

Martha Baldwin Park Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2017

Robert Kenning, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 11:30 am at the Department of Public Services Conference room, 851 S. Eton.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Linda Forrester, Jane McKee and Robert Kenning

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ron Buchanan

ADMINISTRATION: Lauren Wood, Director of Public Services
Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager
Sean Campbell, Assistant Planner

It was moved by Linda Forrester, seconded by Jane that the minutes of the January 24, 2017 meeting be approved as submitted.

Yeas- 3 Jane McKee, Robert Kenning, Linda Forrester

Absent-1 Ron Buchanan

Nays- 0

Robert Kenning added "Old Business" to the agenda, DEQ update. Carrie met with the City's consultant, HRC to discuss potential project ideas and whether or not DEQ should be involved.

Carrie confirmed with the Martha Baldwin Board that the wet areas at Martha Baldwin Park are within the realm of the DEQ and if any major project is to occur, a permit must be obtained through the DEQ.

Communication/Discussion Item #1 - Meet with Sean Campbell, Assistant Planner, City Liaison with Public Arts Board to discuss artwork location and future opportunities at Martha Baldwin Park.

Sean provided an update on the existing artwork located at Martha Baldwin Park. Sean explained the existing artwork located at Martha Baldwin Park and the schedule for removal of one of the pieces, Jay Wholley.

Sean explained the current program that is in place for artwork installation. Sean stated that there are several pieces of artwork displayed throughout the City of Birmingham.

Sean stated that the artwork is either owned by the city or on lease and at Martha Baldwin Park, both artwork pieces are on lease. Sean stated the artwork is on lease for a set amount of time and the location typically is proposed by the artist in cooperation with the Public Arts Board. Sean went on to say if there are any boards or other approvals required, the Public Arts Board would pursue support and ultimately the locations and then would be forward to the City Commission for approval.

Sean stated that the artist provides insurance and installation of the piece and works with the city to coordinate location and installation. Sean stated when the lease has expired the artist is responsible for the removal of the artwork.

Sean explained that most recently, he has been working on a city wide artwork location plan with 36 potential locations on city property or parks. Sean explained that at this time, Martha Baldwin Park is not on the potential location list.

Robert Kenning said that the board would like to cooperate with the Public Arts Board to provide potential locations for future artwork and asked Sean to consider future discussions on artwork at Martha Baldwin Park.

Sean stated that he would communicate to the Public Arts Board that there is interest for art pieces at Martha Baldwin Park.

Linda Forrester stated that Martha Baldwin Park is possibly a good spot for a sculpture park.

Sean thanked the board for their support.

Communication/Discussion Item #2 - Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Carrie stated that the city is in the process of obtaining Requests for Proposals for a consultant to help the city put together the next 5 year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Carrie stated that the existing Parks and Recreation Master Plan continue through 2017 and the new plan will begin in 2018.

Carrie stated that this is a great time to provide input on future opportunities and potential plans, so that the ideas are included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Carrie stated that the board will be kept up to date on the process.

Communication/Discussion Item #3 – Ideas for Improvements

Jane stated that more color could be used in the plantings.

Carrie stated that Mike Jurek will put together a plan for planting roses based on our last Martha Baldwin Park Board meeting and the city will be proceeding in the upcoming months.

Linda provided a sketch and plant description to the board a list for a possible planting configuration of the 2 wet areas.

Linda stated that she keeps going back to the original, a rain garden, with native plants. Linda stated the idea is to combine the 2 areas into 1 and possibly now incorporating a Monarch Waystation.

Linda stated that planting native plants may thrive in the wet conditions and might be the best solution. Linda stated that native plants attract birds and butterflies. Linda stated she could work with Mike Jurek for timing and design.

Robert stated he likes the idea of shrubs vs smaller plants. Robert also reminded the board about maintenance.

Robert asked if the administration could review the ideas and make recommendations along with maintenance and report back to the board.

Carrie said that she would get a proposal from a native plant expert for a quote to plant new material and would also provide a projected maintenance costs.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 am

Carrie Laird, Parks and Recreation Manager