

PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on September 28, 2023, in the Princeton Community Room, 400 Witherspoon Street.

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

Adequate Notice

Public Comment

No public comment.

Activities Report

The activities report was shared in the agenda packet.

Director's Report

Mr. Moorhead reported on the following:

- **CP Pool Update:** CP Pool was very well attended during Labor Day Weekend. Over 4,000 people came to the pool during those three days. Additionally, another 1,500 people came to the pool during the two extended afternoons (9/5 & 9/6 from 4-7:30pm) that were added post Labor Day due to the heat wave. There was a lot of good press and goodwill from the community for adding these 2 afternoons. Dr. Nosker stated that a lot of the lifeguard staff during those two days must have been high school students, who came to work after school. Mr. Moorhead confirmed this and added that Princeton Public Schools returned to session on that Tuesday, which is why the pool could not open before 4pm.

Dr. Nosker has been assisting Mr. Moorhead in trying to better understand the cause of the ongoing leak in the dive well. The return lines have been plugged and water added back to the dive well. Water loss continued, so questions remain about the source of the leak. *Discussion was held.*

- **Commemorative Brick Program :** 30 bricks were sold as a part of the commemorative brick program at CP Pool. Just over \$6,000 was raised as a part of this initiative, which will go towards the scholarship fund.
- **Mercer at Play @ Hilltop Park:** A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on 10/9/23 for the new playground at Hilltop Park. The County Executive, Mayor, members of Council, Commission members, etc. are all anticipated to be in attendance. The batting cage on the baseball field has already been completed, and the replacement of the ballfield lighting will take place later this fall.
- **Pickleball and Princeton Tennis Program (PTP):** Princeton Tennis Program's use of the CP South Tennis courts has come to an end for the year with the exception of a few weekend tournament dates. The pickleball nets have since been returned to courts 8 & 9 as of 9/11/23. The courts are currently available to the public first come, first served. Mr. Moorhead has been working with Legal Counsel on the draft of the new lease agreement with PTP. The Commission's

subcommittee has already reviewed the draft, so the next step would be to send it to PTP for their review. If the draft in its current state makes it through that process, then it would come back to the Commission for a formal recommendation, sent to Green Acres for approval, and if approved by Green Acres, then it will go to the Council for future approval.

- **Other Park Updates:** The water features at the Mary Moss spray pad have been turned off for the season. Staff are currently dealing with an irrigation leak over at Grover Park between the bathroom and baseball fields #2 and #3. Dr. Nosker asked how far below the surface the irrigation lines run. Mr. Moorhead responded that they are typically 12-18" below the ground. *Discussion was held.*
- **Dillon Basketball League:** The Dillon youth basketball league will take place at The Hun School again this winter. Due to ongoing construction at Princeton University, the use of Dillon Gymnasium is not a viable option this year. This arrangement does make it more difficult to engage University students to coach in the program. The program is going to be extended to include 3rd graders this year, as well as an instructional, clinic-style program for K-2nd graders similar to the current Tots & Shots program.
- **Bus Trips:** A survey has gone out to the community to gauge the public's interest in bringing various bus trips back as a programming option. A trip for the holidays is being planned.
- **Staffing Update:** There were two full-time maintenance positions open. One of those positions was filled, while one remains unfilled. Applications are currently being accepted, and that has been extended to increase the potential applicant pool for the position.
- **Youth Sports Organizations Survey:** Staff performed a survey of the youth sports organizations that use our fields, at the request of Dr. Nosker. The information collected included current enrollments, percentage of Princeton residents and user fees. One of the other major points of emphasis in the survey was on facility usage and group needs moving forward. Mr. Moorhead said that a discussion may need to take place in the future about potential fee structures for the use of facilities by youth sports groups as this topic has also been discussed recently by some members of council. Dr. Frawley responded that a plan had been discussed some years ago by the Commission, and that a fee structure was drafted, but ultimately, was not put in place. Mr. Koontz added that there was pushback from some of the sports organizations at that time. Feedback received indicated the groups did not want a specific fee dictated to them for facility usage, but preferred it be left to them to make a voluntary donation towards field up-keep and maintenance on behalf of their organization. *Discussion was held.*

Old Business

- **CP South Design Project Update:** The steering committee is set to meet again on 10/18/23. Mr. Moorhead hopes that the steering committee will narrow down the concept plans to two choices. The consultant is scheduled to come to the next Commission meeting on 10/26/23 to present the two options to the Commission. The next step after that will be for the Recreation Commission to formally recommend a preferred option to mayor and council.

New Business

- **New Program – Dean of Chess:** The Staff is requesting approval for a new third-party instructor to come in to resume chess programming, which has been dormant due to a lack of instructor. Dean Ippolito is an accomplished chess player and teacher and comes to PRD highly recommended. **Mr. Burt made a motion to approve the addition of this new program, seconded by Dr. Nosker and approved.**
- **New Program – Pickleball Clinics:** The Staff is requesting approval to begin offering pickleball clinics to the community. Mr. Patrick would be the instructor for these clinics to start but would

look to find an instructor to provide the teaching moving forward. Mr. Koontz asked if the clinics could be run on the currently lined pickleball courts or would require additional lines to be painted. Mr. Moorhead responded that the program would be capped at 8 participants, so the current court space would be more than suitable to run the clinics. *Discussion was held.* Ms. Germaine made a motion to approve the addition of this new program, seconded by Mr. Burt and approved.

- **New Program – Adaptive Music:** The Staff is requesting approval for a new third-party instructor to come in to provide an adaptive music program. Dr. Frawley made a motion to approve the addition of this new program, seconded by Dr. Nosker and approved.

Communications

Communications were shared in the agenda packet.

Approval of Minutes

- **August 24, 2023:** Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the 8/24/23 minutes, seconded by Mr. Burt and approved. Ms. Rogers abstained.

Approval of Bills

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

Next Meeting Date

October 26, 2023