

PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on May 16, 2023, in the Princeton Community Room, 400 Witherspoon Street.

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

Adequate Notice

Presentation: CP South Concept Design Drafts – Suburban Consulting Engineers

Joseph Perello, of Suburban Consulting Engineers, came to present the concept plans for the CP South Master Plan project to the Recreation Commission. Four concepts were presented to the Commission and all 4 concepts will be presented at the next public engagement meeting on 6/8/23.

Concept #1

The first concept would preserve as many of the current CP South elements as possible, while still accommodating the feedback from the first public meeting and the various stakeholder groups. During the presentation of this first concept, Mr. Koontz asked if the softball fields would be fenced in or not. Mr. Perello responded that there was an option to leave the fields without fences or to include permanent fence structures, but that the presence of a fence would not interfere with other field space or facilities. Ms. Germaine asked if two restroom facilities were needed, given the cost to install them. Mr. Perello responded that one of those restrooms would be optional, given the size of the park and relative accessibility to get to it from any part of the park. Dr. Nosker asked about the surface that would be proposed for the dog parks. Mr. Perello responded that pea gravel would be recommended, as it would stand up far better than natural grass to heavy foot traffic and inclement weather.

Concept #2

The second concept would move the tennis courts along Route 206, take out the jughandle on Route 206 to create additional parking, and include a recreation building with multi-purpose courts inside of it. During the presentation of this second concept, Dr. Frawley raised concerns about the feasibility of removing the jughandle on Route 206. Mr. Perello agreed that such a project would take a while to gain approval from the New Jersey Department of Transportation, which could delay the project. Additionally, Ms. Pirone Lambros stated that the future possibility exists that the Public Works Yard on John Street could be relocated thus freeing up additional space adjacent to the park. This could be a potential site for future recreation expansion and has been mentioned as a possible location for an indoor recreation facility.

Concept #3

The third concept would see the tennis courts split into two, six-court packages set on a dual plane. The parking lot near John Street would be preserved, but no new additional parking would be included. No questions were raised about this concept.

Concept #4

The fourth concept would see the tennis, platform tennis and pickleball courts all lined up along Route 206. The parking lot near John Street would be removed, but a smaller lot could be preserved or constructed in that area of the park. A new parking lot would be built in the southwest corner of the park, with an entrance off Route 206 near Race Street. Dr. Frawley raised the point that making a left into this new parking lot would prove difficult from Route 206.

Public Comment

No public comment.

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:

- **Mad Science Camp Update:** Mr. Patrick stated that the Mad Science Camp that was approved on 4/27/23 has already sold out, and an additional session has been added to accommodate the additional demand for the program.
- **Adaptive BBQ Update:** Mr. Patrick stated that the Adaptive BBQ will take place at CP Pool on 6/2/23 from 6:30-9pm.

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

- **Adaptive Formal Update:** Mr. Marroli stated that he and Mr. Patrick attended the Adaptive Formal Dance on 5/12/23. The event was a success, and everyone in attendance had a good time.
- **Youth Sports Groups Update:** Mr. Marroli stated that at the request of Dr. Nosker, he sent out a questionnaire to the various youth sports groups to collect information on program participation and financial aid. Mr. Marroli set a deadline of 6/2/23 for those responses, and afterwards, will report back to the Commission on those findings.

Director's Report

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- **CP South Project Timeline Update:** The next Steering Committee meeting will take place on 5/31/23. The next public engagement meeting will take place on 6/8/23 at 7pm in the court room. Mr. Koontz added that he instructed Mr. Moorhead to notice that meeting so that the entire Commission could attend. Mr. Moorhead had the Clerk's Office include the Council, as

well, in that notice so that Ms. Pirone Lambros and other Council members could attend at the same time.

- **Mercer-at-Play Project Update:** The construction of the batting cage at Hilltop Park should start in late May. The materials have arrived, so now the contractor must install them. The playground equipment will be shipping in mid-June, so coordination will soon take place with the playground equipment company to lay out a timeline for installation, as well as with the Engineering Department to repair the pathway near the playground. Dr. Nosker asked if the playground installation would take place in July or right around that time. Mr. Moorhead responded that is his hope, but that it will inevitably be up to the playground installer. *Discussion was held.*
- **CP Pool Update:** The pool is set to open on 5/27/23. The pool passed its electrical inspection, and the health inspection is scheduled for the week of 5/22/23. Customer Service orientation will take place on 5/20/23, with lifeguard orientation scheduled for 5/22/23. That orientation will be done virtually, with the in-person component scheduled for 5/24/23. There are over 85 lifeguards on staff, but many have indicated that they want to work less than 20 hours per week or as a sub. This has created some difficulties with scheduling. The Staff may need to move to incentive-based methods to get the current lifeguard staff to work more hours. Dr. Cahill asked if the Department was planning on offering lifeguard certification classes to get more lifeguards on staff. Mr. Moorhead responded that those courses are typically offered towards the middle of the summer, as that has historically worked best. There are a few other certification classes in the area that prospective lifeguards could take, but he would discuss this with the aquatics director, and see if an additional, in-house course offering would be useful. *Discussion was held.*
- **CP Pool Registration:** Pool membership is just shy of 3,800 members, which is roughly 700 members ahead of last year's pace. The Recreation Office will have extended hours on 5/23 and 5/25 until 7pm so that pool members can take their ID card pictures or sign up for the pool.
- **Camp Registration:** Ms. Germaine asked if there was an update on summer camp registration. Mr. Moorhead responded that registration figures had increased slightly but remain lower than what was initially expected. There are between 60 and 75 campers registered for each week of Day Camp, and the financial aid registrations have started rolling in, from the various school-based organizations. *Discussion was held.*

Old Business

- **Barbara Boggs Sigmund Park – “Polly’s Folly” Structure:** Dr. Nosker asked if anything had been done about the structure known as “Polly’s Folly.” Mr. Moorhead responded that he and Mr. Koontz discussed this after the 3/23/23 meeting. The maintenance staff has since caution taped the structure off. Mr. Koontz added that he had been in contact with Kevin Wilkes, who brought the structure to Boggs Park initially. Mr. Wilkes reached out to the builder of the structure, and that person will come to assess it and determine what could be done to refurbish it or take it out of the park entirely. *Discussion was held.*
- **Mary Moss Playground Spray Pad:** Dr. Nosker asked about the status of the Mary Moss spray pad. Mr. Moorhead responded that it does not typically get turned on prior to Memorial Day weekend, and that the maintenance staff would be working on it. *Discussion was held.*

New Business

No New Business.

Communications

Communications were shared in the agenda packet.

Approval of Minutes

- **February 23, 2023:** Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the 2/23/23 minutes, seconded by Mr. Burt and approved. Mr. Young, Dr. Frawley and Ms. Pirone Lambros abstained.
- **March 23, 2023:** Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the 3/23/23 minutes, seconded by Ms. Germaine and approved. Mr. Burt, Mr. Young, Dr. Frawley and Dr. Cahill abstained.
- **April 27, 2023:** Mr. Young made a motion to approve the 4/27/23 minutes, seconded by Mr. Burt and approved. Dr. Frawley abstained.

Approval of Bills

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

Closed Session – Contract Negotiation

- Ms. Pirone Lambros made a motion to move into closed session, seconded by Dr. Cahill and approved.
- The Recreation Commission discussed how it would proceed with contract negotiations in the future, as it relates to the leasing of the CP South Tennis Courts to Princeton Tennis Program. This discussion lasted roughly 15 minutes.
- Ms. Pirone Lambros made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Ms. Germaine and approved.

Next Meeting Date

June 22, 2023