

## PRINCETON BOARD OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONERS

December 14, 2017

A meeting of the Princeton Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners was held on December 14, 2017 in the Princeton Recreation Department (PRD) lower level Conference Room, 380 Witherspoon Street.

**Present:** Dr. Frawley, Dr. Cahill, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Burt, Ms. Butler, Ms. Germaine, Mr. Koontz and Dr. Nosker

**Also Present:** Mr. Stentz, Mr. Moorhead, Mr. Groeger and Corner House Student Board Member Kyra DeFranza

**Absent:** Mr. Young, Ms. Paulucci, Corner House Student Board Member Maggie Lin

### Public Comment

No public comment

### Corner House Report

- Ms. DeFranza reported that the Corner House Board participates in monthly Intergenerational meetings that take place at the YWCA covering a variety of topics. These meetings are open to the public.

### Activities Report

There were no additional activities report beyond what was presented in the information packet.

### Director's Report

- **Baseball Field Improvement Project:** Mr. Moorhead reported that field improvements have been completed at Grover 2 & 3, as well as Farmview 1. Additional work will take place on Farmview 2 in the spring. PRD partnered with Princeton Little League on this project. The total cost was approximately \$17,000, of which the municipality paid \$5,000 and PLL covered the remainder. *Discussion was held.*
- **Aquatics Meeting:** Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Stentz met with Aquatics Director, Mike Uchirin on 12/12/17 to discuss staffing, scheduling and programming for summer 2018.
- **US Sports Institute:** Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Stentz met with Erin Hendershot and John Williams from US Sports Institute (USI) on 11/27/17. USI is a full-time professional provider of sports camps and clinics. USI has been interested for a number of years in partnering with PRD to provide offerings to the Princeton community that either fill a gap in our schedule and/or provide a programming opportunity not currently offered. USI's proposal is to offer an 8-week Multi-Sport Squirts program (3-5 year olds) in the spring and 1 week of Multi-Sport Camp (5-11 year olds) in mid to late August after PRD Day Camp has ended. USI works with hundreds of other municipalities and organizations both nationally and locally, including many of our neighboring towns. They come highly recommended by our municipal recreation colleagues in NJ. If PRD were to partner with USI, we would have the option of either handling registration in house or allowing USI to handle it. PRD would receive approximately 10-15% of the registration money in either case with a very minimal amount of work needed on our part. USI has indicated they are open to providing financial aid of some kind for participants. *Discussion was held.*
  - Ms. Rogers inquired as to whether USI would be interested in renting field space rather than partnering with PRD. Dr. Cahill requested clarification on what USI offers that other potential partner groups do not. Mr. Burt inquired as to whether PRD staff has seen, first-

*hand, USI camps and clinics, as well as asking for some details about USI staff selection, training and scheduling.*

- **Larry Ivan:** Long time CP Pool Manager, Larry Ivan, passed away on 12/2/17. His memorial service will take place on 12/16/17 at 2 pm at Nassau Presbyterian Church. Mr. Stentz praised Mr. Ivan for his contribution to the community and to Princeton Recreation. Mr. Stentz shared an email from George Taylor, CP Pool Manager, which he wrote upon hearing of Mr. Ivan's passing.
- **Princeton Tennis Program (PTP):**
  - Mr. Stentz and Vikki Caines met with Gwen Guidice from PTP on 11/21/17 to discuss an extension of the agreement between PTP and PRD. The current 3 year contract expires on 12/31/17. Ms. Guidice requested that any portion of PTP's annual \$20,000 contribution to PRD that comes in the form of cash (not paid directly to contractor for court improvements) be earmarked for future capital tennis court improvements. *Discussion was held. The Commission indicated they would not be interested in restricting said funds specifically for capital tennis improvements.*
  - *Dr. Cahill indicated she has an interest in being part of contract discussions going forward. The question was raised by Dr. Cahill about PTP's scheduling of the courts and whether there are currently any blocks of time when a membership is not required to use the courts. Dr. Cahill believes strongly that the Commission has a responsibility to provide a dedicated block of time when there is free access to the courts for Princeton residents.*
  - Mr. Stentz reminded the Commission that when PRD was in charge of the tennis court operations, prior to the contract with PTP, a membership was still a requirement to use the courts. In addition, PRD did not have the ability to staff, monitor and program the courts as thoroughly or efficiently as PTP. Usage of the courts has gone up tremendously since the PTP contract was put into place, while the amount of money that the municipality is spending for court upkeep has decreased.
- **Princeton HS Studio Band:** Mr. Stentz has been working with the PHS Studio Band on some potential opportunities for them to play in the community, including Community Night Out, CP North Amphitheater, and the Special Needs Formal. *Discussion was held.*
- **Princeton Special Sports Meeting:** Mr. Stentz, Mr. Moorhead and Mr. Groeger met with Carmine Conti, from PSS, earlier this month. Mr. Conti indicated that many of the founding members of the PSS Board will be stepping down and leaving the area in the near future. PSS would like PRD to take ownership of several components of the PSS operation, including the administration of the monthly dances, the fall soccer program and the winter basketball program. PSS has already approached Princeton Little League about absorbing the operation of the spring baseball program. Mr. Conti indicated that attempts to groom the next generation of PSS volunteers to take over has not proved successful to date. Mr. Stentz stressed the value of the PSS program to the community. However, Mr. Stentz believes that taking ownership of those programs would require, at a minimum, an additional full-time staff person to administer and that PRD could not absorb this additional work under our current staffing. The approval of any additional staffing would ultimately have to come from Mayor and Council. PRD staff has committed to visiting and observing the PSS basketball program this winter. *Discussion was held.*
  - *The Commission agreed that current PRD staffing levels cannot support this additional workload and that further conversation with town administration and PSS is needed.*
  - *Dr. Cahill inquired as to whether the US Sports Institute does any Special Needs Programming.*
  - *Ms. Rogers stated that one additional staff person may not be enough to make up for all that the current crop of PSS volunteers does to administer that program.*

- *Ms. Germaine raised the concern that it could prove difficult to recruit adult volunteers if additional municipal staffing were approved and PRD took over operation of PSS.*
- *Dr. Nosker inquired about residency as it relates to the program and potentially providing municipal oversight of a program that has so many non-resident participants. The Commission agreed that they would like to know the specific costs involved with running the PSS program.*
- *Dr. Cahill suggested reaching out to the Princeton Public Schools Special Education PTO to explore potential partnerships.*
- **Princeton Public School Calendar:** PPS has pushed back their plans to start the 2018/19 school year a week earlier than normal for at least one (1) additional school year. This means the school year will not start before Labor Day in 2018. *Discussion was held.*
- **Day Camp Swim Lessons:** Mr. Stentz met recently with PPS Superintendent, Steve Cochrane. Mr. Stentz reminded Mr. Cochrane of the value of providing swim lessons for the PPS summer school students, many of whom may not have an opportunity to receive lessons otherwise. Mr. Stentz implored Mr. Cochrane to consider changes to the summer school schedule that might allow those students to get to the pool complex early enough to participate in day camp swim lessons. In addition, Mr. Stentz indicated that PRD staff is considering some creative ways to offer additional swim lesson programming to this group. *Discussion was held.*

#### Old Business

- **Princeton Public Library Request:** Following up on last month's request from PPL that their employees be allowed to sign up for recreation programs at the resident rate, Mr. Stentz reported that PPL has approximately 35 full-time employees and 35 part-time employees on staff. *Discussion was held.*

#### New Business

No New Business

#### Communications

- Mr. Koontz presented Ms. Butler with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the Mercer County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Ms. Butler's term as Council Member and Recreation Commission Member ends on 12/31/17. Mr. Stentz highlighted Ms. Butler's critical role in bringing the CP Pool Project to completion, as well as her efforts to ensure that Recreation Maintenance Staff stayed in the Recreation Department post-consolidation.

#### Approval of Minutes

- *Dr. Nosker made a motion to approve the 11/16/17 minutes with noted corrections, seconded by Ms. Butler and approved. Ms. Rogers, Dr. Frawley and Dr. Cahill abstained.*

#### Approval of Bills

- *Mr. Koontz made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Ms. Butler, and approved.*

#### Next Meeting Date

January 25, 2018