the radar of the Board/Staff in the recent past and what is being discussed for the near future, a dog-park has never been a ‘front-burner’ priority. Discussion was held.
- Notable upcoming PRD events:
 - July 26: Official Celebration of Men’s Summer League 25th Anniversary
 - July 29: PRD Family Golf Outing at Mercer Oaks Golf Course
 - August 6th: Community Night Out at CP Pool from 5 – 8 pm
 - August 14th: At Noon, is the Annual Day Camp Cardboard Canoe Race at CP Pool
 - August 25th: Kid’s Splash & Dash Aquathon

Old Business

Mercer County At-Play Grant

- Background Statement: In 2006 PRD and the two municipalities were awarded a Mercer County At-Play grant of approx. \$750,000 from Mercer County to install a turf field. The municipalities matching funds left the total funding at approx. 1.1 million dollars. The initial application to the County was to have a natural grass field converted to artificial turf at Greenway Meadows. Upon learning of potential environmental hurdles at Greenway Meadows due to its proximity to Stony Brook, the Board/Staff considered switching the site to Barbara Smoyer Park. After hearing some degree of concern from some neighbors of Barbara Smoyer Park the Board/Staff decided to re-apply to Mercer County (2010) and propose installation of turf at Farmview Fields. At that time the turf project took a back seat to the CP Pool project and was put on hold indefinitely.
- Mr. Bob Bruschi, Town Administrator reports that Mercer County is anxious to close out the grant soon. Mr. Bruschi is not convinced that we would be able to get a turf field project completed in a timeframe that Mercer County will approve of, and that the consensus to build the turf field may be too challenging to build at this time. Mr. Bruschi & Mr. Stentz both feel that renovating the aquatic piece of Mary Moss Park (MMP) is the best option for the grant money at this time and that the project could garner tremendous support. This project would entail removing the concrete wading pool at MMP and replacing it with a ‘sprayground’ or ‘splashpad’. Discussion was held.
- Mr. Bruschi & Mr. Stentz agreed that the renovation costs for MMP would not consume the entire amount of funding that is available. Conversation ensued about what the balance of the funds could be potentially used for and how to move forward with the renovation project. Mr. Stentz commented that if funding were available through the Grant, post-MMP renovation, he would like to see a

complete feasibility study performed on the Community Park South Park, noting that the park is one of our oldest and most in need of a renovation.

- o Mr. Zucosky made a motion to support the renovation of the Mary Moss Park pool. Dr. Cahill seconded the motion and all approved except for Dr. Nosker, who abstained.

Communications (sent out via email to board)

- Deborah Norcross of Princeton Special Sports (PSS) thanking Joe Marroli for his help with PSS events in 2012/13.
- Financial Aid communications for community partners: Littlebrook School Joe Fund and Princeton Community Housing.
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Public Comment

No Public Comment

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Zucosky made the motion to approve the May 2013 Board meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Olivares-Weber, and approved. Dr. Nosker & Dr. Cahill abstained.

New Business

Non-Affiliated Group Rental Fees for CP Pool

- Mr. Moorhead proposed the following pool rental rates for non-affiliated swim clubs that want to rent space at CP Pool during hours that PRD activities are not in session:
 - o \$60 per hour for dive well
 - o \$100 per hour for main pool
- Discussion was held.
- *Dr. Nosker made the motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Rogers and unanimously approved.*

Expanding 2013 Pool Season to include two (2) additional weekends beyond Labor Day

- Mr. Stentz proposed that CP Pool extend the summer season for two (2) additional weekends beyond Labor Day; Sept. 7 & 8 and Sept. 15 & 16. Mr. Stentz explained that this has been done in past years and depending on the weather, it has produced both good and bad attendance. In 2012 the four (4) additional days of operation operated at a loss of \$2,923 because the temperatures were in the high 70's.
 - o Discussion was held about the possibility of also keeping the pool open during the week of Sept. 3-5 because Princeton Public Schools do not begin school until the following week. Staff explained the difficulty of staffing the pool at that time because college-age lifeguards have gone back to school and many of the high school guards are involved in pre-season fall sports. It was agreed that Staff would continue to consider the option and work closely with the Aquatics Director to get a sense of available staff.
- *Dr. Nosker made the motion to approve two (2) additional weekends of operation at CP Pool, seconded by Dr. Cahill and unanimously approved.*

Approval of Bills

Mr. Zucosky made the motion to approve the bills, seconded by Ms. Rogers and unanimously approved.

Next Meeting Date

July 25, 2013

Adjournment