

PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on August 25, 2022, remotely via Zoom.

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

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, Ms. Paulucci reported on the following:

- **Programming Update:** PRD is heading into the final week (10 weeks total) of the summer program calendar. The summer has been extremely busy with 34 various programs happening at once, but all programs are running smoothly. Ms. Paulucci thanked Dr. Frawley for assisting with adaptive paddle tennis clinics. Ms. Paulucci stated PRD will be offering a new, adaptive yoga class for this fall and is excited to get the program going.

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

- **Programming Update:** Mr. Petrucelli reported that the recent US Sports Soccer clinic and Girls' Basketball Clinic both had high attendance. For the fall, PRD will be bringing back Adult Chair Fitness, starting in September. US Sports will also run a few fall programs on days when the Princeton schools are not in session, and PRD is looking to team up with Princeton University and PHS coaches to offer more youth basketball clinics. Dr. Nosker asked if Mr. Petrucelli had received any response from PU Women's Basketball team coaches. Mr. Petrucelli confirmed he has been in communication with the coaches and both sides are working towards securing clinic dates. Mr. Young commented he has heard the US Sports Soccer program from his home multiple times, and that the youth are clearly having an excellent time in the program. Mr. Petrucelli commended the summer programming staff on the great results from this summer.

Ms. Paulucci commended Mr. Moorhead for doing an excellent job with the transition from Assistant Director to Executive Director and stated the 2022 summer was a great success. Mr. Moorhead thanked Mr. Petrucelli, Ms. Paulucci and Mr. Marrolli for their hard work this past summer and the successful programs that staff provided to the community.

Director's Report

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- **CP Pool Update:** Daily admission attendance for the 2022 summer has been very strong. 2022 CP Pool Membership has exceeded both the 2019 and 2020 membership totals. An unprecedented string of 90-degree days and little to no rain provided the public optimal conditions to visit the pool complex this summer. We are at the point in the summer where staffing is a challenge. Many of the college-aged lifeguards have left to go back to school and some of the high school staff are now involved with fall sports. In addition, due to the extreme heat many of the guards are exhausted and not interested in picking up additional shifts. As a result, there have been several days when CP Pool management closed certain amenities, such as the dive well and slide, for a period of time. PRD ran two lifeguard training courses earlier in August and trained 29 new lifeguards. Employment was offered to those that were interested. A number of people took the class but do not live close enough to consider working at CP Pool. Available lifeguard staff is a challenge this time of year every year.
- **Dive Well Maintenance Issue:** Two mechanical issues took place on 8/21 at the dive well. An electrical issue was found at the dive well controller box, while a pipe that feeds the dive well burst. As a result, the dive well was shut down for most of the day on 8/21. A repair crew was able to visit CP Pool on Monday morning which corrected the plumbing issue, while the electrical issue was repaired the following day. By 8/24, the dive well was back up and running normally. Dr. Nosker asked what the sensor was reading. Mr. Moorhead commented the electrical issue was related to the temperature inside of the control box, specifically concerning an internal fan that had shut down. *Discussion was held.*
- **Kiddie Pool Maintenance Issue :** The Kiddie Pool water level controller has not been functioning properly this summer and staff have encountered some issues with the pool not filling properly. Most recently, the line that was identified as leaking water was capped and pressure tests were performed. Currently, staff are bypassing the capped water line and manually feeding water to the kiddie pool. Dr. Nosker asked if the leaking water line is located under concrete. Mr. Moorhead stated the line is located under concrete and the problem is tough to properly address.
- **Bluefish Swim & Dive Team and Swim Lessons:** Mr. Moorhead stated he is extremely proud of the record-setting participation this summer in the Bluefish Swim & Dive Team, as well as the extra 100 youth who were able to participate in Swim Lessons this summer as compared to '21. Mr. Moorhead commented that PRD Aquatics Director, Mike Uchrin is currently on the zoom meeting and can answer any questions regarding CP Pool Aquatic Programming from this past summer. Dr. Nosker commented Mr. Uchrin's report was very well put together, however, he is still concerned about the individuals on the waitlist for swim lessons and we should do everything in our power to ensure all youth on the waiting list are accommodated. Mr. Uchrin stated the level of demand for swim lessons this summer was unprecedented, however, PRD staff was able to accommodate all but two youth on the waiting list for weekday swim lessons, and the vast majority of those who requested Saturday Swim Lessons. It's clear that Saturday Swim lessons are the most requested day, and this summer, staff and pool real estate were maxed out to accommodate as many swim lesson options as possible. Logistically, everything in our power was done, aside from cutting into Public swim time, which would be the next step for the Commission to consider if they wish to increase swim lesson offerings on Saturdays. Mr. Moorhead commented staff would need the Commission's blessing to adjust Public swim time, essentially reducing available swim hours, which could have a negative impact on pool membership. *Discussion was held.*
- **Community Night Out Update :** The event was held on Tuesday, August 2nd at the Municipal lot and Community Park Pool. Free pool admission was offered from 5 – 8 pm. Mr. Moorhead

estimated roughly 1500-2000 people attended the event, and logistically, this event worked incredibly well. The event presented as more as a carnival-type of event with many activities taking place in the parking lot of the Municipal Complex.

- **Send Hunger Packing (SHUP):** Mr. Moorhead publicly thanked Send Hunger Packing Princeton (SHUPP), who donated food and water for youth program participants this summer. SHUPP has been a great partner with PRD in the past.
- **Adaptive Programming:** Mr. Moorhead commended Ms. Paulucci on an excellent job with running adaptive programs and activities for Princeton. He reminded the Commission that PRD does not have the staffing to replicate the sports programming that Princeton Special Sports previously produced prior to 2020. Mr. Moorhead reported that the four administrative staff (Mr. Petrucelli, Ms. Paulucci, Mr. Marroli and Mr. Moorhead) have combined to work more than 500 overtime hours already year to date. However, the demand for additional special needs programming from the community continues. Mr. Moorhead is considering a proposal that would request a full-time Adaptive Recreation staff position in the Recreation Department. Dr. Nosker commented that the Commission would be in favor of providing a written recommendation if need be.
- **Potts Park Donation Request :** Princeton resident, Browlyn Marquez, who lives near Potts Park reached out to the Municipality and offered to donate \$10,000 towards Potts Park improvements. Mr. Moorhead and Ms. Pirone-Lambros met with him to discuss details of the donation and a list of potential improvements. The donation request was accepted by Resolution at a recent council meeting. Upcoming improvements to Potts Park will include relining the basketball court, new basketball backboards, re-painted basketball rims, a new water fountain, fresh playground mulch and sandbox repair. Mr. Moorhead publicly thanked Mr. Marquez for his generous donation.
- **CP South Master Plan RFP Update:** Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Marroli met with engineering staff to develop an RFP for design proposals for CP South. The RFP is now live, with a deadline for design firms to submit proposals of September 23. This is the next step in transforming CP South. Mr. Moorhead feels it would be appropriate to have a representative from the Recreation Commission to be a part of the process to review proposals and interview firms. Dr. Nosker asked about approval for the design process. Mr. Moorhead stated once a company is selected, the company will then take feedback from various groups and produce design proposals for our review. *Discussion was held.*
- **Rosedale Road Roundabout Project :** The project for the roundabout located at Greenway Meadows Park has been completed, and as of today, is Rosedale Rd is now open to through traffic.
- **Fall Youth Sports Groups:** Fall youth sports are ready to begin and Mr. Marroli has been working diligently to create a full schedule amongst our various user groups. Our maintenance crew has been lining and prepping fields to begin play. The 11 v 11 soccer field at Smoyer Park will be taken offline so it can be aerated, slit seeded and top-dressed. After this work is complete, the field will need to rest for the rest of the fall season. It's not often that we are able to close a field for a full season for repair and rest.
- **Dog Park Update:** A dog run will be installed at the Wynn Property once the complex is constructed and it will be open to the public. There will also be a public tot lot playground on the same property, and PRD staff will be required to maintain and oversee the playground. Mr. Moorhead will be meeting with the Administrator and Open Space Manager next week in response to potentially adding a dog park on municipal property. Separately, there is an Avalon development that will be constructed in the southern end of the Harrison St. shopping center complex, and the group will be contributing money towards some improvements at Grover Park.

Mr. Moorhead is unsure of the timeline for when any of these proposed projects will take place but will keep the Commission as up to date as possible. Dr. Nosker commented that if grass is installed at the dog run, it will likely turn into mud quickly. Mr. Moorhead confirmed that it is a valid concern.

- **John Street Basketball Courts :** Many years ago, there used to be two municipally owned basketball courts at the corner John Street and Clay Street. The courts were removed in the late 80's and replaced with affordable housing units. A recent study of the ROSI (Roster of Open Space Inventory) by the Open Space Manager has revealed the courts were never replaced in kind, as per ROSI guidelines. Mr. Moorhead commented that staff may need to determine a location in town to add additional new courts sometime in the future. It is not clear if the replacement must be basketball courts or if other court sport installation would suffice. *Discussion was held.*

Old Business

- **Mercer at Play:** Mr. Moorhead recently sent a memo to the Administrator and Engineer regarding the Mercer at Play Project and inquired as to what the next steps should be. Ms. Germaine commented that she strongly recommends a fence be installed around the new playground at Hilltop for safety reasons. Mr. Koontz agreed with Ms. Germaine and would like to see a fence installed around the playground, as well as have dogs prohibited from entering the playground. *Discussion was held.*

New Business

- **Adaptive Program – Partnership with Amazing Athletes:** Mr. Koontz requested a contract be presented to the Commission to be able to approve this partnership. Tabled until a contract is produced.
- **RT Reserve Request: Pickleball Equipment & Court Lining:** Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the purchase of pickleball equipment and overlaying PB lines at CP Tennis Courts in an amount not to exceed \$8,500, seconded by Dr. Nosker and approved.

Communications

Communications shared in agenda packet.

Approval of Minutes

- **June 23, 2022:** Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the June 23 minutes, seconded by Dr. Nosker and approved. Dr. Frawley abstained.
- **July 28, 2022:** Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the July 28 minutes, seconded by Ms. Rodgers and approved. Mr. Koontz, Mr. Frawley, Ms. Germaine and Mr. Young abstained.

Approval of Bills

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

Next Meeting Date

October 6, 2022