

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 6, 2022**

Heather Carmona, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at 851 South Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Heather Carmona
Susan Collins
Pam Graham
Ross Kaplan
Anne Lipp
Ellie Noble
John Rusche

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Zachary Miketa, Seaholm High School
Matthew Windsor, Seaholm High School

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION: Jana Ecker, Assistant City Manager
Melissa Fairbairn, Assistant City Manager
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator
Leslie Pielack, Museum Director

GUESTS: Jack Burns, Bob Gibbs, Kyle Goulding,
Steve Sweeney and David Young

It was moved by Rusche, seconded by Collins, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, November 1, 2022, regular meeting as submitted.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham,
Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble, and
John Rusche

Nays, None
Absent, None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

No Public Comments

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #1: Parks and Recreation Board Rules of Procedures

RC Folk periodically includes a copy of the Parks and Recreation Board Rules of Procedure in the meeting agenda packet.

Kaplan asked if guests should provide name and address before speaking.

Connie stated that guests should provide their name only prior to speaking.

It was moved by Graham, seconded by Lipp, to amend the Parks and Recreation Board Rules of Procedure to reflect the order of business on the Parks and Recreation Board Agenda which would move the Open To The Public for Items not On The Agenda after Approval of the minutes, as long as there are no presentations from outside sources.

Ayes, Heather Carmona, Susan Collins, Pam Graham, Ross Kaplan, Anne Lipp, Ellie Noble, and John Rusche

Nays, None

Absent, None

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #2: Reminder: Nomination of 2023 Parks and Recreation Board Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson at the January 10, 2023 meeting

Carmona reminded everyone that nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will be conducted next month.

ACM Ecker described the process to the Parks and Recreation Board.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #3: Michigan Spark Grants

Carmona shared with the Parks and Recreation Board the memorandum from PM Laird as it relates to the Michigan Spark Grant.

Carmona introduced MD Pielack to answer questions on the Museum Park Improvements and Trail Improvements Concept Plan.

Graham asked why the landscape plan omitted sidewalks along Willits.

MD Pielack replied that new sidewalks are a complicated feature due to slope; however, this is a flexible, phased project that could address new sidewalks in future iterations.

Kaplan inquired about coordination between trail improvement concept phases and phase two for parking. It currently appears in both projects.

MD Pielack confirmed coordination with city departments and both design firms.

Carmona inquired if the crosswalk feature at Willits was in phase one or two and whether it is part of the transition zone or the pond zone.

MD Pielack confirmed the crosswalk is part of phase two and within the pond zone.

Graham, from the perspective of the trail improvement project, finds the cross walk location awkward.

MD Pielack acknowledged that the crosswalk location is problematic, but ultimately the designers felt this location was most complimentary with the barrier free parking and traffic safety standpoint.

ACM Ecker also noted that ADA has slope requirements for crosswalks and the Planning Department suggested funding was available for sustainability aspects within the concept plan.

ACM Fairbairn stated that she and PM Laird shared with the multimodal board the Trail Improvement Concept Plan, including sidewalk gaps and crosswalks. ACM Fairbairn said the concept plan was extremely well received.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #4: Funding Opportunities

Carmona reviewed the information contained in the Board Packet related to "Play is Essential" grant summary highlighting accessibility opportunities in particular.

RC Folk updated the Parks and Recreation Board that she and DPS administration met with Sarah Kupczyk and Mike Jacobs at Adams Park to gather accessibility feedback from Sarah.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Carmona reviewed the 2023 State High Water Infrastructure Grant Program RFP. RC Folk stated that deadline has passed.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #5: Trail Improvements Concept Plan-Survey Report

Carmona reviewed the Engage Birmingham Trail Improvements Survey: 152 visitors to the site, 43 responded.

Carmona highlighted:

- Equal proportion of frequency of use responses: 35% Often >1 time per week, 33% Sometimes >1 time per month, 30% Occasionally 1 time per quarter year
- Top three most important items: sustainability features, connectivity & wayfinding, new pedestrian bridge to Linden Park
- Comments appear equally split between leave the trail natural and the trail needs to be more improved

ACM Ecker summarized next steps:

- The Parks and Recreation Board will gather all feedback from all channels (e.g., Engage Survey, Multimodal Board, Museum Board) and vote on what updates will be made to the concept plan
- The concept plan will be updated
- Parks and Recreation Board will review the updated concept plan and vote to recommend the proposal to go to the City Commission
- The board will communicate its endorsement of the concept as well as the amount of available bond money and request funding to create full design and construction drawings
- The city will hire someone to do the full design and construction drawings
- Concept out to bid to be built

Graham asked if the consultant is already funded to update the concept plan to include collected feedback.

ACM Ecker will investigate the contract and estimates the updated concept to be available in a couple of months.

Noble asked about the volume of survey respondents, and ACM Ecker acknowledged 43 respondents is a low number but not unprecedented.

Graham suggested gathering more citizen feedback before it is presented at the City Commission.

Rusche and Collins are concerned the survey may have been too narrowly titled.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #6: Pickleball Is Expanding. Tennis Is Mad, The New York Times Article, Oct. 21, 2022

Carmona shared with the Parks and Recreation Board the New York Times Article.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #7: Pickleball Sound Mitigation, Tennis & Pickleball Courts, Falmouth, MA, Article

Carmona shared with the Parks and Recreation Board the Falmouth Article.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

COMMUNICATION/DISCUSSION ITEM #8: Communication from Bob Gibbs, November 10, 2022

Carmona introduced Bob Gibbs who provided comments for the 2040 plan.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Lipp stated that the Adams Park ribbon cutting was a success.

Carmona thanked RC Folk for the programing, face painting and refreshments that really brought the event to life.

Carmona wondered if the information Rusche provided about a specific swing was compatible with Sarah Kupczyk's feedback.

Carmona also updated that PM Laird had received feedback regarding the musical instrument and that it needed to be tuned.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

NEW BUSINESS:

RC Folk stated that the Figure Skating Club of Birmingham (FSCB) will be putting on a holiday exhibition on December 11, at the Ice Sports Arena.

No Action was taken by the Parks and Recreation Board

Carmona stated the next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, at 6:30 pm, at 851 South Eton.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm
Connie J. Folk, Recreation Coordinator