

## **PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS**

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on March 23, 2023, in the Princeton Community Room, 400 Witherspoon Street.

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

### **Adequate Notice**

#### **Public Comment**

The pickleball portion of the Director's Report was brought forward to the top of the meeting because there were members of the public in attendance to discuss this topic with the Commission. Mr. Moorhead explained the timeline for the addition of pickleball courts to the existing Community Park South tennis courts, and the trial period for pickleball that followed, after the Princeton Tennis Program season had ended. Presently, the Municipality has leased the operation of the tennis courts to PTP since 2012, and the most-recent three-year lease is up at the end of 2023. This is a binding agreement, so creating a carveout for pickleball this year would be at the discretion of PTP to allow it. The Recreation Commission's pickleball subcommittee had offseason negotiations with PTP about pickleball, and PTP was uninterested in changing the terms of the agreement. One possible solution would be to create a pickleball court on one side of the tennis wall, but the Commission would need to further discuss that possibility.

Mr. Chen (Princeton Resident) asked to distribute a document to members of the Commission. This document outlined his plan to utilize an entrance management system to have PTP and pickleball coexist this summer.

Mr. Blair (Non-Resident) stated that an app, called TeamReach, is being utilized by the local pickleball community to find playing partners, and to organize games. As of the time of the meeting, 116 people have joined the TeamReach group for Princeton pickleball.

Mr. Friedman (Princeton Resident) asked if he could go to play tennis at the CP South tennis courts during the time of the year when PTP is operating the courts. Mr. Moorhead responded that PTP supervises the courts most of the time, and that when they are monitoring them, participants must be PTP members to utilize the courts. Ms. Kaplan asked if PTP's operation of the courts was for the entire day, or if there was the possibility of times during the day when pickleball could be played. Mr. Moorhead said that there was no distinction about time of day in the contract, and that PTP maintained operation of the courts between mid-April and mid-October. Ms. Friedman asked if there were other instances where public facilities were leased out to outside organizations, and then restricted access to the public. Mr. Moorhead responded that the public still maintained access to the courts through a membership with PTP or drop-in fees. In addition, when the town previously managed the programming at the courts prior to 2012, there were fees to use the courts, as well. Mr. Moorhead also reminded everyone that the courts are available first come first served at no charge for 6 months out of the year (mid-October to mid-April).

The agreement with PTP and PRD predated Mr. Moorhead, but he explained that the Recreation Department did not have the resources and manpower to run a complete tennis program. As a result, the Department sought to enter into an agreement with an outside entity that could provide the expertise and programming needed, thus a deal with Princeton Tennis Program was reached starting in 2012. Mr. Moorhead continued that the courts are not locked, so on occasions when PTP is not there to monitor them, then they are available for open use. Ms. Kaplan asked if the basketball courts at Quarry and Grover Park could be repurposed as pickleball courts. Mr. Moorhead responded that Grover Park's basketball courts do get used for basketball. Mr. Koontz stated that the basketball court at Quarry Park is underutilized, but is too close to homes for pickleball. *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. Patrick reported on the following:

- Mr. Patrick reiterated all activities listed in the agenda packet and provided no new updates.

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

- **Adaptive Programming:** Mr. Patrick has taken over the adaptive programming and has started planning the next sessions of the adaptive yoga program. The staff is exploring the possibility of offering an adaptive yoga camp in the summer as well. Programs like adaptive track and platform tennis are being explored for the summer, but staff still has to confirm dates and instructors for those programs. The next adaptive dance will take place at Princeton Middle School on 4/14/23, the Formal Prom will take place at the Suzanne Patterson Building on 5/12/23, and the adaptive barbecue will take place at CP Pool on 6/2/23.
- **Day Camp Staffing:** 19 people have applied to be Day Camp group supervisors and/or counselors. Of those 19 applicants, 15 have been interviewed and 4 cancelled their interviews. Of the 15 interviewed, 12 have been offered jobs so far. Ms. Germaine asked how many staff would be needed to run Day Camp this year. Mr. Marrolli responded that the staffing requirements are contingent upon the number of participants enrolled in Camp. *Discussion was held.*
- **Other Seasonal Staffing:** Staff have received 6 lifeguarding applications, which have been forwarded to the Aquatics Coordinator, Mr. Uchrin, to handle. 8 applications have been received for part-time maintenance positions, 4 have been interviewed, and 2 offers were extended. 1 has been hired so far. 2 applications were received for Teen Travel Camp counselor positions. Dr. Nosker asked how many counselors were needed for that camp. Mr. Marrolli responded that 4 were needed for that Camp. *Discussion was held.*

### Director's Report

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- **Update on new staff members (Evan Patrick):** Mr. Petrucelli and Mr. Marroli have been working with Mr. Patrick to get him acclimated to the new position. The three of them have been working to staff Day Camp for the summer.
- **Recreation Assistant Vacancy Update:** 17 applied for the Recreation Assistant vacancy. The Department reached out to 8 of the applicants for first-round interviews. 6 responded to those interview requests, and Mr. Marroli has been spearheading those efforts to interview. After the first-round interviews, 4 were asked back for second-round interviews. 1 did not respond to requests for a second interview, but 3 of the candidates accepted second-round interviews. Those interviews will be taking place in the next few weeks.
- **Summer Program Registration Update:** Registration for all summer programs and camps opened on 3/3/23. The early-bird rates will remain in effect through 4/30/23 for all pool membership options, Day Camp and Teen Travel Camp. 1,300 pool members are currently registered for the summer season.
- **Financial Aid Partners Meeting Update:** PRD Staff met with financial aid partners (Princeton Children's Fund, KOKO and JOE Fund) about summer camps. Those funds identify students in their respective schools who would be good candidates to receive subsidized camp enrollment. A similar meeting was held with Academic Success Today (AST) as well, to identify candidates that might be interested in enrolling in Teen Travel Camp.
- **Municipality's Master Plan Update:** The Municipality has been working on its master plan, and sought input from PRD. Mr. Koontz provided input on behalf of the Commission, while Mr. Moorhead was joined by Dr. Nosker and Mr. Marroli in meeting with the consultants for the plan. The meeting with the consultants was believed to be positive.
- **Park Updates:** The restrooms at various parks are being opened soon, as the youth sports organizations are resuming operations after the winter. A vehicle hit the CP South fence along Route 206. Public Works have put up a temporary fence until a permanent fence replacement can be installed. There is a hearing on 4/3/23 about the Municipal Building, as it may have been built on dedicated park land. As a result, the land must be diverted, so the Municipality will be meeting to discuss the potential acquisition of land in Princeton as part of that diversionary process. A CP South Master Plan open house will be held on 3/30/23. It will take place from 4-7pm, and the public will have a chance to leave input on the various schematic signboards provided by the consultants. The second public meeting is slated for 6/8/23.
- **Mercer-at-Play Update:** The contracts for the playground equipment, surfacing for the playground and the batting cage are all on the Council's agenda for approval at its meeting on 3/27/23.

### Old Business

- **CP Pool Chlorine Contract:** The deadline for the chlorine bid is Friday, 3/31/23. The Staff will work through those submissions and have the contract for the Commission to approve at the 4/27/23 meeting. The previous contract was rolled over from 2021 into 2022, so the price of chlorine remained low. However, market prices have increased since then, so the cost of chlorine delivery to CP Pool is going to be more costly in 2023.
- **Third-Party Contractors/Outside Program Providers:** The Staff is looking at ways to add to the current program offerings and want to explore the possibility of bringing in outside contractors to run specialized programming. The Department is looking at partnering with Mad Science to offer science-based summer camp programming. Staff sought approval from the Commission to work with these outside groups, in cases where in-house programming cannot be done. The Commission is receptive to having such programming proposals brought to them for approval.

- **Grover Park and Princeton Shopping Center:** As part of the redevelopment agreement by Princeton Shopping Center, Avalon Bay is going to give the Municipality a \$1.2 million contribution, earmarked for Grover Park improvements. Ms. Germaine asked if Avalon Bay was planning to build a playground as well. Ms. Pirone Lambros responded that a linear park and dog park is being planned where Terhune Road meets Harrison Street. *Discussion was held.*
- **Barbara Boggs Sigmund Park:** Ms. Germaine remarked that there were a lot of toys at the park that are old and likely unsafe for children to continue playing with. Also, the service gate tends to remain open, which is counterintuitive to enclosing the space with the surrounding fence. There is a structure at the park as well, known as Polly's Folly, that should be removed or restored because the building materials are falling apart and/or in disrepair. Mr. Moorhead said that the Staff would look into these matters and determine the appropriate course of action. *Discussion was held.*

### New Business

- a) **Pool Membership Request – Wheels Rodeo:** The Police Department has requested that a pool membership be donated as a giveaway at the Wheels Rodeo event which promotes bicycle safety. The Commission has approved this request for previous iterations of the Police Department's event, so the same has been requested on this occasion as well. *Discussion was held. Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the pool membership request for the Police Department's Wheels Rodeo Event, seconded by Ms. Rogers and approved.*

### Communications

Communications were shared in the agenda packet.

### Approval of Minutes

- There were no minutes to approve. The 1/26/23 minutes were tabled until the April meeting.

### Approval of Bills

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

### Next Meeting Date

*April 27, 2023*