

PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on January 26, 2023, in the Princeton Community Room, 400 Witherspoon Street.

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

Appointment of Chair & Vice-Chair

Mr. Moorhead announced the first order of business for the evening is to appoint a new Chair and asked the Commission members for nominations.

Dr. Nosker nominated Mr. Koontz to be the new Chair. Seconded by Dr. Frawley and unanimously approved.

Mr. Moorhead publicly thanked Mr. Young for serving as Commission Chair for the past four years. Mr. Koontz thanked the Commission for the nomination of Chair and asked for nominations for a Vice-Chair.

Ms. Germaine nominated Dr. Nosker to be Vice-Chair of the Commission, seconded by Dr. Cahill, and unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Junglien Chen, Princeton Resident, asked if the Commission would consider video recording all Commission meetings and making the recordings accessible on YouTube, or the Municipality's website. Mr. Moorhead responded that the audio from all Commission meetings is recorded, but he would need to speak with the IT Department to find out if video recording Rec Commission meetings is possible. Mr. Chen asked if the audio recordings from meetings are currently accessible to the public. Mr. Moorhead commented that the audio recordings are not publicly posted on the Municipality's website but are public information. *Discussion was held.*

Corner House Student Board

No Corner House Student Board report

Activities Report

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

- **Dillon Youth Basketball Update:** Mr. Petrucelli stated that Dillon Basketball is now two weeks into the season and over 200 kids have registered for the program, which is an increase of over 50 participants from 2022. There will be two Dillon League Nights, 2/17/23 & 2/24/23, that will be held at Jadwin Gym where all Dillon participants will receive free admission to a Princeton University Basketball Game, as well as giveaways and discounted admission for family members. Dr. Nosker asked if Dillon participants would be able to attend without a ticket. Mr. Petrucelli responded that tickets will be required to attend the games. Dr. Nosker asked if there were enough coaches to coach every available team. Mr. Petrucelli responded he will have enough volunteer coaches for all teams, made up of mainly high school students along with a few college students.

- **Platform Tennis Update:** Men's and Women's Platform Tennis leagues are approximately half-way through their seasons. A contractor will be coming out to inspect the condition of the courts soon.
- **Girl's Empowerment Program:** 11 participants have registered for the program, which started on 1/11/23. The attendance has been excellent for the first few weeks of the program.
- **Spring/Summer Update:** US Sports Spring Break Camp is now open for registration. Mr. Petrucelli has contacted all former summer camp staff to inquire on their interest in working summer camps in 2023. Mr. Petrucelli also stated employment applications for all camps are now active, and asked the Commission to help spread the word. Dr. Cahill asked what the age requirement is to be employed as a camp counselor. Mr. Petrucelli stated that 15 years old is the minimum age to be employed as a counselor. Mr. Koontz stated he typically gets a good response when he shares information from PRD's Facebook page and asked staff to continue sharing employment posts. Ms. Germaine asked if there is any concern about training new staff. Mr. Petrucelli responded he hopes to have some former staff return and noted there will be a staff orientation and training system in place for all counselors. Ms. Pirone Lambros asked how many Day Camp counselors need to be hired for this summer. Mr. Petrucelli responded it depends on the number of individuals who register for the camp. Dr. Cahill suggested it may be worthwhile to hire camp counselors in 1-week increments. *Discussion was held.*

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

- **Employment Update:** Mr. Marroli stated staff are starting to plan for summer and hope to recruit as many part-time summer staff as possible.
- **Adaptive Yoga Update:** Kids Adaptive Yoga is up to seven participants, while Adult/Teen Adaptive Yoga has ten participants registered. Yoga will continue for the next several weeks. Mr. Marroli also commented he is exploring the idea of PRD offering Adaptive Yoga in the summer. Mr. Koontz asked for a hiring update on the vacant Program Supervisor position. Mr. Moorhead responded that seven total applications were received, which is very low compared to prior years. Out of seven total applicants, five individuals were interviewed, and the interview group reached a consensus on a preferred candidate. Negotiations are currently ongoing with that individual, and nothing has been finalized. Mr. Petrucelli and Mr. Marroli have taken up extra programming duties in the absence of a 2nd Program Supervisor, and additional Adaptive programs are currently being offered, such as an Adaptive Basketball Clinic that will be held on 2/9/23. *Discussion was held.*

Director's Report

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- **Dillon Youth Basketball Update:** The logistical challenges for running the Dillon Youth Basketball program have increased greatly over the past few seasons. Hun has been a great 2nd option and the Athletic Complex there provides flexibility, as well as parking near the facility. One issue that limits the program is that the Hun School gym only has three usable courts, which limits how many games can be played at one time. Another challenge is the Princeton University academic calendar has changed in recent years which makes it very difficult for any University students to

volunteer their time to coach. Mr. Moorhead stated he does hope the program is able to return to Princeton University in the future. Dr. Nosker asked how much PRD is paying for usage of the Hun School Gym. Mr. Moorhead stated the 2022 season was free, and for the 2023 season, PRD is paying Hun \$65 per hour for use of the entire gym, which is still an excellent deal. *Discussion was held.*

- **Maintenance Staff Updates:** Due to a mild winter, Maintenance staff have been able to complete various projects, such as painting offices and restrooms, adding infield mix and edging fields, branch and brush trimming and pickup, and split rail fence repair. The Maintenance Staff is still currently down one full-time staffer, who continues to be out on medical leave.
- **Municipal Complex Parking Lot:** 8 EV parking spots will be added to the Municipal Complex parking lot along Witherspoon St. The project will take roughly 3 weeks to complete. This will have an impact on pool parking during the summer.
- **Temporary Dog Park Update:** The grand opening of the temporary dog park at CP South is scheduled for 2/5/23 at 11 am. Fencing has been installed, and there is both a large and a small dog area. Any emergency or safety issues will be handled by Police dispatch, and more general concerns will be referred to See-Click-Fix. Ms. Pirone Lambros invited the entire Commission to attend. Dr. Frawley asked if any data tracking will be completed. Mr. Moorhead stated the Open Space Manager is in charge of logging and tracking usage and data for the dog park. Mr. Moorhead also stated the off-leash dog hours program at Quarry Park has been extended by Council.
- **Mercer-at-Play Grant Update:** Several grant documents were recently signed by the Mayor and Municipal Clerk and returned to the County as part of their approval process. Currently, Mr. Moorhead does not have a date for when the amended grant documents will appear on a County Commissioners' meeting agenda. As soon as the county approval happens, the municipality can move forward with approving contracts to begin the various items on the Hilltop Park Improvement list. Ms. Germaine asked if there are plans to have a fence built around the new Adaptive Playground at Hilltop Park. Mr. Moorhead responded that the plan is to have a fence built that will completely enclose the playground, and the fence will likely be added after the playground is built.
- **CP South Master Plan RFP Update:** A kickoff meeting with the project consultants will be held on 2/7/23 with the CP South Design Steering Committee. The committee will include representation from Recreation Staff, the Recreation Commission, Engineering Department, Health, Human Services, Affordable Housing and Planning Departments, as well as representatives from the Environmental Commission, Witherspoon-Jackson Neighborhood, Princeton Public Schools, and Princeton Council. The goal of the meeting is to hash out the project expectations, project timeline, housekeeping items, involvement of stake holder groups, public meeting schedule, as well as other items. Ms. Pirone Lambros mentioned members of the Steering Committee were selected who would be able to view the design of the new park in a holistic manner without bias towards any one stakeholder group or park element.
- **Pickleball Update:** The pickleball sub-committee has a meeting scheduled on 1/30/23 with members of Princeton Tennis Program to discuss the final year of their current lease agreement for CP Tennis Courts. The current lease grants PTP access to all 15 tennis courts from April to October. The Commission has until August 29, 2023 to notify PTP if they choose not to roll over the existing contract for another 3-year term. Dr. Cahill mentioned the Pickleball Courts at CP South were introduced for a "trial period", and thus far, the feedback has been generally positive. Dr. Cahill hopes PTP is open to having Pickleball play continue to be an option for the public in '23 along with tennis programming. *Discussion was held.*

- **Emergency Preparedness Table-top Exercise:** Mr. Moorhead attended an Emergency Preparedness Table-top Exercise on 1/26/23 at the Suzanne Patterson Center with PRD Maintenance Foreman Gerry McFarlan. Representatives from Police, Fire and Emergency, Engineering, Health and Human Services, Finance and several other departments attended the exercise, which was set up to walk attendees through various emergency situations and scenarios and how to handle them. Mr. Moorhead found the exercise beneficial.
- **Summer Programming Schedule (Draft)** – Mr. Moorhead distributed a draft of what the summer programming schedule will look like for 2023. Mr. Moorhead is very excited about the schedule, which is full of programs, both new and old, with returning programs like PRD Day Camp as well as additional weeks of Teen Travel Camp. Mr. Koontz asked how many of the programs on the schedule haven't been run since the COVID pandemic. Mr. Moorhead responded that PRD Day Camp hasn't been run since pre-COVID, but all other programs have been run either during COVID or after. *Discussion was held.*

Old Business

No Old Business.

New Business

- a) **2023 Schedule of Meetings:** Mr. Young made a motion to approve the 2023 Commission Meeting Schedule, seconded by Mr. Burt and approved.
- b) **End of Year Transfers:** Dr. Cahill made a motion to approve the End of Year Transfers, seconded by Ms. Germaine and approved.
- c) **2023 RT Reserve Projects:** Mr. Burt made a motion to approve the 2023 RT Reserve Projects, seconded by Mr. Young and approved.
- d) **CP Pool Concession Contract:** This item was tabled until February. Legal council is currently reviewing the contract. Mr. Moorhead noted the feedback on the CP Pool Concessionaire from 2022 was on the whole quite positive, and the recommendation from Staff will be to roll over the contract with the current concessionaire for another year.

Communications

Communications were shared in the agenda packet.

Approval of Minutes

- **December 1, 2022:** Mr. Nosker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Burt and approved. Mr. Young abstained.
- **December 15, 2022:** Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Pirone Lambros and approved. Mr. Young and Mr. Burt abstained.

Approval of Bills

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

Next Meeting Date

February 23, 2023